

Why Kirk Cousins or Alex Smith makes more sense as Broncos QB than Baker Mayfield

By Mark Kiszla
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John Elway has posted a help-wanted ad for a quarterback.

Only adults need apply.

Who's the next quarterback of the Broncos?

"Going into it, we don't know," Elway said, when I asked him whether we should expect the quarterback for Denver in 2018 will be an experienced veteran or a raw rookie.

There's no easy button for Elway to push. When the Broncos go looking for a quarterback this time, there's no Manning coming to the rescue (sorry, Eli).

But if Elway is serious about getting back to the playoffs in 2018 and really doesn't want to fire coach Vance Joseph 12 games into next season, isn't the choice obvious? The first place the Broncos have to look for the answer is a quarterback with NFL experience.

Three-year rebuilding plans more often end with pink slips for everybody rather than a Super Bowl parade through town. Elway hates losing, so why would he have any patience for it? All the rules in the pro game are tilted in favor of the quarterback. And all the Broncos know for certain is if Trevor Siemian, Brock Osweiler or Paxton Lynch is their No. 1 quarterback next season, they've got no shot to win.

"There is no doubt we have to get better at that position," Elway said. "For us to have a chance to get better, we have to get better at that position."

So let the debate begin with NFL veterans Kirk Cousins, Alex Smith and Case Keenum rather than college prospects Sam Darnold, Baker Mayfield and Josh Allen.

Cousins has his flaws, as his 55 career interceptions and zero playoff victories in six pro seasons attest. What's more, the Redskins might not let him hit the free-agent market. But, at 29 years old, Cousins is a man that won't sit down and cry on the team bench when football knocks the snot out of him.

And with the fifth pick in the 2018 NFL draft, what would the Broncos get? Somebody like Mayfield. Thanks. But no thanks. Let some other NFL team teach 22-year-old Mayfield the best revenge is found on the scoreboard, not by grabbing his crotch. The goal in Denver is to win the AFC West, not go viral with a video of a punky QB on "Hard Knocks."

"In college, you're allowed to be a kid," said Elway, nailing the No. 1 reason why so many hot QB prospects have such a tough time transitioning to the pro level. "You come in the NFL and the expectation levels rise, especially if you're a high pick. You're expected to be good, or show signs of being a very good player early. The other half is: How are they going to handle the situation, and how

are they going to handle the (significance) of being a quarterback in the NFL? That is the biggest part, and I say it all the time. Just trying to figure out how these guys can handle the tough times, because there's going to be tough times. When the world feels like its caving in, are they going to be able to battle through that and not lose their confidence?"

Translation: The Broncos are tired of babysitting Lynch.

With a first-round draft choice, a smart general manager selects the most-certain Pro Bowler on the board, regardless of position or need. That's my draft theory. And I'm sticking to it. It's also why my choice for the Broncos last season would've been Alabama linebacker Reuben Foster, not Utah offensive tackle Garrett Bolles.

It's hard to imagine how the best player available for the Broncos with the fifth overall pick in this year's draft will be a quarterback. Pray that Penn State running back Saquon Barkley slips to Denver, or trade up to get a running back whose skill set could make any quarterback look good at No. 5; or take Notre Dame offensive lineman Quenton Nelson, even if he plays guard, when all the cool kids drool about tackles. Barkley and Nelson have more Pro Bowl potential than Darnold or Mayfield.

I'd rather roll the dice on Darnold than Mayfield. But, either way, it would be a gamble. The safer bet is to acquire a veteran quarterback.

Is Cousins really worth in excess of \$25 million per year? Would the Chiefs even consider trading Smith to a division rival? After a career year in Minnesota, is it all downhill from here for Keenum?

There are no easy answers for the Broncos.

But this much I do know: No job in Colorado gets more scrutiny than quarterback of the Broncos.

It's no job for a kid, unless you're 98.7 percent certain he's made of the same stuff as Elway and Manning.

Why John Elway should ask David Shaw's opinion on what QB the Broncos should draft

By Mark Kiszla
Denver Post
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Will any head coaches be available at the No. 5 spot in the NFL draft for the Broncos to take?

Jeff, Henderson, Nev.

Kiz: When doing his draft research, maybe John Elway should call Stanford coach David Shaw and ask his opinion on which college quarterback would be best for the Broncos. For starters, Shaw has seen Sam Darnold and Josh Rosen at work. But the real theory at work here: Two birds; one stone. Having a QB that Shaw likes might tempt him to jump to the NFL in 2019.

Vance Joseph, the "leader of men," scapegoated six assistant coaches on his Denver staff to save himself.

Bret, Denver

Kiz: Football might be the national pastime, but America's favorite sport is the blame game.

It's great to hear Broncos players really like Joseph and wanted him to stay. How many players like Alabama coach Nick Saban? They probably respect Saban, but don't necessarily like him. Athletes need a little fear over like. Like doesn't win championships.

Tim, Pueblo

Kiz: Ah, yes. Fear as a coaching tool. I remember the 1960s. We here at Kickin' It Headquarters would like nothing better than to see Crabby Nick lose by 20 points to Georgia in the national championship game.

You're the GOAT, Kiz. Finally there's someone in the Denver media who isn't afraid of telling it like it is with the Broncos.

Josey, Denver

Kiz: A free press isn't free. So humble thanks to The Denver Post for allowing me to offer my honest opinion as a columnist for the past 25 years.

Kiz, it's obvious you should be the Broncos' president, general manager, head coach, defensive coordinator, offensive coordinator and the key player at all positions. You're the expert at all of these things and better than all who fulfill these positions.

Robert, Broncos fan since 1960

Kiz: Well, most folks don't know this, but in Polish, my last name roughly translates to "multi-tasking wizard." So I will gladly take on all those jobs for the Broncos, under two conditions: 1) I get paid one penny more than the \$100 million the Raiders are giving Jon Gruden, and 2) I am allowed to jump out of a plane, parachute into the stadium and deliver the game ball to the 50-yard line prior to kickoff.

Colorado freshman McKinley Wright is the best first-year point guard in the country. He ran the Colorado offense and fueled the comeback against Arizona State before he started scoring to lead the Buffs to victory.

Mike, high on CU hoops

Kiz: Have you seen Trae Young of Oklahoma? He's the best freshman point guard in the country. Overhyped Sooners quarterback Baker Mayfield can only wish he could be as tall or as athletically gifted as Young. Wright, however, is the real deal and will play in the NBA. Let's hope Wright stays in Boulder another year or two.

And today's parting shot is a heartfelt wish for a happy new year.

Best of luck in 2018, Kiz. No more bonehead columns, please.

James, certain to be disappointed

First responders and DIA team up to benefit Parrish's family

By Jacob Rodriguez

9NEWS

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Denver first responders and Denver International Airport employees will face off to benefit the family of slain deputy Zackari Parrish on Monday starting at 11 a.m. and going to 1 p.m.

Hockey teams will be comprised of members of the Denver Police Department, the Denver Fire Department, the Denver Health Paramedic Division and DIA employees. The winners from the first set of games will play in a 'championship match' of sorts.

The fundraising hockey tournament's first round of games will feature DPD vs. DFD and the Paramedics vs. DIA employees.

Donations will be encouraged at the event to benefit Parrish's family through the Fallen Officer Fund of Douglas County Foundation.

You can watch the tournament at DIA's ice skating rink between the Jeppesen Terminal and the Westin Hotel.

Special guests will make appearances as well, including members of the Denver Broncos cheerleaders, Miles - the Broncos mascot, Dinger - the Rockies mascot, Bernie - the Avalanche mascot, and master of ceremonies DJ RIPM.

More first responders will be on scene to collect donations from attendees as well as travelers.

The Avalanche have even donated a team-signed jersey that's available at silent auction.

Several airport restaurants have donated food that will be available to attendees with a donation. XpresSpa is even donating their massage therapists who'll also be asking for donations.

It goes without saying, but due to the tournament, the ice skating rink will be closed to the public on Monday. The ice skating rink's official address is listed as 8500 Pena Blvd., Denver, CO 80249.

Deputy Zack Parrish lost his life defending his community and attempting to help a man with severe mental illness last weekend. His funeral was held on Friday and was attended by well over 1,000 first responders from around the country.

Chris Harris Jr.'s teammates explain why he should be a Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year finalist

By Aric DiLalla
DenverBroncos.com
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Chris Harris Jr. doesn't do it for the awards.

On the field, he may hope for Pro Bowl selections and All-Pro nods. But that's not why he's so involved in both the Denver metro area and his home state of Oklahoma.

That's not why he started the Chris Harris Jr. Foundation in 2012; it's not why he works extensively with the Denver Children's Home and the Salvation Army; and it's not why he's stayed so involved with the Denver Rescue Mission.

No, the Broncos' 2017 Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year nominee didn't get involved with a variety of community initiatives for the recognition.

But that doesn't mean he doesn't deserve it.

His accomplishments — which also include starting a camp for 'underdogs' in Tulsa, Oklahoma, helping Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock launch Mentor Colorado's #MentoringFlipped program and working on various statewide and nationwide campaigns against domestic violence — speak for themselves.

His teammates, though, are willing to speak on Harris' behalf, too.

Virgil Green, who was the Broncos' 2016 Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year nominee, explained recently why he believes Harris deserves consideration as a finalist.

"I think he makes himself available quite a bit, and he has a lot of things going on," Green said. "He's been working with his foundation for years. Obviously, he's had success with that not only here but back home in Oklahoma. Anytime you have a guy that's doing that much for other people for that long, I think it shows that he deserves to be nominated for an award that prestigious."

Harris has similarly impressed his younger teammates. Justin Simmons received one of the Broncos' Community Ambassador Awards in 2017 and is one of the most-involved Broncos players in the community.

Just as Champ Bailey inspired Harris to be involved, it's fair to say that Harris has taught another generation of Denver players about the importance of serving the community, Simmons said.

"Chris is unbelievable," Simmons said. "When you're talking about Walter Payton Man of the Year for on- and off-the-field accomplishments, he's the perfect guy on our team for that. Chris is one of the main reasons I am so involved in the community. I see the reputation he has on the field, but being in the locker room and seeing what he does off the field is impressive."

“There’s always something. He’s always involved. And he has two kids. He’s just always involved in what’s going on around Denver. So for me as a young guy last year, I was like, ‘To see a guy like this — Pro Bowler, All-Pro — giving back to his community, that’s what it’s all about.’ He kind of got me involved early.”

Perhaps it’s no surprise that Harris is the least willing to stump for his case as a finalist.

When asked following the nomination why he deserved to move on to the final three, Harris kept his answer simple.

“I’m impacting thousands of kids,” Harris said. “I’m balling on the field —that’s one [reason]. Being able to change these lives, I feel like I’m a great representation for the award. [A] family man — [a] perfect Walter Payton Award finalist. That’s a good pitch.

Next quarterback could be Elway's last question to answer

By Woody Paige
Colorado Springs Gazette
Jan. 7, 2018

John Elway confronts the second most, and perhaps last, significant challenge of his career as a football executive.

He must procure a Mile High-quality quarterback.

“For us to have a chance to get better, we’ve got to get better at that position,” the Broncos’ president of football operations said the past week.

Better get after it, John.

Elway’s first major gamble was persuading Peyton Manning to come to Denver. He succeeded, and the Broncos won 55 of 72 games, captured four division titles, advanced to two Super Bowls, and were ultimately world champions.

In two seasons since, the Broncos are 14-18 with no playoff appearances.

John loves to meet tackles head-on -- The Drive and The Helicopter. And his inaugural resolution after turning professional was to refuse to play for the franchise that drafted him No.1 overall.

Elway is excited and incited by the quarterback possibilities. Especially because he was the one of the five greatest to play the game, yet his own judgement about young quarterbacks has been disapproved, disparaged and decried.

None of the five QBs he drafted in six seasons has become a promising star or even a legitimate starter. Of the past season, he said: “Obviously, that position didn’t perform as well as we wanted it to.”

Notice that Elway couldn’t even say “quarterback” to describe the three who were on a careening, out-of-control carousel the past season.

Elway learned to evaluate talent from his late father Jack Elway – the long-time successful college football coach who was prominent in the Broncos’ scouting and personnel department for eight years in the 1990s when the Broncos had the best three-season run in NFL history (45-10, with two Super Bowl victories).

When Elway turned 50, he mused to me about studying films of college players with his dad. The younger Elway dismissed a quarterback for being too short. Elway the Elder said he had to look beyond size “and at the player’s competitiveness and into his heart.” That quarterback was Drew Brees.

Elway will recall his father’s advice as he considers the college and veteran quarterbacks the Broncos reach for in 2018.

This choice will be critical to the Broncos' future and their attempts to return to glory. Elway will be 58 in June. His five-year contract is scheduled to run through the 2021 season. He likely will stay until the Broncos are stable or in the Super Bowl again, and after either Beth Bowlen Wallace or Brittany Bowlen, or both, take over their father Pat's ownership.

John seeks a quarterback who will be the Broncos' starter and star for 10 years, or even 16 (the number of seasons he played), before he leaves.

He can't make another bad pick.

The Broncos have the fifth overall pick in the first round, and five quarterbacks – Josh Rosen, Sam Darnold, Josh Allen and Heisman Trophy winners Baker Mayfield and Lamar Jackson – will be debated, deliberated and drafted among the first 32.

Do the Broncos end up with one of that quintet, or with a quarterback from another team – Kirk Cousins, Case Keenum, Eli Manning, Sam Bradford, Tyrod Taylor, A.J. McCarron, Alex Smith. When Elway describes the assets of a QB, he always seems to be talking about his own virtues. "Swagger" is one attribute he likes. That's why John was nicknamed "The Duke," after John Wayne.

Mayfield has swagger, attitude, talent, but he's shorter than advertised. Tall quarterbacks haven't served Elway well. Cousins is the guy who screamed after a victory over the Washington victory over the Packers "How do you like me now?"

A college quarterback's contract will cost the Broncos \$25 million over four years. Cousin's price will be about \$30 million a year.

Does Elway attempt to "get better at the position" with one veteran free agent – Bradford (who the Broncos contemplated before) – for the short run and one rookie – Allen – for the long term, or does he go all-in on Cousins, or put all hopes in on trading up to draft Darnold?

Elway will have a Plan A, and B (as in Baker) and C (as in Cousins) and several other letter plans in the next four months.

The game, as Sherlock Holmes suggested, is afoot.

Stan Kroenke: Rams don't have 'true home-field advantage'

By Josh Peter
USA Today
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John Elway confronts the second most, and perhaps last, significant challenge of his career as a football executive.

Stan Kroenke, owner of the Los Angeles Rams, said his team has lacked a true homefield advantage playing in the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum during its two seasons since returning here.

Kroenke said that's one reason he's excited about the team's new stadium, which is under construction in nearby Inglewood and expected to be ready by the 2020 season.

"In two years we'll be in a new stadium, and I think we can have a true home-field advantage like a lot of the teams do," Kroenke told USA TODAY Sports after the Rams lost to the Atlanta Falcons 26-13 in a wild-card playoff game played in his team's temporary home stadium. "We don't really have it now."

Kroenke quickly added, "I shouldn't say that because the fans were great," and then compared the 93,607-seat Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum to the Minnesota Vikings' 66,655-seat stadium, U.S. Bank Stadium, which opened in 2016 and will host Super Bowl LII on Feb. 4.

"Have you been up there?" Kroenke said. "That is a true home-field advantage because it's so loud, it's packed, it's new."

At the Memorial Coliseum this season, the Rams faced huge throngs of opposing fans, including in games against the Philadelphia Eagles and the New Orleans Saints. The Rams were 4-4 at home and 7-1 on the road during the regular season.

But on Saturday night, the Rams announced 74,300 tickets were distributed for the game, with a sizable contingent of fans on hand appearing to back Los Angeles.

After the game Saturday, Kroenke said he never had concerns about whether the city would support the team.

"I've been around L.A. a long time, and I know L.A. loves the Rams," he said. "I know the fans embrace the team, and I go around this town and people talk to me about it. We're here. We don't have a good facility. It's the Coliseum. This place is cavernous. It'll swallow up 65,000, 70,000 people."

Buoyed by the Rams finishing the regular season 11-5 a year after going 4-12, Kroenke said he foresees a Super Bowl championship for his team in Los Angeles.

"Absolutely," he said. "I believe that strong. We've won them before (in the 1999 season in St. Louis), so let's go do that again. How soon? I don't know."

“We have a good young team. Everybody’s really excited, I think, because they know that we’re young and we improved a lot and we can get better yet. I know our guys believe that. It’s exciting. And the city’s a wonderful place. They truly have embraced the team.”

Referees get criticized for controversial calls in Titans-Chiefs playoff opener

By Frank Schwab

Yahoo.com

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Former NFL vice president of officiating Mike Pereira is employed by Fox and not the NFL anymore, and he has generally been honest with his criticism.

Still, his blunt comment about the officials after the Tennessee Titans' 22-21 win over the Kansas City Chiefs in the first game of the NFL postseason was startling.

Plenty will agree with that assessment. There were many questionable calls by referee Jeff Triplette and his crew throughout the game. Even on a call the crew got right, Marcus Mariota's crazy touchdown pass to himself, Triplette explained that it was legal because Mariota was in the shotgun before the play. That didn't matter at all, once the ball was tipped in the air Mariota was an eligible receiver. It's amazing he didn't know that.

The play that will irk Chiefs fans for a long time came in the second quarter. Mariota was sacked by Derrick Johnson and fumbled before he hit the ground. The Chiefs had a clear recovery. But the officials ruled that Mariota's forward progress was stopped and the play was dead, even though that seemed to be a ridiculous ruling. Mariota was hardly moving forward when Johnson crushed him. Because the ruling was that forward progress was stopped, the play couldn't be reviewed. The Titans kept possession and kicked a field goal on the next play, a huge difference in a one-point Chiefs loss.

There were other questionable calls. Chiefs fans weren't happy that Mariota was ruled as down on a two-point conversion sack in the fourth quarter, because they thought the Chiefs defense had taken a fumble back for two points of their own. But the whistle had blown. Late in the game, the Chiefs appeared to have a miracle fumble return for a touchdown, but it was immediately clear to anyone that Derrick Henry was down before the ball came loose. That fumble return was reversed, and it was hard to understand how the crew could have missed the call on the field that badly. The Titans had a complaint too, having to waste a replay challenge on a third-down spot that was way off early in the game. The Titans won that challenge.

Triplette was criticized heavily on social media during the Titans-Chiefs game. Even the former VP of officiating couldn't resist piling on.

Could NFL bring Blandino back next year?

By Mike Florio
Pro Football Talk
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With the replay-review function not consistently adhering to the “clear and obvious” evidence standard and with Saturday’s postseason-opening game not featuring the kind of officiating the league’s teams and fans deserve, the NFL has plenty of issues to address regarding one of its most important functions.

And the easiest solution when it comes to the current state of officiating could be to bring back former senior V.P. of officiating Dean Blandino.

There’s already talk in some league circles about a possible Blandino return in 2018. I recently joked with Blandino during a recent appearance on the PFT PM podcast regarding the possibility of returning for the postseason. He initially said he’s happy in his current job at FOX, but when pressed he said that it “depends on what the numbers are, what the finances look like.”

And it quickly became evidence that the numbers and finances had a role in Blandino’s decision to move on.

“I think that there was a sense of, around the league office and some of the people in leadership positions, they didn’t value that position the way it should have been valued, and how important it is,” Blandino said. “During the season, other than the Commissioner, the head of officiating is probably the most public-facing person in the office. And those decisions that are made, I mean, these affect the outcome of games, and that’s your product on the field.

“So I do feel that the position was not valued to where it should have been. And, look, you always like to feel that you provided value, and I would never want someone to fail to make myself look better, but I do believe that they never valued that position where it should have been, and maybe it’s a wake-up call for some people around the league.”

The question is whether they’re sufficiently awake to turn the clock back to where it was before Blandino left. And whether Blandino would be willing (or able) to exit his current job to return to the one that had been crafted specifically for him, especially as it relates to the effort to ensure accuracy and consistency as it relates to where rulings on the field will be overturned by someone who is hundreds if not thousands of miles away.

Mike Mularkey on job speculation: I just assumed the worst

By Josh Alper
Pro Football Talk
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Before the Titans beat the Jaguars in Week 17 to book a trip to the playoffs, there was word that Titans coach Mike Mularkey could be fired if the team lost.

There was a similar report on Saturday ahead of the team's Wild Card game in Kansas City, which meant that Mularkey didn't have a totally celebratory press conference after his team came back for a 22-21 win. Mularkey called the talk about his job security "ridiculous" and "had a big effect on me" because it had a big effect on his family.

Mularkey also said he didn't hear anything from the team that left him feeling like his job was secure.

"No, I haven't had any support to say that I was. No, I just assumed the worst," Mularkey said, via the team.

Mularkey's players don't seem to like that their coach was left to twist in the wind either. Cornerback Logan Ryan pointed out that the team hadn't been to the playoffs since 2008 and linebacker Brian Orakpo brought up Mularkey's 18-14 record over the last two years when asked about the chatter after the game.

"We've had back-to-back winning seasons. We made the playoffs. We won a playoff game," Orakpo said, via ESPN.com. "What more do people want? It's f—ing ridiculous."

Assuming Mularkey avoids being fired whenever the playoff run comes to an end, the next question will be whether he gets a contract extension as 2018 is the final year on his current deal.

Alex Smith not ready to talk future after playoff loss

By Nick Shook

NFL.com

Jan. 7, 2018

Alex Smith has battled the stigma earned by his early career struggles for much of the last decade and throughout his tenure with the Chiefs. Saturday night's result won't quiet the uninformed doubters.

Individually, the quarterback had yet another solid performance, completing 24 of 33 passes for 264 yards and two touchdowns in the 22-21 loss to the Tennessee Titans. But while Smith did his job, Kansas City crumbled in the second half, surrendering an 18-point lead to a hungry Titans team led by Marcus Mariota and Derrick Henry. As the Titans stunned fans at Arrowhead Stadium and viewers around the globe, Smith's Chiefs couldn't respond, with the result sending Kansas City home earlier than expected yet again.

For Smith -- a quarterback who finished eighth in total passing yards, posted the NFL's highest passer rating and second-highest completion percentage among qualified passers, finished with a league-best 28-5 TD-INT ratio and was the starting quarterback of a division-winning team -- it's yet another mark against his legacy, even though he had very little to do with the loss. Alex Smith can't win a big playoff game, they'll continue to say, even though he was forced to play without Travis Kelce in the second half, had receivers drop multiple key passes and played under a coordinator who called a disproportionate amount of passes when nursing a shrinking lead. It might also have been the last time Smith will wear a Chiefs uniform.

"The game just ended," Smith said when asked about the possibility of not getting another chance with the Chiefs. "We'll get into all of that in the next couple of weeks."

It's preposterous to think -- why would a team that saw an early playoff exit pull the plug on a quarterback with Smith's numbers?

At 33 years old, Smith has showed no signs of decline, but he's on a contract that expires after next season. He's due \$20.6 million, including a \$2 million roster bonus that triggers if he's on the team at the start of training camp. If released before then, he'll count just \$3.6 million against the salary cap.

"Listen, he did some good things," head coach Andy Reid said after the loss when asked of Smith's future in Kansas City. "He really put together a nice year, but he's feeling as empty as we all are here. These guys are hurting. Nobody knows better than the players and feels worse than those guys. They put in so much time and effort into this thing. He had a good year this year."

Yes, he did, but that didn't exactly sound like a firm response from Reid. When considering who else is on the roster at the position, it starts to make sense.

Smith is sitting ahead of first-round pick and heir apparent Patrick Mahomes, who showed plenty of promise in his lone regular-season start in Week 17. The succession plan is already in place, and for a team looking at a close call with the salary cap in 2018, shedding Smith would create massive relief.

Buoyed by NFL Network Insider Ian Rapoport's Saturday report that the Chiefs are open to trading Smith during the offseason, Kansas City should be expected to attempt to deal the quarterback to a team flush with space -- Cleveland, for example, though the Browns aren't alone -- and would likely only release Smith if it can't find a suitor. Considering these numbers, Chiefs general manager Brett Veach might not have a ton of leverage -- even with a hotter-than-usual quarterback market forming -- but it seems likely Smith won't be back in 2018.

Fresh off a heartbreaking playoff loss, Smith wasn't anywhere near considering a future without the guys with whom he just spent the last half of the year.

"Yeah, I mean, you kidding me? I signed the contract," Smith said when asked if he wanted to return to the Chiefs in 2018. "I'm under contract for another year, so like I said, I'm not thinking about anything else. Right now, obviously disappointed. Like I said, I felt like we had a good chance, and it's gone."

For what it's worth, it appears at least one of Smith's teammates would want him back next season. The chance at a ring is indeed gone with this group. Next year's group might not include the guy under center. We'll see how that affects the future of both parties involved.