

# From Von Miller to the rookies, Broncos' first-round draft pick Bradley Chubb ready to earn respect

By Gina Mizell  
The Denver Post  
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Bradley Chubb got the Mile High introduction Saturday afternoon. Seconds after walking off the Broncos' practice field in Dove Valley, he quipped that "the altitude is something serious."

But Chubb is confident he'll quickly adjust. As Denver continued its rookie minicamp over the weekend, the No. 5 overall draft pick understands the responsibility that comes with being at the head of the Broncos' group of first-year players.

"When I first got drafted, (the Broncos) told me they were looking for me to be a leader," Chubb said. "I gotta keep doing that, keep with these rookies. Hopefully, my role expands as I make plays on the field and get with the veterans and (start) earning their respect."

After racking up 73 tackles (26 for loss), 10 sacks and three forced fumbles during a unanimous All-America season at North Carolina State, Chubb has begun his transition from defensive end to outside linebacker. He's primarily working with assistant defensive line coach Chris Beake (who is coaching outside linebackers during camp) on the various pre-snap stances for different plays. And the 6-foot-4, 270-pound Chubb is confident in his blend of power and speed to remain a terrifying pass-rusher in the NFL while also playing in space.

"For a big guy, I still have the ability to move," Chubb said. "... I feel like it allows me to be more versatile and allows me to do more things for this team."

Even through Saturday's on-field session was more walkthrough than full-blown practice, Broncos coach Vance Joseph noted "Chubb's a big, explosive guy. That's obvious." Chubb and the rest of the Broncos' rookie class will merge with the team's veterans beginning Monday.

Chubb said he's most looking forward to observing how his more experienced teammates, such as star pass-rusher Von Miller, Shane Ray and Shaquil Barrett, operate day-to-day. As of Saturday afternoon, Chubb had still not met Miller, who hilariously filmed himself screaming for joy inside a Las Vegas hotel room as the Broncos drafted Chubb.

Chubb predicts he'll play it a bit cooler when he and Miller first connect at the practice facility, with a simple "what's up?" as his likely greeting.

Then Chubb will aim to earn Miller's respect on the field. Chubb knows that's his responsibility as the head of this year's Broncos rookie class.

"A lot of eyes are gonna be on me, especially a guy that was picked No. 5 overall," Chubb said. "I gotta make sure I do my job, not just for myself, but for this team, so we can get wins."

# Broncos have 4 rookies invited to NFLPA Premiere

By Mike Klis

9 News

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There is some serious star power in the Broncos' rookie class.

At least the NFL Players Association thinks so. Of the 40 most marketable new players invited to the NFLPA Rookie Premiere that will be held Thursday-Saturday in Los Angeles, the Broncos account for 10 percent.

The four Broncos rookies who have been excused from Thursday's practice so they can attend the event: Bradley Chubb, Courtland Sutton, Royce Freeman and DaeSean Hamilton.

Last year, the Broncos had only one rookie attend the premiere: Third-round receiver Carlos Henderson.

The rookies spend the bulk of the event going through various photo shoots and autograph signings.

The 2016 rookie premiere is where Broncos quarterback Paxton Lynch demonstrated his widely panned touchdown dance attempt.

# NFL Insiders predict: The most improved team in 2018

By STAFF

ESPN

May 14, 2018

Which team improved the most this offseason?

Matt Bowen, NFL writer: Los Angeles Rams. The arrow is pointing up for the Bears and Browns after productive offseasons, but I'm looking at the Rams due to the proven, veteran talent they brought in via trades and free agency. Cornerbacks Marcus Peters and Aqib Talib have the playmaking skills to find the ball in the secondary. Go get it. Defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh bolsters the interior of the front line next to All-Pro Aaron Donald. And wide receiver Brandin Cooks is an upgrade for the passing game. Strong, aggressive moves put this squad in a position to win the NFC West and make a serious playoff run.

Mike Clay, NFL writer: Cleveland Browns. They had the league's worst quarterback play in 2017, but solidified it by acquiring Tyrod Taylor and first overall pick Baker Mayfield. Joe Thomas and Danny Shelton are gone, but Cleveland stocked up with talent: E.J. Gaines, TJ Carrie, Carlos Hyde, Jarvis Landry, Chris Hubbard and Damarious Randall, as well as early-round rookies Denzel Ward, Austin Corbett and Nick Chubb. This is a team on the rise.

Dan Graziano, national NFL writer: Chicago Bears. Problem is, because of the strength of their division, I don't know that the improvement will necessarily show in the standings. They spent big in free agency, which isn't always the best way to go, but they've improved their wide receiver corps and kept their secondary intact with that spending. And I believe their top three draft picks -- Roquan Smith, James Daniels and Anthony Miller -- are guys who can help them right away at positions of significant need.

KC Joyner, NFL writer: Cleveland Browns. It's incredible that the Browns were able to improve in as many ways as they did this offseason. They added two quality quarterbacks, have a logjam of good running backs with the additions of Hyde and Chubb, brought in three solid cornerbacks in free agency and acquired the best coverage cornerback in the draft (Ward). Three new offensive linemen give the Browns one of the deepest blocking walls in the NFL and they added Landry, arguably the best possession receiver in the league.

Kevin Seifert, national NFL writer: New York Jets. Stay with me for a moment. There is no doubt that the Browns have raised their talent level more from 2017 to 2018. But they also had the furthest to go. The Jets' drafting of quarterback Sam Darnold establishes a long-term focus for what was already a decently talented roster. For the first time in six years, the Jets know who they're building around. Don't underestimate the value in that, even if Darnold doesn't make a huge impact in 2018.

Field Yates, NFL Insider: Cleveland Browns. From a pure talent-added standpoint relative to where the team was last season, Cleveland takes the cake. But that, of course, includes the fact that this team was historically bad in 2017, becoming just the second to go 0-16. The Browns have cultivated a short- and long-term plan at quarterback and talent across the offense, and they reshaped the secondary.

# Chuck Knox, former Rams, Seahawks, Bills coach, dies at 86

By STAFF

Associated Press

May 14, 2018

Chuck Knox, the former NFL coach who took the Los Angeles Rams to three straight NFC championship games and also led the Seattle Seahawks and Buffalo Bills, has died. He was 86.

The Rams and Seahawks said Sunday that Knox died Saturday night.

"He established a winning culture and a legacy that will never be forgotten, being the only coach to lead the Rams to five consecutive double-digit-win seasons," the Rams said in a statement. "The memories and accomplishments that Coach Knox left behind will continue to inspire us and Rams fans. We hold his family in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time."

Called "Ground Chuck," for his run-first offenses, Knox was the NFL coach of the year in 1973, 1980 and 1984, winning the award with all three teams he coached. He went 186-147-1 during 22 seasons as an NFL head coach, including two stints with the Rams. He won five straight NFC West titles from 1973-77, and he returned in 1992 for the franchise's final three seasons in Los Angeles before its move to St. Louis.

Hall of Fame defensive end Jack Youngblood posted a picture on Twitter thanking Knox for his trust and "allowing us to make our way to Canton."

"Chuck Knox was one of the most influential men in the early days of my career," Youngblood wrote. "Great coach and an even better man."

Knox left the Rams in 1978 for the Buffalo Bills. After five seasons, he took over the Seahawks in 1983 and immediately led the franchise to its first playoff berth and the AFC title game. He spent nine seasons with Seattle.

"His presence projected an external toughness, but merited instantaneous respect by the genuine care and concern he held for his players," the Seahawks said in a statement. "He was one of the great influencers not only in football, but in life."

Knox is the only coach to be enshrined in the Seahawks "Ring of Honor." He was revered in Seattle for turning the young franchise into a contender in the AFC West for most of his tenure.

Current Seattle coach Pete Carroll tweeted Sunday that Knox was, "A true Seahawks legend and a man who had a great impact on so many."

Knox was a two-way tackle at Juniata College in his native Pennsylvania, serving as a captain on the school's undefeated 1953 team. He began his coaching career as an assistant at Juniata. He was a high school assistant at Tyrone and then head coach at Ellwood City before moving on to Wake Forest and Kentucky.

Knox considered at one-time returning to Juniata as a history professor and was working on a master's degree at Penn State before deciding coaching was where he should be.

"During that time, I thought what I really wanted to do was coach and not go into the academic area," Knox told the AP in a 2005 interview. "I know I made the right choice. It's what I wanted to do."

Knox entered professional football in the AFL with the New York Jets as offensive line coach in 1963, and played a key role in the recruitment of quarterback Joe Namath. He remained with the Jets until 1966, and was then offensive line coach with the Detroit Lions from 1967-1972.

# Golden Tate calls Matt Patricia situation 'a bunch of bull, says it's 'going to blow over'

By Will Brinson

CBS Sports

May 14, 2018

The Detroit Lions find themselves in uncharted waters right now, having hired Matt Patricia as their head coach only to see allegations of a dismissed sexual assault charge from 1996 find their way into the spotlight in 2018. Patricia maintains his innocence in the case, and the Lions as an organization have illustrated their support through multiple public statements.

At least one of Patricia's new players has vocally supported his coach as well. Wide receiver Golden Tate, speaking to Dave Birkett of the Detroit Free Press, called the situation "a bunch of bullcrap" and said Lions players support Patricia "to the max."

Tate also said he believes the whole situation is "going to blow over, obviously."

"I don't know the full details, but I know inside of our locker room, we support Coach Patricia to the max," Tate told Birkett. "There was nothing — didn't even go to court, I think it was thrown out, so why is it even a problem? Honestly, I feel for his family, who have to deal with this right now. And I know that this isn't how we want to start the offseason dealing with this crap, and so it's going to blow over, obviously, it always does."

According to the wide receiver, Patricia has spoken with the team about the situation, although the players and their new coach did not engage in any back-and-forth about the particulars of his situation. Patricia answered roughly 13 questions from the media following a prepared statement earlier this week

"We're just going to try to stay focused and we are a family right now, which our job is to protect our family, so as an organization we're going to hover around coach and his family and protect and love them the best way we can," Tate said. "But this situation is completely, to me, unacceptable and a bunch of B.S. that it's even got to this."

Tate likened the situation to when he was "applying for jobs at Chili's when I was 18" and noted that Patricia can, based on how the legal process played out, answer "no" when asked if he's been convicted or if has any felonies on his record.

"This guy's been coaching for a bunch of years and now this comes up," Tate continued. "When I was applying for jobs at Chili's when I was 18 and other jobs, they always ask on the applications, which is way lesser than what he's applying for, obviously, but they ask you, have you been convicted of anything or do you have any misdemeanors or whatever it is? And both of those answers are no. So I don't understand why this is coming up now, why it's a big problem."

There is a very valid point to be made about Patricia being innocent until proven guilty, and he was deemed innocent by the standards of the court of law. But it is also likely that people will continue to dig into the case and that people involved with the case, including the accuser (who later decided not to

testify), will come forward or be interviewed, and that the opinion of the matter could change. That all remains very much to be seen, but it is unlikely this will just "blow over."

Tate also thinks the case will not have an impact on the Lions locker room and that the leadership will prevent it from becoming an issue.

"I think we have some great guys with common sense and great leadership inside of our locker room that if there is any negative talk, guys will shut that down pretty quickly because we understand what's going on a little bit better, and it's probably — we're going to rally around each other," Tate said. "I just think it's a bunch of bullcrap. I think it's a bunch of B.S. that it's even being talked about."

That's just not the right take to have here. Even if the matter happened a long time ago, it's not something you just ignore because the charges were dismissed. Patricia and the Lions players might not like it being resurfaced because of what it could mean for the football team, but there are bigger forces and more important issues to deal with here. As such, it will continue to be a topic that is talked about an issue that is dealt with, regardless of what Tate wants.

# Matt Millen Fights For His Life: 'It's Getting Late. We Need a Big Stop'

By Peter King

MMQB

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The other day, spring exploding with the 18,000 flowering plantings on his 200-acre property of rolling hills and classic stone buildings, Matt Millen took the controls of his John Deere backhoe and began moving 12 huge logs. One after the other, chaining them up, pulling them off the pile, and moving them to where most of this wood is going to be part of the construction of a storage building on the Millen estate here in the northeast corner of the state he loves.

Millen finished after maybe an hour. He climbed slowly off the huge machine, and gave his Rottweilers, Ranger and Bench, a couple of scratches around the ears.

This is a sick man?

Take a closer look. Millen, 60, has that pale-faced look you sometimes see in people deep into chemotherapy. The four-time Super Bowl-winning linebacker was noted for playing with intelligent abandon for the Raiders, Niners and Washington, but he doesn't do much with abandon these days. He just had his weekly chemo treatment the previous day, and he's surprised he's feeling up to doing as much as he's done on one of the first warm mornings of the year here. Millen's down around 50 pounds in the past year, chasing a cure for a disease called amyloidosis that is particularly evil: He needs debilitating chemotherapy now to fight amyloid, a rogue protein that attacks organs (his heart, in this case). Because the amyloid is attacking his heart, he'll eventually need a heart transplant to have a chance to live many more years.

"We're in the fourth quarter of a big football game," Millen said. "We're down 13. Playing defense. It's getting late."

Millen thought, and he laughed. He does a lot of laughing. He is not impressed with his own mortality, nor does he have the slightest problem discussing it.

"We need a stop," he said. "We need a big stop."

Millen has had one of the most interesting football lives of our time. A linebacker both vicious and impossible to trick, he's the only player in history to win a Super Bowl in four cities: Oakland and Los Angeles (with the itinerant Raiders), and then San Francisco and Washington. Then he became Son of John Madden on TV, destined, it seemed, to replace Madden as the brainiac BOOM-BAM analyst of the people. But he got an offer to become president and GM of the woebegone Lions in 2001 that he couldn't refuse. Maybe he should have. Millen lasted seven years and four games, and was fired in the midst of Detroit's 0-16 season in 2008. Then he went back to TV. Now he does NFL games for FOX and college games for the Big Ten Network. And still will in 2018, if his health holds through the chemo.

Many head-scratching things about this incurable malady plaguing Millen. This might be the topper: It took doctors almost as long as his ill-fated NFL executive career lasted to find out he had amyloidosis. He

traveled to New York, to Los Angeles, to Rochester, Minn., to Philadelphia, to Chicago, with multiple doctors seen in a couple of those cities, before finally finding out this truth from a doctor in Jacksonville a year ago: “My friend, I know what you’ve got, and you’re not going to like it.”

The long, strange trip to diagnosis (amyloidosis fools doctors and clinicians because it mimics other diseases) started one day in 2011 on this property, as Millen was walking up the steep mini-mountain on the western edge of the property with his wife Pat. “We’d walk three miles, and we’d attack that big hill. And of course Pat would just bury me all the time,” Millen recalled. “And I thought no big deal, because she’s little and she’s in great shape. Sometimes I’d catch up to her and we’d run at the end and I’d beat her. And then, I couldn’t. I’d start walking, and I was like, What is going on? I’d start getting this pressure like right at the base of my chest. Then I couldn’t make it up to the top. Then I couldn’t even get halfway up. That lasts about a year, year and a half, and I figure I better go see a doctor.”

The first doctor visit was 2012. Multiple heart tests followed, and tests for severe acid reflux, and tests for Lyme disease. Nothing. He passed a kidney stone in 2015, got a non-malignant tumor removed from his chest a year later, and still nothing. Millen was sick of feeling like crap. One day a couple of years ago, he decided that since the doctors kept telling him his heart was great and they couldn’t find anything else wrong, he’d take out the walk-behind 60-inch mower he used to mow the five acres he kept in groundskeeper’s condition and just attack his property. The lawn was a football game—four quarters, and he’d mow one sector, one quarter, at a time. So he was on the first series of the first quarter, in essence, and here came the issue again.

“So I’m walking it, and I can’t go 100 yards and it’s starting to bother me. But armed with the knowledge that there’s nothing wrong, I get to this little hill, and I’m like I’m running up this hill. If I fall over dead, tough. This thing was really pissing me off. So I ran up the hill, it’s just killing me, and I was like, I’m done. I’ve got to find a doctor.”

More doctors. Liver, kidney exams. Nothing. Finally, a team physician for the Eagles, a sleuth named Gary Dorshimer, sent him to the Mayo Clinic. This time, he’d stay till they found out what it was. Millen went to the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, to a doctor named Gary Lee.

“So this is about a year ago,” Millen said, now inside his pristinely maintained home, on an antique couch. “I walked into his office, we sat down and we talked for about 15 to 20 minutes, and that’s when he tells me he knows what I got and I’m not gonna like it. I’m like, How do you know that? You didn’t even do a freakin’ test on me. He says, ‘I’ve been studying this disease for quite some time, amyloidosis. I’m looking at your carotid artery right now, it’s pronounced. I’m looking at the muscles in your head, and they’re deteriorated. Where there should be muscles around your eyes, you’re getting more puffiness instead of muscle mass.’

“And I’m like, ‘Way to read your keys man! That’s a good linebacker!’”

Lee’s testing proved that this disastrous protein, amyloid, was being produced in Millen’s bone marrow and was being deposited in the area around his heart. The amyloid is produced in the bone marrow and in Millen’s case, has traveled to his heart walls, making the heart less elastic and unable to perform the necessary pumping for healthy heart function. Treatments including chemotherapy could manage Millen’s symptoms but not cure the disease. Eventually, he’ll need the heart transplant.

"It's just a matter of when," Millen said. "And when the window opens for me, I may only have like five months to get it done."

I said: "Are you amazed that a person as healthy as you've been your whole life can be told you need a heart transplant?"

"It's unbelievable!" he said. "Here's what I kept on saying—I'd be working out or I'd be cutting the grass, or I'd be doing something and I would have to stop. I could walk 50 feet and I'd be like, What is going on? I would always say, 'Pat, didn't I just play in a Super Bowl 20 minutes ago?'"

"Had any 'Why me?' moments?" I asked.

"Never," he said. "Not one. I don't think like that. This doesn't bother me too much. I believe in life you're supposed to take the bad with the good. You take what you get. This is our life. This is what we get. And so it was the same thing when I was playing. We were fortunate to win Super Bowls. There are guys who go through their whole career, great players, who don't win one. I'm in Oakland, L.A., San Fran, Washington. We won one everywhere. You just can't figure those things sometimes. So you just get what you get. I'm okay with that.

"I'm also okay if I don't wake up one day. We're all gonna get there. I'm 60 years old and yeah, I'd like to kick around a little longer, but if it doesn't happen, it doesn't happen. I'm actually really good with that. Some of it is just being pragmatic. I've always been that way.

"And this life—this incredible life. It's amazing to me. I've met presidents, I've met prime ministers, I've been around top world leaders, I've been around icons like Mr. Ford [the late Lions owner William Clay Ford]—and I've had awesome conversations with these people. The great lesson? We're all the same. We're all the same. There is no difference."

Millen's attitude is so good, so positive—honestly, he could star in the remake of *It's a Wonderful Life*—that I feel I could ask him anything at this moment. I could ask about where this "That's life" ethos comes from. I probably should have.

But I want to ask him about the Lions.

"As you look back on it," I said, "did you enjoy Detroit or ..."

"Yes," he interrupts. "I enjoyed—I did not like the process because of the reality of what it is. Really when I take my steps back, I was not ready at all. Not even close. I was in over my head. And by the time I figured it out, it wasn't necessarily too late, but we were in pretty deep."

So many weird things about Millen's tenure. This one just boggles the mind: In the five drafts between 2003 and 2007, Millen had the second, seventh, 10th, ninth and second overall picks. He took wide receivers in four of those five drafts. Charles Rogers in 2003, Roy Williams in 2004, Mike Williams in 2005, Calvin Johnson in 2007.

"The one that killed me was Mike Williams," Millen said. "That was just so stupid Pete. It's like my brain fell off my head. Why would I do that?"

“So why did you?” I asked.

“I listened to the group. They thought if they got Mike Williams and paired him with Roy Williams that in the red zone we could do all these things. And I was like okay. Do you realize at that time, when we were just about ready to pick, I had DeMarcus Ware on the phone? And I said, ‘All right, take Mike Williams.’ My son was in the draft room with us, and that’s when my son punched me. What a dope I was.”

“How football history could have changed if you picked Ware instead of Mike Williams,” I said.

“How ‘bout that?” Millen said. “Maybe we would have ruined him too.”

Millen, of course, was fired by William Clay Ford four games into the winless 2008 season. But he says he’s glad to have had the experience. To this day, he loves the Ford family. He understands why he got whacked (“They had to do it”) and says he has no bitterness, and says he understands why the fans feel the enmity they feel for him.

“Now I know what really happens when you build a team,” he said. “It’s so imperfect. There’s so many things that just happen that you stumble into. And sometimes it works out the way you plan it, but not often because it’s a people business. That’s what it is. Like with Charles [Rogers]. I worked him out. I met with Charles. Charles wasn’t a strong person. I knew that. I miscalculated all the people that would latch onto him, especially being so close to his hometown; he was from Saginaw. And that was a real problem. My choice then was to take him or the kid from Miami, Andre Johnson. The only reason that I didn’t take Andre Johnson was I thought this would be good for the franchise—a hometown kid, and he had better speed, but Andre was a physical guy.”

Rogers had issues with Vicodin, marijuana, multiple DUIs and the weight of fathering eight children, two before he was out of high school. He was a mess for most of his awful three-year NFL career (36 catches, four touchdowns), and the Lions cut him in 2006.

Yes, the football architecture thing didn’t quite work out for Millen.

Millen is a garrulous sort, so it’s not rare for him to open his life like this. But now he’s doing it because he wants the public to know something about amyloidosis. Namely, that it’s incredibly hard to diagnose, even by the smartest doctors. Will McDonough, the famed Boston Globe writer, died of amyloidosis in 2003. His family had an autopsy done, and it wasn’t till then that the amyloidosis was discovered. “He did a stress test the day he died,” son Sean McDonough, the ESPN announcer, told me Sunday. “And the doctors told him he was fine—everything looks good. That’s how unexpected this can be.” Sean McDonough was thrilled Millen is speaking up now, so the light can be shined on a mostly unknown killer. (To learn more, visit the Amyloidosis Foundation.)

Some 4,500 documented cases of the disease are found each year, with many more going undiagnosed. Millen hopes by him telling his story, others who cannot find the root cause of an illness might ask a doctor about amyloidosis. The longer a person waits to be diagnosed, the more of the damaging amyloid protein can be produced. And, of course, the chance to stave off the disease through aggressive treatment is reduced the longer it takes to be diagnosed.

A bit of an update here: Millen visited another doctor at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York on Thursday. It was determined he would come off chemotherapy for two or three weeks to judge his progress, but nothing about his future treatment is likely to change, however. He'll eventually be on a transplant list, and he'll hope for the kindness of a stranger's heart.

Early in the afternoon of my visit, Millen seemed tired. Time to go. But he had one last thing to show me back outside: a gate, a beautiful stone arched gate, with a Bible verse he finds telling in his life. He pointed to it.

"This is important," he said.

It read: "Enter through the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life. And only a few find it."

It's a verse he wanted his four children to follow in life: Take the right and the righteous path, not the popular path. Now he's on his own narrow road. He's okay with that.

CHUCK KNOX: 1932-2018

Bill Parcells once said this of his friend Chuck Knox, who died Saturday from complications of dementia: "He's the guy tough guys want to play for." Knox proved it three times. He coached three teams that were struggling when he got hired: the early seventies Rams, the late seventies Bills, and mid-eighties Seahawks. He turned every one of them around.

In Knox's first year with the Rams, in 1973, Los Angeles went 12-2, and Knox won coach of the year.

In his third year with the Bills, in 1980, Buffalo went 11-5, and Knox won coach of the year.

In his second year with the Seahawks, in 1984, Seattle went 12-4, and Knox won coach of the year.

He established a run-first, Ground Chuck style of offense, befitting a man who grew up in western Pennsylvania and spent time working in the steel mills there pre-coaching days. If you couldn't run, Knox thought that said everything about your team. And it worked everywhere he coached, even in the post-O.J. Simpson Bills days.

Knox coached 22 NFL seasons, and his 186 regular-season wins are 10th all-time in the 98-season history of the NFL. As with Marty Schottenheimer (seventh in regular-season wins) and Dan Reeves (ninth), Knox is on the outside of the Hall of Fame looking in, though his 193 wins in all games is 10 more than Parcells, who is in the Hall, and 11 more than Tom Coughlin, who may be one day. The difference is Super Bowls: Parcells and Coughlin have two, Knox zero. But no one who played for Knox will say Super Bowls should rule his résumé. He made every team he coached tougher, and better.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

I

“I lived with the mental torture of a situation where facts can be completely ignored or misrepresented with disregard to the consequence and pain that it would create for another person. I was innocent then and I am innocent now.”

—Lions coach Matt Patricia, responding to the unearthing of the news that, as a 21-year-old college student on spring break in 1996, he was arrested and indicted for sexual assault in Texas, a charge that was dropped a few months later. The case never went to trial, and the Lions did not ask about it during the interview with Patricia, and didn’t know about it till last week.

II

“The last time the Giants had the number two pick in the NFL draft, they drafted Lawrence Taylor. So I expect him to become a Hall of Famer at some point.”

—Hall of Fame linebacker Harry Carson on Giants rookie Saquon Barkley, the second pick in the 2018 NFL Draft, to Pat Leonard of the New York Daily News.

III

“When we picked him back in ’08, our feelings were we had to have a quarterback that could help us move in the right direction, coming off everything that went wrong with Michael Vick. We felt like you could build around Matt Ryan. It had to be a player like that, a player with his makeup on and off the field. It was a big, big deal looking back on that now. That was important, at an important time in Atlanta.”

—Atlanta GM Thomas Dimitroff, whose first draft pick running the Falcons was Matt Ryan a decade ago, to Albert Breer of The MMQB, after Ryan signed a contract that will likely make him the league’s first \$30-million-a-year player.

IV

“Feeding the homeless is the highlight of my life.”

—Austin Perine, 4, of Alabama, on CBS correspondent Steve Hartman’s touching story on CBS News about a young boy who uses his allowance to buy food for homeless people.

V

“People forget that Alex was the No. 1 pick in the [2005] draft. He had to go through some growing pains and learn things kind of on his own, so he knew little things to help me, like my stance under center. I played all shotgun when I was in college, so it was different being under center as much as we are. But he helped me adjust my stance to eliminate the bucket step I had when I first got here, so I could be back further and able to throw the ball more on time.”

—Kansas City quarterback Pat Mahomes, on what he learned playing behind Alex Smith as a rookie, to Jenny Vrentas of The MMQB.

STAT OF THE WEEK

Since 2013, influential NFC general managers Dave Gettleman and John Schneider have each won NFC titles—Gettleman’s Carolina Panthers once, Schneider’s Seattle Seahawks twice. (Gettleman, after five years with the Panthers, took over the Giants in late December.)

They handle the draft from opposite poles.

- In the six drafts (five Panthers, one Giants) since 2013, Gettleman has traded his first-round draft choice zero times.

- In the six drafts since 2013, Schneider has traded his first-round draft choice six times.

Conclusions to be drawn: not many, if any. In the five regular seasons from 2013-17, the results of the teams these two general managers formed:

- Seattle is 54-25-1, has won three division titles, and has made the playoffs four times.

- Carolina is 51-28-1, has won three division titles, and has made the playoffs four times.

My point: There’s no one way to build a good football team, except maybe for this—you better have a good quarterback.

#### FACTOID THAT MAY INTEREST ONLY ME

2008: Anthony Gonzalez, a second-year wideout for the Colts, catches two touchdown passes from Peyton Manning to lift Indianapolis to an 18-15 upset of the Patriots on Sunday night football.

2018: Anthony Gonzalez, a rookie Republican politician, wins the Congressional primary in a northeast Ohio district, and will run for an open Congressional seat in the 16th District of Ohio in the November general election.

#### MR. STARWOOD PREFERRED MEMBER TRAVEL NOTE

This thought occurred to me when I attended the Cards-Padres game Thursday night at lovely Petco Park in downtown San Diego, the first night of a four-day San Diego-Santa Barbara-Los Angeles retirement trip for my brother-in-law Bob Whiteley and my sister Pam: These days, sometimes a baseball ticket is a cover charge for really good food and better drink.

Look at this photo. Just look at it. It’s a wall of wine, from all over the world. A while ago, maybe 2005, we did a King family vacation to Italy and stayed near a small Tuscan town, Greve. One night we went to an Italian festival in a tiny village, Lamole. What a charming, vivid memory. And so Thursday night at Petco, I went into the Italian takeout place, got a slice of Sicilian pie with basil and looked at the wine list. There were maybe 40 selections. In a ballpark. One was a Chianti from Lamole. I’ve not seen one since the day we left that tiny place. Of course I got it. My wife got a Quinoa salad with spinach, onions and corn. In a baseball stadium.

On our walk around the park, I counted nine distinct craft beer stations, plus a huge craft beer bar behind home plate. That’s what happens, I guess, when you’re 14-25 (the Pads’ record when we left a 2-

1 loss that night) and you've got to make the park a huge reason to come to the game. It is, I can assure you, a very good reason to come.

Two other notes: Great to see forever Chargers PR man Bill Johnston, now in the Padres' front office. Such a good man, and so good at this job. And it was cool to spend 15 minutes or so with GM A.J. Preller of the Padres. Had no idea he was such a fan of the New York Giants. I think he knows more about the eighties Giants than I do ... and I covered the team for four years.

#### TWEETS OF THE WEEK

Bruce Irvin

@Blrvin\_WVU11

From a kid that was told he would never be anything to a college graduate! It's never too late to change ur life!

Tim Cowlshaw

@TimCowlshaw

Nine years without a drink today. I'm fortunate that it's not a daily struggle for me as it is for so many. Here's to all the people who keep battling any kind of addictions, problems. Keep up the good work! Sobriety is the best.

Kevin Van Valkenburg

@KVanValkenburg

This part of @TomJunod's piece on Mike Tomlin is one of the best points I've read breaking down our country's conversation about race.

Dan Orlovsky

@danorlovsky7

Big Ben not wanting to help Mason Rudolph—No, not his job, but it absolutely can help you win. What happens if Ben goes down for 3 weeks? Better hope Rudolph can play good enough to win, bc that 3 weeks stretch determines playoffs or not. Lose & 2nd guess not helping #Steelers

#### TEN THINGS I THINK I THINK

1. I think there is no easy solution to the Matt Patricia situation in Detroit. But I think there are three points to make:

a. Barring more information coming to light that would damage Patricia's case that he was innocent of sexual assault in a Texas incident when he was 21 in 1996, Patricia deserves to be considered not guilty of the charge. He and a friend were charged and indicted, with the case being dropped because the woman in question did not want to move forward with the case because of the stress. That's where it lay until the Detroit News discovered the existence of the charge last week. Because Patricia was not convicted of a crime, and because it never resurfaced with any additional evidence in the 22 years since, he deserves to be allowed to coach the Lions with the presumption of innocence next to his name.

b. As The MMQB and other outlets wrote in the wake of the news, it's fairly easy to find the existence of the charge against Patricia using a Nexis search. When a franchise worth billions doesn't discover the story till the local paper advises the team of it, that's a blatant red flag on the process the Lions use. And when team president Rod Wood immediately says the franchise backs Patricia "1,000 percent," what

does that say to women who would root for the team? Wood should have said the team would do an exhaustive investigation into the story.

c. There's nothing wrong journalistically with what the Detroit News did in reporting a 22-year-old story, particularly in the environment we're living now. Imagine if a reporter found out about this story, didn't report anything, and a year later, another media outlet found the woman in question and she said she wanted to come forward with her side of the story. This story deserves to be known. Not to ruin Patricia's career by any means, but to simply say this should be a part of the Matt Patricia story, and he deserves to be able to coach because of the disposition of the case.

2. I think I've always been fascinated with career arc of Adam Vinatieri, who, if good health holds, will probably break the NFL's scoring record by midseason. (He needs 58 points to pass Morten Andersen, which he could do left-footed.) But I wrote about Vinatieri the other day, and I found out a few things I didn't know. I found out he came perilously close to being cut (and likely not picked up by anyone) in the first month of his career in 1996. "I thought I was one bad game away, maybe one kick away, from the end of my football career," Vinatieri told me. "I was very close to going home to South Dakota, and probably going to medical school." And I found out just what he thought he'd do if he'd had one more lousy NFL game kicking for Bill Parcells. You'll have to read this to find out his path in life had the kicking thing not worked out.

3. I think you never know the motivation why team officials talk up one team or another, and May is a time of smoke-blowing. But I found Denver GM John Elway's comments about the AFC West and about one team in particular interesting. He told reporters in Omaha the other day: "It's the wild, wild West. I thought the Chargers did a really nice job with the draft. They've got the settled quarterback, even though the Raiders do too. Looking at it, [the Chargers] may be the ones to beat. As I stand here, looking at it, the Chargers might be the team to beat."

4. I think, absolutely, wide receiver Brandon Marshall has a good year of football left in him, at 34, and would be a great depth signing by Seattle.

5. I think this went unnoticed until Field Yates pointed it out, but it shouldn't: Former Wisconsin and Arkansas coach Bret Bielema has begun coaching with the Patriots. He helped Bill Belichick in the run-up to the 2018 draft, and now, apparently, the relationship is going to the next level. Heck of a story.

6. I think I'm intrigued by the ESPN Monday night crew—Joe Tessitore and Jason Witten in the booth, Lisa Salters and Booger McFarland on the sidelines. Very interesting chemistry experiment, when the color guy is the rookie (Witten) starting his media career at the highest level of television.

7. I think the Mark Ingram four-game PED suspension to start the season might make Alvin Kamara the NFL's most important offensive weapon of the first four weeks of this season. Kamara, who played an increasingly major role for the Saints in earning the offensive rookie of the year award in 2017, will have to carry a bigger load in September than the Saints originally thought. Last year, in the first quarter of the season, Kamara had only 35 touches from scrimmage—15 rushes, 20 receptions. Thirty-five touches, 230 yards. I bet that's doubled, at least, in the first quarter of 2018.

8. I think I have no idea why the Senior Bowl and Phil Savage "parted ways," apparently amicably, but I do know this: Savage, the former Browns GM, made the Senior Bowl a professional event, appointment-

attending on the NFL calendar. He will be missed in a major way. The way he navigated the needs of the 32 teams and the omnipresent media and the players themselves was deft.

9. I think I loved this story that Peter Gammons had in The Athletic about Ichiro Suzuki as the curtain fell on his illustrious baseball career. Seems that in 2017, when Ichiro was a Miami Marlin, he got a text from a number he didn't recognize, asking about his stretching routine. Manager Don Mattingly said Ichiro was confused because he didn't know the sender of the text. "Some guy named Tom Brady," Ichiro said, according to Mattingly. "Who the f--- is Tom Brady?" Now there's a guy with focus on his chosen career.

10. I think these are my other thoughts of the week:

a. Football story of the Week: from Dan Woike of the Los Angeles Times, on an unlikely free agent in Chargers camp these days: Colorado State offensive lineman Zack Golditch. Unlikely because he was seriously wounded (in the neck) by the Aurora, Colo., movie-theater gunman in 2012.

b. Story of the Week: a great one by Dave Sheinin of the Washington Post, on Jim Palmer, at 72, finally discovering who his real birth mother and father were. What a tale, Dave.

c. Message of the Week, from John McCain's new memoir, in a story by Carl Hulse of the New York Times: We need more civility in Washington, and we need more caring about the country and not just party. Please listen to the last few messages of an American hero, McCain.

d. The civility needs to start at the top.

e. McCain's book is called "The Restless Wave." Here's a great passage about the spirit of compromise and seeing all sides: "You're damn right, I'm a champion of compromise in the governance of a country of 325 million opinionated, quarrelsome, vociferous souls. There is no other way to govern an open society, or more precisely, to govern it effectively."

f. It was disgusting, in the wake of the even more disgusting assault allegations against New York attorney general Eric Schneiderman and his subsequent resignation, to read gloating Schneiderman-haters turn it into something even slightly political. It's all about gaining some perceived political advantage these days, more than I ever remember in my life.

g. By the way, kudos to Donald Trump for his role in freeing the three imprisoned Americans in North Korea. Give credit where it's due.

h. The Yankees are going 139-23 this year. No doubt about it. That is one broiling baseball team.

i. In the last two minutes of an NBA playoff game, there is more physical contact than during a night of MMA competition.

j. Did you see Joel Embiid go up for the last shot of the Philadelphia 76ers season? He was fouled about six times. Whistles, swallowed.

k. Coffeenerdness: In Santa Barbara, try State Street Coffee. Friendly, fast, local, with a heck of an espresso shot.

l. Beernerdness: One of the coolest beer menus I've seen at a pizza place in Santa Barbara, Olio. It's all Italian beer. I tried the Runa Bianca, an Italian witbier, and didn't regret it. Sharper than an Allagash, with less of the coriander/spice taste. But a very good beer that leaves a zest in your mouth.

m. My schedule down the stretch of my time here: I will write each of the next two Mondays, May 21 and May 28. My final regular Monday column will be next week. My May 28 column (Memorial Day) will be a column on my favorite 10 stories at SI, SI.com and The MMQB. I will write mailbag columns each of the next two Wednesdays, May 16 and 23. Then it's on to a new life at NBC.

#### THE ADIEU HAIKU

Chuck Knox: Tough, tough coach.

Always reminded me of

The Marlboro Man.

# Chad Kelly impressing Broncos, in line to compete for backup QB job

By STAFF

Buffalo News

May 14, 2018

Chad Kelly is not a rookie but he is making an impression at the Denver Broncos' rookie minicamp this weekend.

Kelly, a nephew of Bills legend Jim Kelly and a product of St. Joseph's, was on injured reserve for his rookie season with a wrist injury suffered before the draft. The injury led him to slip in the draft and he was chosen with the last pick.

A year later, he is healed and back to his former playing weight and in position to duel with Paxton Lynch for the Broncos' backup quarterback spot. The Broncos signed Case Keenum in free agency to be the starter.

"I'm just trying to get better every rep," Kelly told reporters in Denver. "To come out here for rookie camp and being the only quarterback out here, to get all of these reps, whether it is throwing routes, running team period or working with coaches in individual, that is how you get better. To be consistent and repeat everything that you're doing – being out of the game for a year and a half, there hasn't been any consistency in what I've been doing. I've got to get back to doing that, feeling like myself and going out there and competing at a high level."

In the offseason, Kelly spent time working with his uncle Jim and also with Matt Simms, whose father is former NFL quarterback Phil Simms. Phil also offered pointers.

"I try to use all my resources and try to get ahead, because every day everybody is getting better," Kelly said. "If I can take one thing from some guy and another thing from another guy, it's only going to help me out."

Kelly said he is most excited about the long wait to get back on the field finally being behind him.

"It's been really long," Kelly said. "But finally getting out, the time's here, and you can feel like yourself again. This is what you do. This is your job – to be able to get out here with guys and kind of get back in the swing of things."

Coach Vance Joseph said he has been impressed with Kelly, telling reporters Saturday: "I've been proud of Chad overall," Joseph said. "I mean, he's been here every day. He's worked his butt off. And he's changed his body. Last year he was a little tubby kid. He is really lean now. He's eating right. He's working hard. He's definitely put the work in. And he's throwing the ball really well right now."

# Vance Joseph: Paxton Lynch can relax, learn from Case Keenum

By Josh Alper  
Pro Football Talk  
May 14, 2018

The Broncos picked quarterback Paxton Lynch in the first round of the 2016 draft and gave him a chance to win the starting quarterback job the last two years.

Lynch didn't win the job either time and the Broncos signed Case Keenum as a free agent this offseason to end thoughts of another quarterback competition. For some, the move also ended thoughts that Lynch would be the starter in Denver at any point in the future but the team's insisted that isn't the case over the last couple of months.

On Saturday, coach Vance Joseph stayed on that theme and spun the lack of a chance at the starting job as a positive for Lynch.

"I think for Paxton and our football team it's been a weight off all of our backs to have a starting quarterback and have everyone's role defined from Day 1," Joseph said. "So for Paxton, he can relax and get better each day and not worry about a competition. I think for Paxton being around Case also — I mean, Case has been through some ups and downs in his career, so he can learn from Case on how to handle those things. It takes time to be an NFL quarterback. You would hope with Case being here, he can sit back and relax and get better as a quarterback and not worry about being the guy right now and just compete to be our backup."

There's definitely something to learn from Keenum's experience since entering the NFL as an undrafted free agent, but relaxing wouldn't be part of the lesson given how little reason teams had to keep him around before he broke out last season. Being a first-round pick gives Lynch a different status even as his career trajectory has him moving in the wrong direction heading into his third year in Denver.