

If John Elway wants to draft a quarterback, should Broncos trade up for 2nd overall pick?

By Mark Kiszla
Denver Post
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Kiz, I like the morning wake-up jolt of your columns as much as two cups of coffee. You have hinted at what seems to be the Broncos' best strategy for the No. 5 pick in the draft: Trade back for more picks. There's bound to be a quarterback-hungry team willing to mortgage the farm for the fifth pick. If the Broncos wanted to draft a quarterback, they shouldn't have signed Case Keenum.

Ralph, fully caffeinated

Kiz: Trading back might make sense, especially if the Broncos could pry the 12th and 22nd selections in the opening round from Buffalo. But doing so would suggest Denver is committed to a slow rebuild, and patience doesn't seem to be among John Elway's best traits. So how about this idea? If Elway thinks there are two franchise quarterbacks in this draft, he needs to be aggressive and trade up to obtain the second overall pick from the New York Giants. Otherwise, I say stick at No. 5, and be satisfied with Notre Dame guard Quenton Nelson, Penn State running back Saquon Barkley or Georgia linebacker Roquan Smith.

The NFL's new targeting rule is a losing battle. Football nurtured and glorified the ethos of violence, and now that is no longer viable in the court of public opinion. The two parts cannot be undone.

Caine, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Kiz: When the football helmet is used as a weapon rather than for protection, the collateral damage is to the brain. Know what would stop players from using the head as a battering ram? Banning helmets from the NFL.

I watched Carlos Gonzalez strike out in his first at-bat of the 2018 season on another slider in the dirt. I believe it's something we will see often this year. Do you think CarGo's \$8 million clubhouse presence is worth more than the talent David Dahl would bring to the roster?

Jon, ready to move on

Kiz: One at-bat, one series or one week is too early for the Rockies to give up on Gonzalez. But here's a fearless prediction: If Colorado makes the playoffs, one of the starting outfielders will be Dahl.

So here we are again at the end of the NHL regular season, with minimal hope of the playoffs for the Avalanche. The issue is our defense, or more accurately, lack thereof. Nikita Zadorov is the only D-man that will hit. There is more physicality in a production of Disney on Ice.

Jeff, feeling defenseless

Kiz: Do I always have to be Mr. Sunshine around here? If I told you in the first week of this NHL season the Avs would be in the thick of the playoff race during the last week of the season, would you have taken it?

And today's parting shot insists the Kickin' It Headquarters staff should demand a pay raise from Josh Kroenke for being soft on Nuggets coach Michael Malone.

You make vapid tweets instead of saying "Kroenke out!" or "Fire Malone!" Are you on the Kroenke payroll or something?

James, fires at will

Su'a's message to Broncos Country: "Give me chance to show type of football player and man I am"

By Mike Klis

9NEWS

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There is an explanation for all those concerns and doubts people may have about Su'a Cravens, the Broncos' new strong safety.

Problem is, post-concussion syndrome is not an ailment that can be seen or wrapped or even treated through conventional medicine.

"I was going through some personal issues with my family and I didn't feel like myself," Cravens said in a phone interview with 9News this weekend. "I did tell my teammates I was going to retire but I never officially retired.

"The Redskins brought me in, they told me they wanted me to get checked out, make sure I was all right. I go to a doctor and he tells me I'm going through something I didn't even know I was going through. He said this is the reason why you feel this way and you're in no condition to be making these decisions because of this and I guarantee if you rehab and get yourself better, you won't be feeling this way.

"Once I got cleared in December, it was like I was a completely different person. Looking back at myself I'm thinking, that's crazy. I thought I was just messed up but come to find out, I was going through something I wasn't even aware of."

Washington's second-round draft pick out of USC in 2016, Cravens suffered a concussion in his rookie season while playing predominantly as a sub-package linebacker. After missing his second season of 2017, Cravens was traded to the Broncos last week in a complicated trade that resulted in Washington receiving the equivalent of the draft pick between the end of the fourth round/beginning of the fifth, according to NFL value charts.

Cravens first heard about a possible trade to Denver five weeks prior. He was so excited he started checking out flights and going online to search for apartments in the area well before the trade was executed.

He is scheduled to fly from San Diego to Denver tonight with plans on spending the next two weeks getting settled and acclimated in his new hometown before the Broncos begin their offseason conditioning program April 16.

"Once I heard they were talking at the Combine I was just thinking, 'let's get it done,'" Cravens said. "I didn't have a say where I would be traded to. I knew the Redskins were trying to get the best deal. But when I started hearing about the Broncos, I felt like they actually wanted me. They were a team that had a plan for me."

He received a text from Von Miller soon after the trade and he considers running back Devontae Booker, and safeties Will Parks and Jordan Moore among his friends.

“It won’t be all strangers when I get there,” Cravens said.

He is 6-foot-1 and most often listed at 225 pounds, although his body type is best etched in pencil than print.

“I’m about 217 now,” he said. “A couple months ago, I was 190. I played 235 as a freshman safety in college. So, whatever they want me at, I can get there.”

He is versatile in style and position. He can sack the quarterback, intercept him and range from sideline to sideline to tackle the pass catcher.

“I’m a strong safety,” he said. “That’s what they told me I’m going to be. On third downs I’ll be playing dime linebacker.”

His positions are currently occupied by Darian Stewart and Will Parks. Stewart starts alongside Justin Simmons. Stewart is guaranteed to make \$4.5 million this season. Parks is a backup strong safety who played the dime package linebacker role last season.

Has it been mentioned Cravens and Parks are friends?

“It’s all right, it’s competition,” Cravens said. “I can’t wait.”

His message to Broncos’ fans: Don’t believe everything you read or hear. With time, he will earn your trust.

“People have their own truths and can make their own decisions,” he said. “There is a narrative that people have that I quit, I quit on my team, that I don’t love football – that is completely forged and wrong.

“Everybody has the right to make their own decision, but my truth, I never quit on my team, I never abandoned anybody. I don’t know where they’re coming from with he quit at USC. I don’t know where that came from, that was made up. That’s a narrative that’s wrong.

“The only thing that matters to me is the Broncos and Bronco Country and just give me the chance to show you the type of football player and type of man that I am.”

Commitment to the game is one thing. Returning from what essentially was a season-ending brain injury is another.

Perhaps, a better question is: Why didn’t Cravens retire? There are dozens, if not thousands of cautionary tales regarding former players who have suffered the lingering effects of concussions. Cravens is an active player who experienced traumatic effects from a concussion. And yet he’s willing to come back and play his second NFL season with his second team.

“Football is a violent sport and it can be scary but I know what I’m signing up for,” he said. “I think we all do. I’m well aware of my situation and this is my decision to continue to play. I’m not going to second-guess my decision to go out there and play. I’m planning on making plays and being the same physical player I’ve always been and I’ll live with the consequences because this is my choice to do so. Every man, every woman, they have a choice they can make. This is my choice.”

Sacco Sez: Looking forward to 2019 anniversaries

By Jim Saccomano
DenverBroncos.com
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Last week I wrote about fact that in the midst of an ever busy world in pro football, many in the NFL are looking toward 2019, the celebration of the league's centennial.

During a recent visit to Atlanta, my wife and I had the opportunity to visit the College Football Hall of Fame, which was relocated to the Georgia city in 2014.

The year 2019 is a similarly big one for college football, as that sport will celebrate its 150th season of play in the same year in which we in the NFL will mark 100.

The College Football Hall of Fame is located in the heart of Atlanta, near the Centennial Olympic Park, the Atlanta Aquarium and the World of Coca-Cola.

Naturally, there is a huge Colorado connection to the College Football Hall of Fame, as Steve Hatchell — a member of the University of Colorado's Athletic Hall of Fame for his leadership in sports administration — is now president and CEO of the National Football Foundation and the College Hall of Fame.

There are 987 former players and 214 coaches enshrined in the Hall, representing 306 schools large and small. Notre Dame has the most members with 45 and the University of Southern California is second with 40.

Since the NFL gets virtually all of its players from college football, the celebrations go hand in hand and are inexorably tied together.

ESPN plans a "year-long multifaceted storytelling experience" for college football, and not to be outdone, the NFL Network will have a huge focus on the history and memories of the game.

I have been flattered to be asked my opinion of things the NFL and the Pro Football Hall of Fame are planning for this great centennial.

The sport of American football has come a long way since Rutgers and Princeton started it all with a rough version of the current game on Nov. 6, 1869.

But those two are not the only celebrations taking place in 2019.

Next year also marks the 60th anniversary of the greatest and certainly longest-lived expansion league in American sports history, the American Football League.

The AFL merged into the NFL with 10 teams, as Miami and Cincinnati had joined as expansion franchises by then, but the eight original teams will celebrate their 60th year of play in 2019.

Those franchises are the Tennessee Titans (née Houston Oilers), Kansas City Chiefs (née Dallas Texans), New York Jets (née New York Titans), New England Patriots (née Boston Patriots), Los Angeles Chargers, Buffalo Bills, Oakland Raiders and, of course, our Denver Broncos.

Of those eight franchises there are only three that have never changed cities or nicknames: the Broncos, the Bills and the Raiders.

Most interestingly, Denver, Buffalo and Oakland were the three smallest markets in the original AFL.

Those eight original AFL teams will celebrate their 60th year of play, the NFL will celebrate its 100th and college football its 150th, all in 2019.

Look forward to the opportunity to buy a lot of anniversary gear next year.

There is a lot of football history out there, and I hope our readers take as much enjoyment out of reading some previously obscure but interesting information as I will in writing it.

Su'a Cravens glad to be 'where somebody wanted me'

By Austin Knoblauch

NFL.com

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After Su'a Cravens' 2017 season derailed by injury and personal issues, it was initially difficult to see how the dynamic safety would reclaim his promise as a potential rising NFL star.

That pessimistic outlook might have faded a little bit this week when the Denver Broncos signalled their faith in Cravens by acquiring him in a trade with the Washington Redskins.

"I wanted to play football where somebody wanted me," Cravens told Nicki Jhabvala of The Denver Post. "I can tell that Denver actually wanted me on this team. It wasn't just, 'This is smart for our team.' It just seemed like they really felt like they could use me and felt like they could put me in the best position to be successful."

Cravens' tenure with the Redskins ended in disappointment after it originally looked as if he'd be roaming the Washington secondary for years to come. Selected in the second round of the 2016 NFL Draft, Cravens showed his promise in 11 games that season. He also dealt with injuries, and he was diagnosed with post-concussion syndrome prior to the start of the 2017 season. The diagnosis, coupled with the personal issues he was dealing with off the field, left Cravens contemplating retirement. It also prompted the Redskins to shut him down for the season by placing him on the reserve/left squad list.

The ordeal left Cravens eager for a new start.

"I never felt like I could be myself with the Redskins," Cravens said. "... It's a blessing obviously to be drafted by the Redskins and I will always thank them for giving me my opportunity. But I just think after my rookie year when I had those injuries, I just felt like things kind of changed. Once I had my last injury, I just felt like it might be in everybody's best interest if we just start off fresh."

In Denver, he'll get that chance. Cravens could see plenty of playing time in the Broncos' post-No Fly Zone secondary, and he'll be able to combat the idea he quit on the Redskins last year.

"A lot of people have the perception that I quit," Cravens said on SiriusXM NFL Radio, per The Washington Post. "I don't look at it that way. I look at it as I took care of what I needed to do. My health is most important. Once I handled that, then I could come back. I didn't really have the option to return, even when I did get cleared. I'm just ready to get back out on the field and play."

Time will tell if Denver will indeed offer "A Whole New World" for Cravens.

The Beckham Trade Rumors, Reality of a Manziel Comeback, and Rule Changes from Targeting to Kickoffs

By Andy Benoit

MMQB.com

April 1, 2018

The week's 10 biggest stories in the NFL, and the impact of each...

10. Johnny Manziel eyes comeback

Newly married and sober, Johnny Football worked out at Texas A&M's pro day and spent extra time meeting with the Patriots.

Here's hoping Manziel stays on track and leads a fulfilling life. But from a pure football standpoint, even if he does, understand that this by no means makes him a potential NFL starter ... or even backup. Besides not having played in 2 ½ years, Manziel's style is not a natural fit for the NFL. For a pro QB, mobility must be an appetizer, not an entrée. As a Cleveland Brown, defenses giddily gameplanned to keep Manziel in the pocket, where he struggled to overcome his limited height (i.e. vision) and meager arm strength. It's foolish to think that Manziel might one day be Tom Brady's heir. The Patriots take unconventional chances, yes. But they win Super Bowls because they only play with guys who can, you know, actually play.

9. Andrew Luck is throwing

Colts head coach Frank Reich told the media that the star quarterback is throwing the football again and is expected to be with the team at offseason conditioning starting April 9.

With Indy's failures and Luck's absence, it's easy to overlook how significant this is. Luck is a top 5 quarterback. If he's healthy, the Colts are contenders in what's shaping up to be a loaded AFC South.

8. Cardinals trade Jared Veldheer to the Broncos

The eight-year offensive tackle, who is experienced on both the left and right side, goes to Denver for a sixth-round pick.

This is small news for Arizona; 2015 first-round pick D.J. Humphries has become their left tackle and recently-signed free agents Justin Pugh and Andre Smith can both play guard or tackle. For Denver, it's potentially big news if Veldheer is here to compete for snaps on the left side. That would suggest a deep dissatisfaction with last year's first-round tackle Garrett Bolles, who had an up-and-down rookie season. Most likely, Veldheer is here to stabilize matters at right tackle, where the Broncos were a turnstile in 2017.

7. Broncos trade for Su'a Cravens

The Broncos essentially got the safety, Washington's 2016 second-rounder, for a fifth-round pick. (The full trade: Washington receives 2018 4th (109 overall), 2018 5th (142 overall), 2018 5th (163 overall), conditional pick in 2020; Denver receives Cravens, 2018 4th (113 overall), 2018 5th (149 overall).)

Cravens was M.I.A. due to injuries and personal reasons in 2017, and his NFL future at this point doesn't appear to be one you'd eagerly bet on. If he can fulfill his potential, however, the Broncos will have scored a young new age hybrid linebacker/safety, a la Mark Barron for the Rams or Deone Bucannon in Arizona. Players like that do a lot for your rotations and nickel/dime sub-packages.

6. Browns say they will start Tyrod Taylor all year

Cleveland coach Hue Jackson said the team is close to a consensus on who to take at the top of the draft, but they plan to be "very disciplined" in sitting that player behind Taylor for all of next season.

Yeah, we'll see. As I wrote this week in why the Giants shouldn't take a QB at No. 2, the number of times in the last dozen years that a first-round QB has actually sat out his rookie season and then gone on to be that team's long-term starter is zero. It hasn't happened since the Packers drafted Aaron Rodgers in 2005. Brett Favre kept Rodgers on the bench. Tyrod Taylor, like 99% of the league's other quarterbacks, isn't Brett Favre.

5. Bennett Brothers in the news

Martellus retires, Michael turns himself in on charges of assaulting the elderly after allegedly shoving a 66-year-old paraplegic security guard to the ground following Super Bowl LI when he was trying to get on the field to congratulate his brother.

On Martellus, would you believe that over his 10-year career, he played for five teams and averaged just 43 catches and 457 yards receiving annually? Add in his stalwart blocking and you have a quality starter, but I would have guessed his statistical production was higher. (After leaving Dallas, where he underachieved as a backup to Jason Witten from 2008-'11, Bennett did average 58 catches and 621 yards a year. Still.)

On Michael, we need to learn more. There are questions to ask from many directions.

4. Kickoffs changed permanently, could soon be extinct

NFL owners voted to keep spotting kickoff touchbacks at the 25-yard line after testing the idea last year. Packers president Mark Murphy also said that if the coaches and players don't figure out a way to make kickoffs safer, the play will be eradicated.

Removing kickoffs would kill two birds with one stone by making the game safer and by making it shorter. If kickoffs disappear, we've heard that the NFL would almost certainly replace the onside kick with an untimed fourth-and-10 situation for the "kicking" team. Fourth-and-10 feels a bit easy. The success rate for expected onside kicks is 15% (over the last three years, via Elias Sports). The league must find the fourth-down to-go distance that correlates with that. Fourth-and-10 conversions happen 22.7% of the time (over the last three years, via ProFootballReference; and 24.6% since 1994). Making it fourth-and-15 (15% last 3 years, via ProFootballReference; 16.2% since '94) would be better.

3. Rams sign Suh

The L.A. Rams signed defensive lineman Ndamukong Suh to a one-year deal worth \$14 million, creating a terrifying tandem with Aaron Donald.

A great addition, but this still is not a totally complete defense.

2. OBJ on the trade block?

The Giants are reportedly asking for two first-round draft picks for the receiver after owner John Mara criticized Odell Beckham's off-season behavior and made it clear that no one on the team is "untouchable."

After Mara spoke, Giants GM Dave Gettleman said, "You don't quit on talent." A lot of people cried hypocrisy, citing that Gettleman quit on Josh Norman when both were in Carolina. Josh Norman is not what Gettleman means by "talent." Norman is a high-quality player. Beckham, from a talent standpoint, is generational. Guys like him come along maybe once every five years. That's not to say he's worth the headaches in New York (and let's understand, there are almost certainly minor headaches he causes behind the scenes that never become public). But it is to say the Giants must tread very lightly when considering a separation. Beckham is one of the maybe dozen talents in pro football who change the entire makeup of both teams' strategies simply by being on the field.

1. NFL bans helmet hits, adds targeting rule

There will now be a 15-yard penalty and possible ejection for any player who lowers his head and makes helmet-to-helmet contact with another player.

Yes, this new rule will create leaguewide chaos for the beginning of the 2018 season. And there will be snippets of chaos after that, probably through '19. Tough.

The NFL had no choice here. Besides the personal side of things (aiming to create long-lasting lives of comfort and wellness for players as opposed to lives riddled by the horrors of CTE), there's the business side. Concussion concerns are toxic to the game's future, and the bell could toll on it any day.

Picture this: Congressman Joe Jackass learns that early polling data shows his re-election is in question. I need some publicity, he thinks, Why not go after the NFL for all this head safety stuff? Imagine how great it'd be to wag a finger at Roger Goodell during a congressional hearing! The moral high ground would already be mine—I'm the pro-brain safety guy sermonizing about the health of the players, and especially our children and their future ... Goodell, who people love to hate anyway, would be a hired apologist for a bunch of billionaires, forced to sit there and take it. Sure, I'd know little about the entirety of the issue (just like my predecessors in 2003 knew so little about steroids and the landscape of Major League Baseball), but that's actually my advantage because asking oversimplified, misleading questions would frame the conversation in ways voters can understand. And, it'd force Goodell to bumble his way through answers, making me look powerful and imposing. It's perfect!

If the NFL isn't proactive and aggressive on the head-safety issue, an outside party will be. And just like that, the league would risk losing all control of its own game.

Su'a Cravens pushes back against perception that he's a quitter

By Mike Florio
Pro Football Talk
April 1, 2018

Broncos defensive back Su'a Cravens admits that he told teammates last year that he was retiring from football, but Cravens insists he's not a quitter.

Cravens, traded to Denver from Washington this week, explained to Mike Klis of 9News.com that the lingering effects of a concussion influenced his actions and decisions during the 2017 season.

"I was going through some personal issues with my family and I didn't feel like myself," Cravens told Klis. "I did tell my teammates I was going to retire but I never officially retired."

After a full medical evaluation, it became clear that Cravens was dealing with head trauma.

"The Redskins brought me in, they told me they wanted me to get checked out, make sure I was all right," Cravens said. "I go to a doctor and he tells me I'm going through something I didn't even know I was going through. He said this is the reason why you feel this way and you're in no condition to be making these decisions because of this and I guarantee if you rehab and get yourself better, you won't be feeling this way.

"Once I got cleared in December, it was like I was a completely different person. Looking back at myself I'm thinking, that's crazy. I thought I was just messed up but come to find out, I was going through something I wasn't even aware of."

His former team wasn't willing to wait for Cravens to get healthy; Washington placed him on the reserve/left squad list before Cravens could return from a four-week leave. His new team wanted him, obviously. And Cravens is now preparing to make an impact on the Broncos defense; he says that he'll play strong safety in the base package and linebacker in third-down packages.

Most importantly for Cravens, he insists he'll be playing football in 2018 — despite the perception that he quit on Washington and a rumor that he quit while at USC.

"People have their own truths and can make their own decisions," Cravens said. "There is a narrative that people have that I quit, I quit on my team, that I don't love football — that is completely forged and wrong.

"Everybody has the right to make their own decision, but my truth, I never quit on my team, I never abandoned anybody. I don't know where they're coming from with 'he quit at USC.' I don't know where that came from, that was made up. That's a narrative that's wrong."

Still, Cravens seems to be acutely aware of the risks of football. For now, he's willing to continue to accept them.

“Football is a violent sport and it can be scary but I know what I’m signing up for,” Cravens said. “I think we all do. I’m well aware of my situation and this is my decision to continue to play. I’m not going to second-guess my decision to go out there and play. I’m planning on making plays and being the same physical player I’ve always been and I’ll live with the consequences because this is my choice to do so. Every man, every woman, they have a choice they can make. This is my choice.”

If he plays like he did in 2016, the Broncos will be happy he made that choice. But the possibility of another concussion — and possibly another decision to stop playing — will loom, especially if Cravens plays with the kind of physicality he intends to display.

America wants safer football, but will fans support the NFL's changes?

By Michael David Smith

Pro Football Talk

April 1, 2018

America is concerned about the safety of its most popular sport. Public opinion polls show that parents are increasingly squeamish about their children playing football, and that large swathes of the country think that whatever enjoyment comes from the game isn't worth the damage that it does to players' brains.

At the same time, football fans are increasingly frustrated by what they see as the NFL watering down the sport they love. That's been easy to see this week, after the NFL passed its new rule banning lowering the head to initiate contact with the helmet. On social media, fans are outraged that the league would make what it calls a "significant" change to the sport. Even NFL players, the very people whose brains the NFL is trying to protect with this new rule, have largely reacted negatively.

That points to what may be the biggest conflict facing the NFL right now: Is it even possible to make football safer while still remaining the sport of football that America knows and loves?

There's a reason that NFL Films used to produce videos with titles like "Crunch Course," celebrating the most brutal hits on the field. There's a reason ESPN used to do a "Jacked Up!" segment showing players getting knocked senseless. That reason is that a lot of fans love those hits. The NFL stopped celebrating hits like that because the league thought it would be harder to defend against concussion litigation while simultaneously celebrating the violence on the field, not because there wasn't a market for those videos.

Perhaps the leadership on making football safer needs to come from the bottom, not the top. Maybe rules changes like this new rule against lowering the head need to start at the Pop Warner level, then filter up to high school and college and only reach the NFL when all of the league's players grew up playing football that way — and when the fans show they're ready for it.

The situation with football is not unlike martial arts. When you sign your kids up for martial arts, you want them going to a karate school where they learn the techniques without ever getting hit in the face. But when you watch martial arts on TV, you want a UFC fight where two jacked dudes throw haymakers at each other until one of them gets knocked out.

If the NFL isn't careful, this new rule against lowering the head could be the perfect marketing ploy for a rival league, such as the Alliance of American Football, which plans to begin play in 2019, or the second coming of the XFL, which plans to start in 2020. A rival league could say that it still plays football the way football was meant to be played, while the NFL has fundamentally changed the game.

A fundamental change to the game is something millions of Americans want to see at the youth level — and millions of Americans don't want to see at the professional level.

Dan Quinn wants the NFL to expand game day active rosters beyond 46 players

By Michael David Smith

Pro Football Talk

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Every NFL team has 53 players on the active roster. But only 46 of them are declared active for each game. Falcons coach Dan Quinn thinks that's a waste.

Quinn wants the NFL to change its eligibility rules to make more players available to play each game.

"If I had to say one thing how do we do it better, I would say I hope at some point we expand the rosters to get even bigger," Quinn said. "No pressure if a guy is out to say, 'OK, here's another guy that's up.' So 46 is good. And maybe in years to come, 10 years from now when we're sitting here, 'OK, remember back in the day when you had 46 guys?' Maybe it goes to 50 or something along those lines and gets more opportunities for guys because without a developmental league, we're hopeful that maybe the roster size gains by a few spots, that we can incorporate that. And I think it'd be safer, too, to have more guys available to play."

Quinn's idea makes sense, and it's actually a little surprising that NFL owners haven't expanded the game day rosters already. After all, the owners are paying the players anyway, so why not make them all available to take the field? As the NFL's focus on player safety includes pulling more players off the field for concussion evaluations and possibly ejecting more players for leading with the helmet, the league might need more players available. It won't be surprising if Quinn's proposal picks up steam.

Lamar Jackson indicates that he'll meet with more teams

By Mike Florio
Pro Football Talk
April 1, 2018

Absent an agent to advance his case for being drafted as high as possible, quarterback Lamar Jackson needs to get the word out on his own. And he now is.

"I would like to thank all 32 teams for coming out to my pro day and for those that met with me before my pro day on my pro day and for those that are scheduled to meet with me after my pro day thank you all," Jackson said on Twitter.

Jackson had a private workout for the Texans before his Pro Day workout, and he met with the Chargers after his throwing session. He didn't disclose the other teams he'll be meeting with.

Still, the reference to "all 32 teams" attending his workout likely was intended to indicate that all teams have interest in Jackson. With no agent to say those things on his behalf, Jackson is the one who has to do it.

The announcement from Jackson comes on the heels of a claim from Mike Mayock of NFL Network that teams have had a hard time scheduling visits and workouts with Jackson.

While it's good that Jackson is taking the initiative to promote himself, he'd still benefit from having a skilled third party to affirmatively tout his skills — and to defend him against the negative things that agents representing other draft-eligible players surely are saying to scouts, coaches, and/or the media.

Here's another way having a skilled agent would have helped Jackson. Whatever his Wonderlic score was (and we won't be disclosing any of them here), it would have been higher, or at a minimum wouldn't have been any lower, if Jackson had an agent who could have better prepared him for the test, especially since plenty of agents have over the years gotten their hands on all versions of the Wonderlic test.

Draft prospect Antonio Callaway: I'm not the bad person the media portrays

By Michael David Smith

Pro Football Talk

April 1, 2018

During his freshman season at Florida in 2015, Antonio Callaway was an All-American return man. During his sophomore season in 2016, he was the team's leading receiver. And then he was kicked off the team for a series of off-field incidents before his junior season.

Now Callaway is hoping that in 2018, NFL teams will look past those off-field incidents and look at what he's capable of doing on the field.

"I'm not this bad person that the media portrays," Callaway said. "I mean, I can't stress it enough. I just gotta . . . actions. Let my actions speak for me."

Callaway would be wise not to blame himself, not the media, for any perceptions of him as a person. It wasn't the media that led a woman to accuse him of sexual battery when he was a freshman. (He was later cleared in a Title IX investigation, although the claim he made in his defense, "I was so stoned, I had no interest in having sex with anyone," isn't likely to impress NFL teams.) It wasn't the media that got Callaway cited for marijuana possession in a separate incident. And it wasn't the media that caused Callaway to throw away his final chance on the Florida football team when he was entangled in a credit card fraud investigation.

NFL teams know what kind of athlete Callaway is. It remains to be seen whether they are convinced he is the kind of person they want on their team.