

# Su'a Cravens ready for "a whole new world" with the Denver Broncos

By Nicki Jhabvala

Denver Post

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Last week, as soon as Su'a Cravens found out he had been traded to the Broncos, he downloaded "A Whole New World" from the Aladdin soundtrack for a social media post.

Words couldn't aptly express his elation. But Princess Jasmine could.

"I felt like it was perfect," he said Monday as he was formally introduced by the Broncos. "... I wanted a fresh start because I didn't like the way things happened. It wasn't part of my plan. I never thought that at 22 years old I'd be at the house watching football instead of playing football. The fact the Broncos gave me this fresh start, this chance to basically create a new image of myself, I just can't wait."

Since the trade was made last week, Cravens has closed the chapter on the controversial beginning to his NFL career in Washington and opened a new one in Denver, where he hopes to compete for a starting job at strong safety and dime backer with the Broncos' remade secondary.

But in his return to the game after a year off to deal with personal and health issues, Cravens has much to prove, on and off the field. There are those who still claim he "quit" on the Redskins, the team that drafted him in the second round in 2016. There are those who, according to Cravens, believe "a false narrative."

"One day I'll be able to speak a little bit further on that," he said. "But I'm not a quitter. I'm not a guy that lacks love for the game."

After an injury-riddled first season in the NFL, Cravens told teammates last September that he planned to retire. He was later placed on the team's exempt list and put under the care of Dr. Micky Collins, the director of the University of Pittsburgh's Sports Medicine Concussion Program, for post-concussion syndrome (PCS).

"A continuous process just flying to Micky Collins in Pittsburgh and going through the concussion testing, going through multiple different tests on computers physically, going to optometrists and things like that until he felt that, in his best medical opinion, I was ready to play," Cravens said. "I went about five or six times throughout a four- or five-month period where I spent basically a full 24 hours at the office working with him before he felt comfortable giving me the green light."

"There was a point that I thought I was done with football, but that love for it and that need to compete, that need to be on the field and be with your brothers, that never went away."

Cravens was medically cleared in December and reinstated in February, which kicked off trade negotiations with the Broncos. But the strange turns of the last eight months have given him a new perspective on the game, on his career and his start with the Broncos.

“As a kid you think I’m going to play until I’m about 40 years old, retire, have a house on the hills, things that like that,” Cravens said. “But when you actually get into the gist of things and realize this is a job and doesn’t matter who you think you are, the ability you may have, it can all be gone the next day. I never really looked at it that way. I just thought football will always be there.

“But having it taken away, with no choice ... it kind of matured me in way to where I never take that for granted again. No practice, no missing out on rehab or, ‘I don’t feel like icing today.’ Things like that, I’m 100 percent committed to.”

Previous concussions and bouts with PCS are believed to increase a player’s susceptibility. But Cravens said he begins his next phase with the Broncos without hesitation or fear of recurring symptoms.

“I know what I’m signing myself up for,” he said. “I’m aware of my situation that I was in and I’m aware of the dangers of the game. I experienced it first hand. I’m still willing to go out there and put everything I have on the line.”

If all works out, Cravens could be a key contributor to the Broncos’ defense, with the size and athleticism to help stop holes in the run game and plug leaks in coverage against tight ends. And his versatility puts him in competition with multiple players, most notably starting safety Darian Stewart and dime backer Will Parks.

“Will and I have been competing since high school. We’d do camps, then we get into the (Pacific-12 Conference) and he’s laying people out and sending me the clips telling me, ‘You can’t do what I do,’” Cravens said with a smile. “When we get here it’s going to be a healthy competition. It doesn’t matter if he’s on the field, if I’m on the field or whoever’s on the field, as long as we’re winning. That’s all that matters at the end of the day.”

# Broncos' 2018 offseason workout schedule is set

By Nicki Jhabvala  
Denver Post  
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Year two of the Vance Joseph era will soon begin for the Broncos. The NFL on Monday announced the offseason workout schedule for all 32 teams and the Broncos will start April 16.

The offseason program is broken up into three phases with increasing levels of allowed activity.

In the first two weeks of the program, phase one, the team can do only strength and conditioning, as well as rehab work. The next three weeks, or phase two, can include on-field workouts and individual drills. The team can also have separated practices with the offense, defense and special teams, but no live contact is permitted.

The final four weeks, phase three, include 10 days of organized team activities (OTAs) and a mandatory veteran minicamp. Team drills — seven-on-seven, nine-or-seven, 11-on-11 — are allowed, but live contact is still not permitted.

Shortly after the NFL draft (April 26-28), the team will hold a three-day rookie minicamp from May 11-13. In recent years, the Broncos have shifted from the tradition workout regimen with rookies to more of an orientation to help the young players acclimate without running the risk of injury.

At the conclusion of veteran minicamp in mid-June, the Broncos will break for about five weeks before the start of training camp, in late July.

Broncos' 2018 offseason workout program

First day: April 16

Rookie minicamp: May 11-13

OTAs: May 22-24, May 29-31, June 4-7

Mandatory minicamp: June 12-14

# Lunch Special: Can Chad Kelly be in the mix vs. Paxton Lynch if the Broncos don't draft a QB?

By Mark Kiszla  
Denver Post  
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The Denver Post's Mark Kiszla on Monday answered questions from readers on the Broncos, Rockies and Nuggets. Here are the highlights:

I can't see the Broncos passing on a QB at No. 5 assuming one they like is still there. But I also can't see them moving up to grab one either, given the other needs on the team and the fact they'd lose a bunch of picks to do so. Do you think they just stay put and see how it plays out?

Kiz: Here's the dealio with the quarterbacks. Are there truly four or five great QBs in this class. Is this the QB class of 1983 (John Elway, Dan Marino and the gang)? I. Don't. Think. So. Everybody knows the power 5: Sam Darnold, Josh Allen, Josh Rosen, Baker Mayfield, Lamar Jackson. One or two might be future Pro Bowlers. One might be a solid NFL starter for 10 years. Two will probably be busts. Are you very certain which is which? And, far more importantly, is Elway very certain. His recent selections of Brock Osweiler and Paxton Lynch suggest it's as much a crap shoot for Elway as anybody else. So all the Broncos can do is identify their man (or men). It can't be more than 2, can it? Is the QB is there at No. 5 that Elway wants to bet the future employment of Vance Joseph on, take him. If not, go for another position. I've harped on it forever. Draft for impact, not need, at the top of the first round.

How concerned do you think we should be about the Rockies rotation after the first series? I could see that becoming the Achilles heel this year.

Kiz: I'm concerned about the Rockies rotation. I'm guessing you're concerned. And I strongly suspect that Rockies manager Bud Black is concerned. Tyler Anderson did not pitch well in spring training. He could not throw strikes in Arizona. He's on a very short leash, I'm quite certain. I'd send Anderson to the pen now and put Antonio Senzatela in the rotation. Black, however, is more patient than you or me. That's why he gets paid the big bucks to manage. Here's thinking he will give Anderson one more start to get his act together.

If Trevor Story keeps striking out like a madman, what's plan B at SS? Ian Desmond? Pat Valaika? Ryan McMahon? Brendan Rodgers?

Kiz: Trevor Story looked lost at the plate during the opening series in Arizona. But there were two rays of hope. His hit was a two-strike single to the opposite field. And in the final game, he made good contact, without reward. Bud Black is confident what he saw from Story during spring training will translate to a rebound season. So I suspect the Rockies will give Story some time to figure it out at the plate. But, if we hit Mother's Day, and Story has a bunch of Ks and very few HRs, the calls for Brendan Rodgers to get to the majors will be loud. (I might even be the guy shouting the loudest.)

There seems to be a lot of us fans who have some high expectations of the Rockies this year. Although it's way too early to predict anything, what do you think the Rockies need to do to keep up with the

Dodgers over the long haul of the season, and do you think we have the team and coaching staff to make it happen?

Kiz: High expectations for the Rockies? You bet. I predicted 92 wins. They don't call me Mr. Sunshine for nuthin'. My colleague Patrick Saunders nearly fell out of his chair when I predicted 92-70. The opening series against Arizona exposed flaws, from a batting order that strikes out too often to Jon Gray's 1st inning meltdown in his second consecutive big start at Chase Field. Think it's a big chore to expect the Rockies to hang with the Dodgers all season long. But a wild card should be the goal. What does Colorado need most to do it? 1) Gray must pitch like a legit No. 1 starter, and 2) the team gets a breakout season from David Dahl, Ryan McMahon or German Marquez. The bullpen, however, gives every indication it will be lights out.

Hi Kiz, with all the talk of the Broncos drafting a QB at No. 5, I don't understand why Josh Rosen is NOT in the mix. To me, he is the most rock steady and ready from training camp. I hear Allen and Mayfield's name constantly and I'm so tired of Denver drafting QB prospects that may or may not develop over time. I believe Rosen is a sure thing. I'd even trade up if necessary to get him. Your thoughts please. Thanks...

Kiz: Josh Rosen spins the football better than any QB prospect in this draft. How's that for a little scoutspeak? LOL. But let me add: I'm not a big fan of Rosen. I've not met him. So I don't know his personality. But he did get his college coach fired. (OK, not all by himself.) A quarterback, however, is measured first and foremost on wins and losses. And if Rosen couldn't win consistently in a mediocre Pac-12 conference, I'm reluctant to bet John Elway's money that Rosen will win big in the AFC West. Could I be wrong? Of course. Here's hoping Rosen is the sure thing you believe him to be. Color me skeptical.

You have pick No. 5 and are on the clock. Who do you take (of course you can make any assumptions about who is available)?

Kiz: The NFL mock draft is the most popular guilty pleasure in sports. Every draftnik is guessing. But we can't help but look at those mocks, even if they change daily. Here's my guess on Monday, April 2, at 12:20 p.m. (And I reserve the right to change my mind immediately, if not sooner.) No. 1: Sam Darnold; No. 2: Bradley Chubb; No. 3: Josh Rosen; No. 4: Denzel Ward; No. 5: Broncos get Saquon Barkley ... and I do cartwheels.

Nice win for the Nugs last night but, man, their defense hasn't improved at all during Michael Malone's tenure. The players always say defense is all about desire but few show it. Would a new coach have any chance of getting through or is the current team fundamentally flawed?

Kiz: Folks want to fire Michael Malone. Do these same folks want to rehire George Karl? Listen, my friend, the truth is these players are young. And if you want to give Paul Millsap a pass for getting hurt instead of earning his \$30 million salary all season long, then don't you also have to give Malone credit for keeping the Nuggets in the playoff race during the 40-plus games that Millsap missed? Malone is far from perfect. But to think a new coach is going to make Nikola Jokic the defensive player of the year is absurd.

If the Nuggets miss out on the playoffs, do you think Mike Malone is here next year?

Kiz: Yes.

To be fair about the Malone question, I didn't advocate firing him, just wondering if you see the offensive lynchpins like Jamal Murray and Nikola Jokic having it in them to improve on defense and if so, what needs to happen to move that along?

Kiz: Jamal Murray and Nikola Jokic will score the points and make the winning shots for Denver throughout the next decade. It will be up to Tim Connelly and the front office to surround those two offensive stars with defensive talent.

How do you see the drop off in ability between (Notre Dame guard Quenton) Nelson as opposed to (Georgia guard Isaiah) Wynn and (UTEP guard Will) Hernandez ? If not a "game changing" difference, one would think that a potential deal with Buffalo makes all the sense in the world if, indeed, the Bills are on board to move up for a QB. Thoughts?

Kiz: Nelson, Wynn and Hernandez all seem to be stronger O-line prospects than Garrett Bolles. If the Bills are willing to swap both their first-round picks for No. 5, I would think John Elway might have to ponder that deal long and hard.

If the Broncos were to trade down (big IF)... for sake of argument, let's say they convince the Bills to give them No. 12 and 22 overall.... who would you target with those picks?

Kiz: It's hard to predict with certainty what players will be available to the Broncos at No. 5, let alone at 12 and 22. That goes not only for a knucklehead like me, but for John Elway, as well. The deeper you go in the first round, the more difficult it is to nail intel on what other teams will do in the draft. And that mystery is the risk making it hardest for the Broncos to trade back..

I'm still not convinced that the Rockies' starting pitching strategy — weighted on relief — is going to take them deep into playoffs. Now that Giants are loaded up and No. 2 on team salary, wild card is iffy. How long will it take for management to say this is a failure? You have one starting pitcher on Rockies making over million a year. Nobody has a payroll like this who makes the playoffs. When will they decide to buy a actual proven, expensive starting pitcher?

Kiz: OK, new Rockies closer Wade Davis is 1 for 1 in save opportunities, and you are demanding that Jeff Bridich admits loading up on the bullpen is a failure before Colorado gets a chance to play the home-opener? My, my, my. Aren't you Mr. Crabbypants? Do you have a dog? Please take him for a walk. And try smiling. It's spring.

Kiz, this is my first time posting, so apologies if this has been covered: What is the latest word on Chad Kelly? Can he be in the mix versus Paxton if the Broncos don't draft a QB?

Kiz: Folks love Chad Kelly. Folks also thought Kyle Sloter was going to be the next big thing in NFL quarterbacks when he went to the Vikings, yet somehow Minnesota went out and spent big bucks on Kirk Cousins. Kelly is intriguing. But if Kelly ever starts a game for the Broncos, I'd be surprised. Hope my honesty didn't harsh your mellow.

I agree folks are always enamored with the backup QBs, but isn't Chad Kelly potentially a little different than Kyle Sloter? I thought Kelly was considered 1st/2nd round talent if not injured. Are you saying he'll likely never get a real chance in Denver?

Kiz: A first-round talent is not selected last in the draft. Period. But believe any myth you want. And if you think Kelly's talent is real, here's hoping he makes all your dreams come true.

How about Chubb at No. 5?

Kiz: Bradley Chubb is a heckuva talent. And I'm no draftnik. But it seems to me that he fits a 4-3 scheme much better than a the 3-4 alignment used by the Broncos. I see him as an outstanding player that's a poor fit for Denver.

Bold prediction time. Will the Nuggets make the playoffs this year?

Kiz: What do I look like, the Amazing Kreskin? To make the playoffs, the Nuggets probably have to win out, go 4-1 at the worst. Is it possible? Yes, as I suggested more than a week ago, the Pelicans are vulnerable. So, right here, right now, I give the Nuggets a 40 percent chance of slipping into the 8th seed in the West. That's far from a sure thing, but twice as good a chance of making the playoffs than when the Nuggets were down 18 points to Milwaukee in the fourth quarter.

How likely do you think it is that Jeff Bridich is a seller at the trade deadline? Charlie Blackmon, DJ LeMahieu, Gerardo Parra, Carlos Gonzalez ... lots of guys in the last year of their deal. Maybe sell one or two if you're in contention? What do you think you could you get in return?

Kiz: The Rockies haven't played their fourth game of the season, and you want to know if Bridich will be a seller at the trade deadline? Would it be OK if we enjoyed our sandwich for today's lunch? Patience, my friend. This is what I will tell you: The Rockies' batting order, and their outfield in particular, could use a right-handed bat. Bridich should be making a list of possibilities, if he has not done so already.

What did you think of Von Miller's April Fool's Day joke? Maybe he secretly wants to be traded to the Browns. Just sayin'.

Kiz: Von Miller is a funny guy. A delightful prankster. An entertaining dancer. And a heckuva pass-rusher. Now if he could only be a leader in the Broncos locker room. The problem? Leadership sometimes requires holding teammates accountable instead of making them laugh.

Kiz, where do they sell that Rockies Kool-Aid you are drinking? 92 wins after you drink the Kool-Aid means as long as they are within 2 runs Kiz counts this as a win. Kinda sucks being a fan for over 20 years and this team has NEVER won their division! Would like to actually see them compete for the division instead of "hey wild card is great!" Love the fact you and the Rockies set your sights so low.

Kiz: Nobody in the Denver media has given the Rockies more grief through the years than I have. In fact, John Hickenlooper once made a personal plea for me to go easy on Dick and Charlie Monfort. My mother, or my high-school geometry teacher, could have told the Guv that I'm not a good listener.

I'm tired of waiting for Trevor Story to figure things out at the plate. Bring up Rodgers now and send Trevor down! Games in April count just as much as games in September. Also tired of Jon Gray being

described as an ace. He is not an ace! We should have signed Lance Lynn. Gray is just another young pitcher with potential. Marquez is better.

Kiz: You go. I like the fact there are fans in this city willing to hold the Rockies accountable. Makes me think maybe we're growing into a real-life baseball town, instead of 30,000 picnickers in search of a little sunshine and Dippin' Dots at Coors Field.

# Cravens all in on Keenum, says Darnold will go No. 1

By Mike Klis

9NEWS

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Enough about Su'a Cravens.

With his new team, the Denver Broncos, having the No. 5 overall draft pick, how about the redshirted freshman quarterback Cravens had at USC? Sam Darnold.

"I would say I'm all in with Case," Cravens said in an interview with 9News in the lobby of Broncos headquarters Monday. He referred to the Broncos' newly signed quarterback Case Keenum. "Where we're at now, I'm expecting him to come in and do a great job and not have quarterback worries.

"But in a perfect world, I'm a SC guy. I hope Sam isn't there at the fifth pick but if he is, I don't think you can pass on a talent like that."

Contrary to former perception, Cravens sounds like someone you'd want on your team. Cravens was a true junior, three-year starter at USC in 2015, when Darnold was so tough in practice, he was USC's Offensive Service Team Player of the Year.

"I think he'll be gone with the first pick," Cravens said. "I think Cleveland will take him first. He just has that moxy. He's going to take his chances. I think he's paid a little bit for that and he's going to have to mature as a quarterback and realize not every play has to be a highlight play, but he just has that it factor.

"His redshirt freshman year, he was just tearing us up in practice. I was like, who is this kid? He's running around making us look foolish. Come to find out he was a Heisman candidate so it made sense and I wish him all the best, and I think he's coming off the board first."

In Cravens, people have a reminder why first impressions should be made by each individual, in person, and not by someone else.

Su'a Cravens before the Broncos? The buzz was he was a quitter. Didn't love football. This was just before the 2017 season he didn't play with Washington. A diagnosis of post-concussion syndrome explained everything to his loved ones, deemed a convenient excuse to those who doubted him. His football character was very much in question.

"It bothered me a lot," he said. "Me as a competitor, it bothered me a lot. I know a lot of guys that I went to war with, the guys I played with at USC, guys I played with over at the Redskins, they know that was the furthest thing from the truth.

"They know whenever I was on that field and we were strapping it up they didn't have to worry about him. The fact that the whole narrative changed so fast -- I wanted to be mad about it, but at the same time, I couldn't help but understand as to why those things were being said about me. I'm just glad the Broncos are going to give me a chance to completely change that."

Last December, one of Cravens' representatives sent a memo to all 32 teams. It stated: "As of December 7th, 2017, client Su'a Cravens has received medical clearance to resume all football activities. My client suffered from Post Concussion Syndrome and, under the care of Dr. Michael Collins at the UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Program, Su'a has undergone targeted treatment and rehabilitation. He is now asymptomatic and cleared to return back to ALL THINGS FOOTBALL. Su'a is excited and looking forward to the 2018 NFL season and the many years to follow."

Until he was cleared, Cravens said he went through a three-month low point in his young life.

"I didn't think ever in my life at 22 years old I would be at the house and unemployed and watching football, not being able to play," Cravens said. "It was a hard time. Very hard to get through. But I had good people in my corner and I'm glad to have that past me now."

He wasn't really unemployed, although it must have felt that way. His rights were controlled by Washington, which put Cravens on the trading block in February, and he was dealt to the Broncos last week in exchange for what amounted to a draft pick between the fourth and fifth rounds.

During his introductory press conference Monday at Broncos headquarters, Cravens wore a white Broncos' polo shirt that must have been fresh out of its wrapper, judging by its deep creases.

He weighed in not at his listed 225 but 217. More strong safety weight than linebacker.

"I would like that," he said, "but whatever they need me to do, I'm open minded. I'm ready."

So, what are the Broncos getting in this mysterious talent who just two years ago was a second-round draft pick?

"I think they're getting a dog," Cravens said. "I think they're getting a guy who hasn't been this hungry to play the game since probably his freshman year in college. I just can't wait. Words can't really express the way that I feel, the way that I'm going to play. They can rest easy."

# Texas man receives 10-year sentence in deaths of Eric Studesville's parents

By Mike Klis

9NEWS

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A Texas man whose semi-trailer truck struck and killed the parents of former Broncos running backs coach Eric Studesville has been sentenced to 10 years in prison after a 12-person jury found him guilty on two counts of criminally negligent homicide with a deadly weapon.

The incident occurred nearly five years ago, on June 4, 2013. Al and Jan Studesville were taking a motorcycle riding vacation from their hometown in Madison, Wisconsin to the Grand Canyon. Riding along a Texas highway, the 18-wheeler driven by Anthony Dewayne Buck veered across the middle and hit the Studesville's Honda Goldwing head on.

The Studesvilles were pronounced dead at the scene.

Buck said he was reaching for a candy bar when he veered across the lane, and initially the Sherman County district attorney's office declined to file charges.

But Eric Studesville, who is now the running backs coach for the Miami Dolphins after eight seasons with the Broncos, pressed Texas prosecutors to look more closely at the evidence of the incident.

Buck, of Dalhart, Texas, was indicted on two counts of manslaughter in December of 2015 and his four-day trial was held last week in the Sherman County 69th District Court before Judge Ronald Enns in Stratford, Texas. Steven Todd of the State of Texas Attorney General's office represented the prosecution.

"I wanted this to be heard in court," Studesville told 9NEWS. "And I wanted the facts to be heard and if he was found responsible for the death of my parents I wanted him to be held accountable. And I think that's the outcome. There was never a degree of guilt I was looking for. I just wanted the court system to do what it was supposed to do and it did."

Eric, the Studesville's only child, attended all four days of the trial. He was called as a witness and spoke during the sentencing phase of the case.

"Most of my testimony was about who they were as people and the loss for not only the family but their community (in Madison)," Studesville said.

Al, 67, was a teacher, counselor and civil rights activist. Jan, 68, was vice president of Women in Focus, which provides scholarships to minority students.

Buck received the 10-year sentence that will run concurrently with a 10-year prison term he received in October 2016 on a second-degree felony burglary of a habitat charge. The deadly weapon in the homicide case was his semi-trailer truck.

Nearly five years after he lost his parents, Studesville received some closure. He was scheduled to be back at work in his Miami Dolphins office first thing Monday morning.

“It’s a hard process but just glad it’s over,” he said. “It’s time to move forward.”

# How could Broncos QB Case Keenum affect the AFC West race?

By AFC West Staff

ESPN.com

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Years ago, a little over two to be exact, Peyton Manning still roamed the AFC West and the Denver Broncos were closing out the 2015 season with their fifth consecutive division title on the way to a Super Bowl 50 win. In the two seasons since, Denver has missed the playoffs twice, and in 2017 the Broncos finished 5-11 as the rest of the division passed them by.

Broncos president of football operations/general manager John Elway has vowed to "do what we have to do" to get back in the playoff conversation, and after weeks of evaluation, Elway said quarterback Case Keenum was "the target ... the best fit for us." Keenum is just the guy to get the Broncos back on track, per Elway.

The four AFC West beat reporters from ESPN's NFL Nation take a look at what impact Keenum could have on the division race.

Paul Gutierrez, Raiders reporter: To borrow a comment from someone much closer to the new Denver quarterback, it depends: Which Keenum are the Broncos getting, the guy who foundered for the Rams or the guy who flew for the Vikings? Look, the Broncos' strength is their defense, which took them to that Super Bowl title. Plus, they've gone down this road before with the "next" hot quarterback in Brock Osweiler, Trevor Siemian and Paxton Lynch. Raiders edge rusher Khalil Mack once sacked Osweiler five times in a game. He got Siemian five times in three games and scared the bejesus out of Lynch the one time he faced him. Case, Khalil. Khalil, Case. Expect Mack to make his presence just as well known to Keenum, particularly with a leaky Denver offensive line, and that would drastically affect his play against the rest of the AFC West. So you might say we'll see more of the same when the Raiders play the Broncos.

Jeff Legwold, Broncos reporter: Keenum's arrival in Denver was a product of much discussion among the team's decision-makers, and it just might be proof former coach Gary Kubiak's say in personnel is growing. Kubiak was hired by Elway in 2017 as a "senior adviser," and Elway has since expanded Kubiak's role. Kubiak believes both in Keenum as a quarterback and in the playbook offensive coordinator Bill Musgrave will create, because Kubiak and Elway helped teach the foundation of that offense to Musgrave when he was a player himself. The trade for tackle Jared Veldheer was a quality move after the initial rush of free agency and will help solidify things up front. Keenum's chances for success hinge on how well the Broncos protect him, because that has been their biggest failing on offense and has eroded the play of every quarterback they've put behind center. If they can play better up front than they have for much of the past two seasons, Keenum should be able to reach the level of performance he showed last season with the Vikings.

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Adam Teicher, Chiefs reporter: Since he will have new teammates and a new offensive system that will take some time for him to get to know, expectations for Keenum should be minimal despite the contract he received from the Broncos. Denver was the last-place team in the division in 2017. Is Keenum really the difference between last place and the AFC West title for the Broncos? If he were that type of player, would the Vikings really have allowed him to get away? That they would so willingly give up on Keenum gives me pause here, and Minnesota wasn't the first team to think he wasn't the solution.

Eric Williams, Chargers reporter: Keenum should play solid football, but he won't put up the gaudy numbers he produced with the Vikings last season. For starters, the Broncos still have to put together a more talented, consistent offensive line to protect Keenum. Along with that, he has to learn a new offense and become familiar with new receivers such as Demaryius Thomas and Emmanuel Sanders. And I don't think Denver's cast of playmakers is as talented as the Vikings'. That said, Keenum is better than any of the quarterbacks who played under center for the Broncos last season, so he is a significant upgrade.

# Su'a Cravens ready for fresh start with Broncos, says 'I'm not a quitter'

By Jeff Legwold

ESPN.com

April 3, 2018

In an NFL career in which he has missed more games than he has played, Su'a Cravens wants everyone who's willing to listen to understand just how glad he is to be on the doorstep of a fresh start.

The Denver Broncos completed a trade for the 22-year-old safety -- he'll turn 23 in July -- last week. Cravens, who was a second-round pick by the Washington Redskins in the 2016 draft, did not play last season because of post-concussion syndrome.

He was medically cleared to play in December and after a somewhat messy exit from the Redskins arrives as a low-risk investment for the Broncos, as Cravens says he's ready for a return to the field.

"I love football," Cravens said Monday, during his first visit to the team's suburban Denver complex. "... But sometimes you have to be mature about situations, and when it came to last year, it wasn't really about what I wanted, but what I needed to do.

"I don't like the way things happened; it wasn't part of my plan," Cravens added. "I never thought, at 22 years old, I'd be at the house watching football instead of playing football. So the Broncos gave me this fresh start, this chance to basically create a new image of myself. I can't wait."

Cravens, who has also had knee and elbow injuries in his NFL career, had missed time in his rookie season with a concussion and then had post-concussion symptoms return last season. As a result, he has not played in a regular-season game since Dec. 11, 2016, as there were rumors he had contemplated retirement, and the Redskins designated him as "injured reserve/left squad" all of last season.

After some initial questions last year about why he felt "something wasn't right" with his health, Cravens was eventually treated by Dr. Michael Collins at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center concussion program. Cravens said he went for extended appointments with Collins "four or five times" last year before Collins cleared him to return to the field in December. "He felt in his best medical opinion I was ready to play," Cravens said.

Cravens said he had seen all of the social media offerings as well as other reports that he had walked away from the Redskins and his teammates. But he called many of those items a "false narrative" and said that he had spoken to several former Redskins teammates in recent days, including Mason Foster, Preston Smith, Will Compton and Junior Galette.

"I'm not a quitter," Cravens said. "I'm not a guy who lacks love for the game. Definitely don't know where the 'quit in college' came from."

Before the trade to Denver, Cravens discussed with Collins the chances of having additional concussion issues if he continues to play.

"We're all grown men," Cravens said. "I know what I'm signing myself up for. I'm aware of the situation I was in. I'm aware of the dangers of the game and experienced it firsthand. I'm willing to go out and put everything on the line."

# Cravens brings fresh mind, body into reboot with Broncos

By Arnie Stapleton  
Associated Press  
April 3, 2018

Su'a Cravens has found happiness, harmony and himself just in time for his do-over in Denver.

Elated over John Elway's call and Von Miller's text, the former standout safety from Southern Cal celebrated his trade from the Redskins to the Broncos by posting "A Whole New World" from the Disney movie "Aladdin" on his Twitter account.

"I felt like it was perfect," said Cravens, who missed all of last season and even mulled retirement while dealing with the lingering effects of a head injury.

Selected in the second round of the 2016 NFL draft, Cravens played in 11 games his rookie season but he sustained a concussion in Week 4 and later suffered an elbow injury. He said he felt off-kilter heading into training camp last year, and things only got worse after he underwent knee surgery in August to repair a torn meniscus.

Cravens had to be talked out of retiring in early September during a meeting with team President Bruce Allen, and the Redskins placed him on their exempt list, forcing him to miss the entire season. They sent him to see sports concussion expert Micky Collins in Pittsburgh, who had an answer for all of his mood swings, personality changes and feelings that something just wasn't quite right: post-concussion syndrome.

"I didn't really know what was going on until I went to see Dr. Collins and he made me fully aware of the situation," Cravens said. "At first I just thought that something was wrong with me, something's not right and I didn't feel the same. Once he explained, 'This is why you feel this way,' he'd ask me questions, I'd tell him, 'Yes,' and he'd say, 'Well that's a correlation to this.' Everything started making sense and once we started working on it progressively I got better and better."

Cravens said he never lost his love for the game but did succumb to feelings his football career was finished.

"Certainly. I was going through something that I wasn't even aware I was going through," Cravens said. "The mindset that I had last year was just completely different from how I am now. Once I got cleared, I took a step back and looked at the way I was acting and the way I was treating my loved ones. The way my whole thought process was, it was a stranger.

"It was just crazy that I didn't realize that I was in a predicament I was completely unaware of. So yeah, there was a point that I thought I was done with football, but that love for it and that need to compete, that need to be on the field and be with your brothers, that never went away."

Cravens even had to deal with accusations that he'd quit on his teammates.

He was finally cleared in December and the Redskins began shopping him during the NFL combine last month.

The Broncos essentially sent a fifth-round selection in this year's draft for the safety-linebacker hybrid whose instincts and athleticism wowed scouts two years ago.

Cravens is eager to put his past behind him and start anew in Denver.

"I think there's a false narrative on what exactly happened," Cravens said. "Right now my focus is just on being a Denver Bronco. One day I'll be able to speak a little further on that, but I'm not a quitter. I'm not a guy who lacks love for the game. I definitely don't know where the 'quitting in college' came from, but like I said, I'm here to play for the Broncos and do whatever I can to help this team win games."

He sees himself as a strong safety but is willing to play wherever the Broncos feel he fits best in a revamped secondary that lost standout safety T.J. Ward last fall and elite cornerback Aqib Talib this spring.

"I'm just grateful to be on the field," Cravens said, adding that last season made him appreciate his chance to play pro football and he has no qualms about getting right back into the fray.

"We're all grown men and I know what I'm signing myself up for. I'm aware of the situation that I was in and I'm aware of the dangers of the game," he said. "I've experienced it firsthand and I'm still willing to go out there and put everything I have on the line. I wanted a fresh start just because I don't like the way things happened. It wasn't a part of my plan. I never thought at 22 years old that I'd be at the house watching football instead of playing football."

# April Fools! Only a fool would trade Von Miller

By Woody Paige

KMGH

April 3, 2018

Von Miller to the Browns?!

Many were April-fooled. Some fools were ecstatic.

The Broncos' all-world linebacker posted on Instagram Sunday "breaking" news that he had been traded (sentenced?) to Cleveland and stated: "It's been real Denver! The 'Mile High City' and the @broncos will always have my heart! SB50 Champs! They can never take that away from us! @clevelandbrowns & @juice\_landry what's good!!!"

There's that Fake News the president of the United States and the president of the Broncos' football operations refer to. And too many exclamation marks!

It was April 1, and, despite the warning of The Who in "Won't Get Fooled Again," the immediate belief among bamboozled Broncos' backers was that Miller Time is over.

Never mind.

But what made the pronouncement seem genuine were recent misguided missives from radio talk show hosts and clown-car listeners that Miller should be dealt.

Perhaps people should be reminded – again – that the only Pro Bowl player drafted by the Broncos during the John Elway Reign and still on the roster is Von Miller. (The other was tight end Julius Thomas, who, coincidentally, is available on the free-agent market.)

Von Miller was the Most Valuable Player in the Broncos' Super Bowl 50 game. Von Miller is the Franchise's Face. Von Miller someday will have a sculpture in Canton, Ohio. Von Miller is an annual contender for NFL's defensive player of the year. Von Miller has 83½ sacks and has been in on 402 regular-season tackles in his seven seasons. Since Von Miller had marijuana issues as a young player, he has become an impeccable citizen and philanthropist in Colorado. And Von Miller would rank in the top five all-time Broncos' players.

So, trade him? Sure. And Elway can go off and play on the PGA Seniors Tour, retire on the beach and hide.

Oddly enough, though, coach Dan Reeves once tried to trade Elway His Own Self.

It was after the last time the Broncos finished 5-11.

Thankfully, owner Pat Bowlen stepped in and stopped the ridiculous swap (that included Washington quarterback Mark Rypien), and the Broncos would go on to win two Super Bowls. Without Elway, they might still be searching for their first championship. Peyton Manning wouldn't have come here without Elway's presence, and Elway wouldn't have returned as an executive if he had been sent away.

The Broncos once did make a monumental trade with Cleveland involving an AFC defensive player of the year. After eight sensational seasons with the Broncos – and being an All Pro at end and tackle, and the team’s leading tackler and sacker (even though that statistic category wasn’t kept officially by the NFL) – Lyle Alzado demanded a new contract in 1979 and walked out of training camp. The Broncos never had renegotiated a contract, and refused to for Alzado. Even though he had produced one four-year span with (an unofficial) 38½ sacks, the Broncos shipped the wild-and-crazy, and intimidating and great, Alzado to the Browns for three draft picks – a second and a fifth in 1980, and a third in 1981.

They used the first two selections for defensive linemen Rulon Jones and Laval Short, and traded the other the next year to the Chiefs. Jones and Short became starters, and Rulon was special throughout his career, but it was not a good deal. Alzado ended up with a 15-year career and as a starter with the Raiders. But the admitted steroid abuser died prematurely because of a brain tumor.

The Broncos were on the positive side of one of the best deals in football history when they acquired Elway in 1983 from the Colts for Chris Hinton, Mark Herrmann and a 1984 first-round draft pick.

A decade later the Broncos got left tackle Gary Zimmerman from the Vikings for a first, a second and a sixth. Zimmerman was a Pro Bowler and eventual Hall of Famer. Champ Bailey and a second-round pick (who would be running back Tatum Bell) were secured by the Broncos from Washington in 2002 for running back Clinton Portis.

It might surprise everyone, but the Broncos have made more than 300 trades in the franchise’s history.

In retrospect, trading quarterback Steve Ramsey to the Giants for quarterback Craig Morton was one of the smartest the Broncos ever pulled off. One other quarterback exchange didn’t work so well for either team. The Broncos sent Jay Cutler to the Bears in 2009 for Kyle Orton (and draft picks on both sides were involved). During his career (which may or may not be over), Cutler went to the playoffs once (and won one game), and Orton never started a playoff game with his five teams, including the Broncos.

Trade Von Miller?

Only a fool would.

# Broncos Su'a Cravens talks music, commitment to Broncos

By Troy Renck  
KMGH  
April 3, 2018

About the singing.

When Su'a Cravens learned he had been traded to the Denver Broncos he broke out in a show tune as if he were standing in front of Lionel Richie, Katy Perry and Luke Bryan on ABC's "American Idol."

Cravens met the media Monday, and explained his joy.

"Once I found out I had to express myself and let everyone know how happy I was to be coming here," Cravens said. "It was organic. I downloaded 'A Whole New World.' I thought it was perfect."

Cravens relishes a fresh start. He arrives in Denver with a chance to make a difference, while rebooting his career.

Last season proved difficult, if not confusing. He did not play, and was not medically cleared until December after five visits to internationally renowned sports-related concussion expert Micky Collins in Pittsburgh. Through those exams regarding post-concussion syndrome, Cravens came to an understanding about his personality changes and mood swings.

However, he suffered criticism. His commitment was questioned. He admitted he was called a "quitter," and explained that someday he would reveal the entire story of his last year in Washington, how he went from a second-round draft pick to a ghost.

Monday, though, was about looking through the windshield.

"Having it taken away with no choice, it matured me in a way that I will never take it for granted again. There was a point where I thought I was done with football. But the need to compete and play with your brothers never went away. I love football," Cravens said. "The fact that the Broncos gave me this fresh start, I am thankful for the opportunity."

Beginning in February at the NFL combine, the Broncos zeroed in on Cravens for a reason. He potentially addresses a glaring need as a hybrid safety/linebacker. Cravens views himself as a safety, and should vie for playing time with Darian Stewart and Will Parks, a longtime friend. Cravens possesses the size to provide run support -- a version of former safety T.J. Ward perhaps -- while improving the team's porous coverage against big targets in the passing game.

"I love the pick up. He's perfect for our defense," Broncos nose tackle Domata Peko told Denver7. "He can play multiple positions and can really cover tight ends."

Cravens knows the Broncos defense as a fan. He admitted that he was drawn to their games because of the way Denver plays. It did not hurt that after he joined the Broncos he spoke with general manager

John Elway -- Cravens' uncle played with Elway at Granada Hills High School, but the safety was too starstruck to mention it -- and All-Pro linebacker Von Miller.

"I think we have something brewing," Cravens said. "They wanted me here."

Cravens smiled throughout his press conference. He bubbles optimism about his new team, and could not hide his excitement about the facility and new digs. Enough to break out in song? Not Monday.

But if Cravens can provide the versatility his athleticism suggests, it will be music to the Broncos' ears.

# 'All I've been looking for': Su'a Cravens finds desired opportunity in Denver

By Aric DiLalla  
DenverBroncos.com  
April 3, 2018

When Su'a Cravens' name surfaced on the trade block during the 2018 NFL Combine, he knew teams had varying reasons for their interest.

Some, he said, weren't fully interested in the way the former second-round draft pick could make an impact for their team. Instead, these teams just wanted to keep Cravens away from division rivals.

But that wasn't the case with Denver, Cravens said Monday at his introductory press conference.

"When it came to the Broncos, it just felt like, 'Nah, we want him. We want him here. He has a role that he can come in here and play,'" Cravens said. "And that's all I've been looking for: a place where they want me."

His new teammates made sure he felt that soon after the trade was finalized. Will Parks, a longtime friend of Cravens, was just one of several teammates to reach out.

Super Bowl 50 MVP Von Miller was another.

"Von Miller reached out to me, so that was pretty cool seeing him reach out. I didn't expect that. He's busy catching hammerhead sharks," said Cravens, referencing Miller's Instagram story from the weekend. "I've talked to a lot of guys on the team, so there won't be any strangers."

He joins a unit led by players like former All-Pro Miller and Chris Harris Jr., and as he explained Monday, he already knows the rest of the Broncos' defense by reputation.

"If you love football and you like to watch a defense that flies around, you watch the Broncos," Cravens said. "From what I've seen last year and the few years previous to that, they play hard. Everybody flies to the ball. It seems like everybody has fun. I want to be part of the atmosphere that's energetic and guys that ... just want to win no matter how they get it done. I feel like that's what they have here."

With Cravens, the Broncos now have another piece in their attempt to get back to that type of winning football.

And that's far from President of Football Operations/General Manager John Elway's only move from the last few weeks. On the defensive side of the football, Elway also re-signed linebacker Todd Davis and added cornerback Tramaine Brock and defensive lineman Clinton McDonald.

Those moves weren't lost on Cravens, either.

"I think they're building a culture here," Cravens said. "I think they're going in the right direction. They've made a lot of moves, and I think you can't be successful without a solid defense."

The former USC product pointed to Jacksonville's 2017 season as a blueprint for how a strong defense can lead to postseason success.

Denver's run to Super Bowl 50 provides an even better one.

And as Cravens looks forward toward his new opportunity with his new team, he seems to see similar success ahead.

"I think we have something like [Jacksonville's defense] brewing here," Cravens said. "As long as we buy in and we play all together, it will be good."

# John Elway discusses 'the stuff' that Tim Tebow and Colin Kaepernick share

By David Ramsey  
Colorado Springs Gazette  
April 3, 2018

John Elway was considering Colin Kaepernick's future when a name from Broncos past invaded the conversation.

"It's like a Tebow situation, right?" Elway said.

Yes, it is. Tebow and Kaepernick are, at the same time, vastly different and deceptively similar. Both drew as much attention for their kneeling as they did for their quarterbacking. Tebow was kneeling in end zones to honor Jesus Christ, and Kaepernick was kneeling on sidelines to protest police violence.

Neither became a prototype NFL quarterback. Both are stupendously gifted runners and mediocre (in Kaepernick's case) or far-less-than-mediocre (in Tebow's case) passers. Their styles of play strayed far from the NFL norm, and they paid dearly for their straying.

Elway was recently talking about Case Keenum, the Broncos' new QB, when the conversation veered into the Kaepernick realm. A 30-year-old who carried the 49ers to two NFC title games and led them to a fourth-quarter lead in the Super Bowl is unemployed.

Why?

"Because it becomes more about everything else," Elway said.

What Elway means is this:

NFL teams don't want a circus to accompany a (probable) backup quarterback. The Tebow Circus shortened his career, and the much-larger and much more controversial Kaepernick Circus appears to have ended his career.

"Too bad for him," Elway said of Kaepernick. "Teams aren't afraid of him. They're afraid of what it brings to the football team. And it's unfortunate for him, but that's the tough thing.

"All that stuff becomes the topic and it takes away from what you're trying to do."

If Aaron Rodgers suddenly decided to kneel during the national anthem, NFL owners would not banish him. He would remain a starter. His talent is immense enough that owners would defy angry fans.

Kaepernick is not deemed worthy of the hassle. He's good, certainly good enough to labor as a backup and perhaps good enough to start for a QB-desperate team.

Tebow, too, ranked among the top 35 quarterbacks in the NFL, but his distinctive style demanded a specialized offense, and he became too outlandishly popular for his own good. The band of wildly enthusiastic Tebow believers, and they are legion, helped speed his NFL demise.

“All that stuff becomes the topic and it takes away from what you’re trying to do,” Elway said of Kaepernick’s and Tebow’s vastly different “stuff.”

I’ve been following the Broncos since the 1970s, and there’s been a procession of entertaining seasons and players. The Tebow storyline of 2011 ranks near the top of the list of thrills.

His comeback victories against the Jets and Bears inspired Mile High to quake – literally quake - at a level I’ve never heard before, or since. He played quarterback with the passionate and violent spirit of a linebacker. He was immensely fun to watch.

But he had a thorn in the flesh. His inaccurate left arm was exposed in his final three losses as starter, when he completed only 28 of 77 passes.

The Tebow Circus was fully on display at Peyton Manning’s introductory press conference. Tebow wasn’t there, but it seemed as if he were standing in the middle of the big room. Manning and Elway were asked, over and over, about Tebow, at the time scheduled to serve as backup to one of the NFL’s all-time top four or five quarterbacks.

Didn’t happen. Tebow was traded, and only threw another eight NFL passes.

Meanwhile, in the present, Kaepernick will probably never play in another NFL game.

Elway took care to say he likes Kaepernick. In the summer of 2016, just before anthem kneeling became a blazing national issue, Elway talked with Kaepernick about playing quarterback for the Broncos, but they clashed on cash.

“He’s a great kid,” Elway said. “I met with him twice. We just didn’t agree with where he was moneywise.”

Back then, Kaepernick looked on his way to another half-dozen seasons in the NFL.

And then the kneeling/circus began

# How badly do the Giants want Saquon Barkley and must they stay at No. 2 to get him?

By Jason La Canfora

CBSSports.com

April 3, 2018

How much do the New York Giants really love Saquon Barkley? That's what other NFL general managers are wondering this month.

Sure, how could the Giants not be enamored with the Penn State running back, a potentially dominant player and natural leader with few knocks against him within a few weeks of the draft? But the more they are connected to the player and the more whispers about their intent to select him turn into screams, the more other teams begin to wonder if this is more like a screen. As in smoke screen.

I spoke to several general managers over the weekend who are watching what the Giants do with the second pick very closely, and all believed that while the Giants surely are big fans of Barkley, a trade is highly likely and there could be more going on here than immediately meets the eye. Two GMs wondered if the Giants were maybe pushing the Barkley button hard in order to drum up trade interest among the teams still desperate to get into position to draft a quarterback, like Buffalo or Arizona. Because it's not like the second-overall pick is the only spot the Giants can land the running back, and it's not like they don't have other needs.

"If you are (Giants general manager Dave) Gettleman, you must love all of this Barkley talk," said one NFC general manager. "I think if he gets his way, he holds an auction for the second pick, drops back a few spots and takes the running back or Bradley Chubb at 5 if everyone is trading up for a quarterback."

They believe that all the Barkley talk – if it has any genesis from within the Giants organization – has the multi-fold impact of letting teams know the Giants aren't taking a quarterback, and letting teams know to come talk to them, while at the same time creating a perception that the team is perfectly okay taking Barkley. The Giants have already been selling their fanbase on the narrative – or at least preparing them for the possibility – which gives Gettleman a potential position of strength when soliciting offers for the selection.

"The more I hear about the Giants and Barkley the more I think they are trading down," the general manager offered.

Makes sense. If you are Gettleman and you manage to have some fans and media convinced that Barkley is Superman, whether by your own actions or not, and then you are able to land him a few spots down and pick up some of the many assets this roster still badly needs, well, that certainly becomes a feather in your cap. And at a time when the Giants seem to be caught between a rebuild and dabbling with a possibly farfetched idea of contending, and with the Odell Beckham, Jr. fiasco now swirling, they could use a win or two from a public-relations standpoint, if nothing else.

Several general managers I spoke to believe there is still ample opportunity for the Giants and Bills to make a move – Bills general manager Brandon Beane worked under Gettleman in Carolina for a spell – and no one is convinced that the Bills are done wheeling and dealing.

"Brandon is trying like hell to get up and get a quarterback," said one general manager who has spoken to Beane recently. "I'm convinced he'll trade up twice more if he has to. It reminds me of (Eagles general manager) Howie (Roseman) a few years ago (when he was moving up to land Carson Wentz)."

Of course. Gettleman isn't interested in dropping all the way back to 12th overall, where the Bills currently sit after their trade with the Bengals. But if Beane can split the difference somewhat, then odds are quite good the Bills and Giants could be trade partners. If, say, the Broncos aren't convinced there is a quarterback worth taking at the fifth spot, that would be a perfect launching point for Beane. And that would be a sweetspot for Gettleman.

"If Beane gets the five, I know he can get to two," said the general manager who has been in contact with Beane.

When you think about it, it all adds up pretty neatly for all parties. The Browns take a quarterback (if you made me pick today I'd say Sam Darnold). If the Bills got to the second pick, say, via the Broncos and Giants, then Beane gets his pick of the next best quarterback. The Jets take a quarterback and Browns general manager John Dorsey either trades down with another quarterback-starved club or takes Barkley or Chubb himself ... which would leave Gettleman with one of the two best players in the draft, only three spots lower and having gained more future draft picks via trade.

The GMs I spoke to believe there is no chance Chubb would get by Colts general manager Chris Ballard with the sixth pick, so Gettleman staying in front of Ballard keeps him in great shape there. Of course, the Broncos might not be in the quarterback market and will ride with Case Keenum, and then want the opportunity to choose between Barkley and Chubb themselves. Who could blame them?

But don't underestimate Beane's intent to be able to secure a quarterback who he truly believes could be a franchise difference-maker. He hasn't reshuffled his roster and made this many trades to accrue all of this draft capital just to sit at 12th overall and be left with possibly the fifth-best quarterback in this draft. Staying at 12 and 22 of the first round doesn't do him much good if he's left without a passer.

And he also has to at least worry a little that a team like Arizona (No. 15 overall pick) or Baltimore (16) leapfrogs that 12th pick to attempt to get a better shot at a quarterback, as well. Given all of that, I have a hard time thinking Beane doesn't complete another trade. And if he isn't concerned with getting ahead of the Jets – who are most definitely taking a quarterback with the third overall pick – then just going ahead and getting something done with John Dorsey with that fourth pick might be the simplest solution to his problem.

Throw in the fact that teams also have best-of-breed veterans like Earl Thomas and Beckham available for trade, and this has the makings of a highly-fertile pre-draft period. If Gettleman was able to drop down a few spots and pick up picks, plus land close to full value for Beckham with division rivals like the Rams and 49ers among those interested, then the prospects of the Giants getting better in the immediate future – and long-term – could look much better than they appear right now.

# An NFL coach asks draft prospects what they'd do if he punched them in the face

By Michael David Smith

Pro Football Talk

April 3, 2018

The questions asked of NFL prospects by team personnel are unlike the questions asked at any ordinary job interview. Ohio State linebacker Jerome Baker provided one example of that in describing his interaction with an NFL coach.

“The one question that sticks out is I sat down, and the first thing the coach asked me is what I would do if he punched me in the face right now? To me, being from Cleveland, my natural reaction was, ‘Coach, no disrespect but if you punch me in the face, we’re gonna fight right here,’” Baker told USA Today. “That was just my natural response. I guess that’s what he wanted to hear, because he said, ‘Good.’ It was definitely a fun interview. I didn’t get asked too many weird questions.”

Baker said the coach later told him it’s a question he often poses, and he wants to hear players say they’d fight back.

“I crossed paths with him a little later in the day and I asked him why he asked me that,” Baker said. “He said most guys freeze up or say they wouldn’t do anything when he asks them that. He said, ‘I don’t know about you, but if somebody were to randomly punch me in the face right now, I wouldn’t just stand there. I’d fight back.’ I guess he liked my response.”

So remember that in your next job interview: Tell your prospective boss you would hit back if he punched you in the face.

# Eric Decker interested in return to Denver

By Charean Williams

Pro Football Talk

April 3, 2018

Eric Decker has visited the Raiders, but he remains a free agent and wouldn't mind a return to the Broncos.

"Listen, there's no holdup on my end," Decker told Brandon Stokley on 104.3 The Fan, via Nicki Jhabvala. "So whoever you need to call for me, whoever you need to reach out to, please do. Not only is the team one of the greatest organizations in the NFL, but just the community. This is home for us. It's still a big part of us because, again, we started our lives here. This is where I got drafted. This is where I had both of my kids and going to have my third kid. so it just means a lot to me. So obviously it's a desirable place, but again, everything's got to align. The stars have to kind of align for it to all work. But I'm very receptive to make it happen."

The Broncos made Decker a third-round pick in 2010. He spent four years in Denver before signing with the Jets in free agency.

Decker, 30, spent last season with the Titans. He caught 54 passes for 563 yards and a touchdown in 2017.

In four seasons in Denver, Decker made 222 receptions for 3,070 yards and 33 touchdowns.