

# Does Bowlen family spat muddy NFL approval to give Broncos five more years to find new owner?

By Mark Kiszla  
The Denver Post  
June 1, 2018

Couldn't the family wait until Pat Bowlen dies before slinging mud over which of his seven children should take control of the Broncos?

The answer is sad, awkward and painful. It's hard to keep a family argument behind closed doors when big money pumps up the volume. So it's even harder to accept Mr. B is in the throes of Alzheimer's disease because the bickering began in earnest Thursday over future operation of his beloved NFL franchise, valued at \$2.4 billion.

Chief executive officer Joe Ellis has had full authority to make final decisions for the team since illness forced Bowlen to retire in 2014. Despite the Broncos' recent on-field woes, the NFL gave a strong thumbs-up to the arrangement in 2017, granting a five-year extension to Ellis as controlling owner delegee.

Beth Bowlen Wallace, however, thinks it's time the family wrests control of Broncos back from Ellis. She is tired of standing on the sideline as Ellis and his fellow trustees take their sweet time to decide if any of the Bowlen children are worthy of running the franchise on a day-to-day basis.

"I'm ready right now," Bowlen Wallace told The Denver Post. "I am also willing to move forward with a short transition and mentoring period with current Broncos leadership. But the time is right to move beyond the trustee arrangement."

On a sunny spring morning, as new quarterback Case Keenum built chemistry with teammates at practice and president of football operations John Elway was off playing golf at the Colorado Senior Open, the 47-year-old daughter of the revered franchise owner dropped a bombshell that revealed cracks in the succession plan. Bowlen Wallace made public her long-simmering displeasure with the Broncos' current power structure in a story published by The Athletic.

"My father's legacy is very important to me and my family," the second-eldest Bowlen child said. "It is my desire to lead this team with the same passion my father did and help the Broncos become Super Bowl champions again. I have the ambition, experience and drive, and my mentor in running a winning NFL franchise is the best in the business: my father."

The Broncos shot back: Not so fast, kiddo. Beth "is not capable or qualified at this time" to be the owner, the team trust said in an aggressively worded statement, adding other Bowlen children have expressed aspirations for Mr. B's chair.

This is how ugly feuds begin. Start with a family heirloom worth \$2.4 billion. Add the natural tension of a seven children from two Bowlen marriages loosely melded by football.

Bill and John Bowlen, brothers to the only owner the Broncos have known for 35 years, wasted no time throwing support behind their niece, who graduated with a law degree from the University of Denver in

2016. But make no mistake. Ellis, whose leadership is firmly backed by 31 NFL owners and commissioner Roger Goodell, holds the cards here.

And here's my read: While there's no disputing the intelligence or maturity of Beth Bowlen Wallace, the game is not going her way. This attempt at a public showdown for control of the franchise, while heartfelt, also feels like a Hail Mary pass.

Only a fool rushes in anywhere near a family dispute, but here I go. While Ellis, as well as fellow trustees Rich Slivka and Mary Kelly, have made it clear there is no timetable to name a successor and have never indicated a preference for any potential candidate, the prohibitive favorite seems to be Brittany Alexandra Bowlen, one of Mr. B's five children from his second marriage. She has worked in the NFL's apprenticeship program in New York, was integral in developing an intriguing proposal for Denver to host the 2019 draft and last month completed her MBA at Duke University.

But still nearly two years shy of her 30th birthday, the brightest young star in the Bowlen family would probably be wise to get more seasoning. Would it be fair to Brittany Bowlen to battle the stereotypical but inevitable criticism of being born with a silver spoon, while also fighting outdated perceptions in the male-dominated world of pro football at such a young age?

All she needs is time. But, as has become abundantly clear, some members of the Bowlen family have lost patience with the slow play to find the ideal replacement for Mr. B.

It's another reason there's pressure on Denver to rebound from its 5-11 record in 2017. Should the team finish in last-place again, the questions and concerns about fissures in the Bowlen family business will only grow louder in Broncos Country.

# Beth Bowlen wants to be Broncos' controlling owner. Pat Bowlen Trust: she's "not capable or qualified."

By Ryan O'Halloran  
The Denver Post  
June 1, 2018

Beth Bowlen, one of Broncos owner Pat Bowlen's seven children, said Thursday she wants to become the team's controlling owner. But the Pat Bowlen Trust responded swiftly, adamantly saying she is "not capable or qualified at this time" to run the franchise.

Beth Bowlen made her intentions public via a story by The Athletic on Thursday morning. Bowlen answered several questions from The Denver Post later in the day.

"I am ready right now," she told the Post. "I am also willing to move forward with a short transition and mentoring period with current Broncos leadership. But the time is right to move beyond the trustee arrangement. ... My proposal also includes long-term succession planning for all of the Bowlen children, with mentoring and a succession plan beyond me."

But in a statement from the Pat Bowlen Trust released by the Broncos Thursday afternoon, it was clear Beth Bowlen won't be running the team, at least not anytime soon.

"Pat did not designate Beth as a trustee or appoint her to a leadership position, nor did he instruct the trustees to specifically mentor her," the Bowlen Trust said. "He made it clear that his children were not automatically entitled to a role with the team and that they would have to earn that opportunity through their accomplishments, qualifications and character."

"As trustees honoring the clear wishes of Pat, we have thoroughly evaluated whether Beth is capable of succeeding her father as controlling owner. We have determined that she is not capable or qualified at this time."

"We have communicated our decision to Beth and her lawyers on multiple occasions...Although Beth has declined our invitations to discuss her qualifications for the last two years, we will continue to proactively engage and meet with any of the Bowlen children who express a desire to earn the right to succeed their father."

In 2014, Pat Bowlen resigned as controlling owner of the Broncos to the NFL due to his battle with Alzheimer's disease. He created a three-person trust to lead the team: Broncos president/CEO Joe Ellis (who handles the team's day-to-day operations), team counsel Rich Slivka and local attorney Mary Kelly.

Pat Bowlen has seven children from two marriages spanning in age from 20-47. Beth Bowlen, 47, is one of two daughters from Pat's first marriage, to Sally Parker. He later had five children with his second wife, Annabel.

Asked why she went public with her desire to own the team at this time, Beth Bowlen said: "I wanted to announce this in the off-season, so it would not distract from the team's performance on the field. But I

also received a lot of inquiries from fans and I wanted to be responsive to them, because they are a bit anxious about the future of our great football team.”

Bowlen said she presented the trustees her proposed succession plan “approximately a month ago ... We did receive a response and we are in communication with the trustees.”

In a statement, Ellis said: “As a trustee and someone Pat designated to oversee his team, I have an enormous responsibility to carefully administer his succession plan and make decisions in the best interests of the Broncos. We will continue to follow Pat’s blueprint.”

In February 2015, the trustees provided Annabel Bowlen and the children criteria outlining the requirements to become controlling owner. It included five years of “senior management experience,” high-level education and leadership and integrity qualifications. The trustees said one of the children would not be guaranteed the controlling owner post even if they believed they checked all of the boxes.

Beth Bowlen cited her law degree from the University of Denver, experience working for the Broncos and philanthropic efforts as examples of her being qualified to run the franchise her father bought in 1984.

By late Thursday afternoon, three other Bowlen family members had voiced their support of Beth.

Bill Bowlen, Pat’s brother, said: “I fully support my niece’s bid. ... She is fully capable and qualified to run and manage the Broncos as she has met all the requirements established to lead the team. ... I am thrilled that Beth wants leadership of this franchise.”

Broncos minority owners John (Pat’s brother) and Kerry (John’s wife) also released a statement in support of Beth. Their joint statement, in part, read: “As minority owners of the team, we would be proud and thrilled to have (Beth) as the leader of this franchise. There is strong support as well from fans who favor her bid for controlling ownership.”

Amie Bowlen Klemmer, Pat’s oldest child, said Beth is “qualified and ready,” to run the team.

“She is in the best position to carry out his vision,” Bowlen Klemmer said. “Based on my conversations with him, I know my father would have endorsed Beth and this plan.”

Beth Bowlen told the Post she is “100 percent optimistic,” her public pronouncement will create more dialogue with the Trust.

Full statement from the Pat Bowlen Trust

“The statements issued by Beth Bowlen Wallace today are contrary to Pat Bowlen’s long-standing succession plan that he created over many years of careful consideration.

“Pat was determined to ensure the Broncos would remain a premier franchise in the National Football League in the event of his absence. He chose to sustain the team’s success in that eventuality by appointing three non-family trustees to determine whether any of his children had become qualified at some point to step into his shoes.

“Pat did not designate Beth as a trustee or appoint her to a leadership position, nor did he instruct the trustees to specifically mentor her. He made it clear that his children were not automatically entitled to a

role with the team and that they would have to earn that opportunity through their accomplishments, qualifications and character.

“As trustees honoring the clear wishes of Pat, we have thoroughly evaluated whether Beth is capable of succeeding her father as controlling owner. We have determined that she is not capable or qualified at this time.

“We have communicated our decision to Beth and her lawyers on multiple occasions. She is also fully informed as to why her employment with the team ended in 2015.

“Although Beth has declined our invitations to discuss her qualifications for the last two years, we will continue to proactively engage and meet with any of the Bowlen children who express a desire to earn the right to succeed their father.

“As trustees, we will continue to honor Pat’s long-standing plan to determine the Broncos’ future ownership and any potential appointment of his children to leadership positions within the organization. Our decisions will always be guided by what will ensure the long-term success and stability of the Broncos while also doing what’s best for our community, our fans and the NFL.

“Consistent with Pat’s long-standing succession plan, our decisions are not to be dictated by the short-term or personal interests of any individual. We will vigorously defend Pat’s plan in responding to these and any statements that are contrary to Pat’s words and intentions.”

# Peyton Manning on playing golf with Tiger Woods at pro-am at Memorial Tournament

By Joe Nguyen  
The Denver Post  
June 1, 2018

Former Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning hit the links with Tiger Woods in the pro-am at the Memorial Tournament on Wednesday at the Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio.

After the pro-am, Manning spoke with NFL Network about his day.

On playing with Tiger Woods:

“He was a great host to me, a couple of the Nationwide executives. He was great to all the fans. We had a big crowd on every single hole. ... As a golf fan, it was great to see him back out there.”

On Woods’ rehab:

He and I talked a lot about his rehab and kind of the things he has to do to play golf in this new physical state. I can certainly relate to that with my injury several years ago, so I’m really happy for him and proud of him for putting in the work and being out there and being flexible and adaptive to playing in this new physical state and it’s really serving him well.

On brother Eli playing with NFL Network color analyst Shaun O’Hara:

It’s very similar probably similar crowds following the O’Hara group and Woods. So, that’s a very accurate comparison. No doubt.

On if he likes the Giants drafting Saquon Barkley:

I sure hope so. Sounds like he’s a great kid and Eli said he’s been very impressive in the OTAs so far, catching the ball, picking up on the protections and asks a lot of really good questions. All the types of things you want to see in a rookie.

On how close he follows football now that he’s retired:

I certainly still keep up with it. I still go to a number of games whether it’s a Broncos game or a Colts game. I went to several of Eli’s games. I went back to the University of Tennessee. I’m still a big fan.

On Andrew Luck coming back from an injury:

He doesn’t need my advice. I’m pulling for him to get back there and get healthy. ... It’s no fun being an injured. But a guy like Andrew is going to put in the time and effort to get healthy.

On interest in doing television:

I kind of enjoy being a fan right now, enjoy being here at this golf tournament ... got to meet Jack Nicklaus today, Hale Irwin, got to play golf with Tiger Woods and see a lot of the golfers that I enjoy. I’m a golf fan, I’m a football fan — that’s kind of plenty for me right now.

# Pat Bowlen Trust fires back at Bowlen Wallace: She presently 'is not capable or qualified'

By Mike Klis

9 News

June 1, 2018

The Pat Bowlen Trust has fired back at Beth Bowlen Wallace, who hired a public affairs firm to announce she “is throwing her hat in the ring” to become controlling owner of the Denver Broncos.

The Trust seemed outraged that Bowlen Wallace is treating this like a run for public office. The Trust informed Bowlen Wallace she is presently “not capable or qualified” to take her father’s place because she has failed to meet the criteria that has been explained to each of Pat Bowlen’s seven children.

Trustee Joe Ellis, who also serves as the Broncos’ chief executive officer and president, told 9NEWS, “we will continue to follow Pat’s blueprint – and nobody else’s – while keeping our focus as an organization on having a successful season.”

Beth Bowlen had worked with the Broncos for a little more than three years with the title as director of special projects starting in 2012. The team has never stated the reasons why she stopped working for the club or whether she was fired, but The Trust did state, “she was fully informed as to why her employment with the team ended in 2015.”

Bowlen Wallace is not the only one of Pat Bowlen’s children to express a desire to become controlling owner. The Trust meets regularly with interested children but indicated Bowlen Wallace has declined its invitations to meet over the last two years.

“Pat was determined to ensure the Broncos would remain a premier franchise in the National Football League in the event of his absence,” the Trust said in a statement. “He chose to sustain the team’s success in that eventuality by appointing three non-family trustees to determine whether any of his children had become qualified at some point to step into his shoes.

“Pat did not designate Beth as a trustee or appoint her to a leadership position, nor did he instruct the trustees to specifically mentor her. He made it clear that his children were not automatically entitled to a role with the team and that they would have to earn that opportunity through their accomplishments, qualifications and character.

“As trustees honoring the clear wishes of Pat, we have thoroughly evaluated whether Beth is capable of succeeding her father as controlling owner. We have determined that she is not capable or qualified at this time.

“We have communicated our decision to Beth and her lawyers on multiple occasions. She is also fully informed as to why her employment with the team ended in 2015.

“Although Beth has declined our invitations to discuss her qualifications for the last two years, we will continue to proactively engage and meet with any of the Bowlen children who express a desire to earn the right to succeed their father.”

However, there are members of the Bowlen family who issued statements of support for Bowlen-Wallace. Pat Bowlen's two brothers, John and Bill, and older sister Amie Bowlen Klemmer, stated Bowlen-Wallace is qualified to run the team.

"As Pat's brother, I fully support my niece's bid to become the controlling owner of the Denver Broncos," Bill Bowlen. "She is fully capable and qualified to run and manage the Broncos as she has met all the requirements established to lead the team."

While this split between family members and split between some members of the family and the Trust makes for unusual water-cooler fodder, the fact is only the three-person Trust -- comprised of Broncos president and chief executive officer Joe Ellis, Broncos general counsel Rich Slivka and attorney Mary Kelly -- has legal authority to anoint the next person in charge.

"As trustees, we will continue to honor Pat's long-standing plan to determine the Broncos' future ownership and any potential appointment of his children to leadership positions within the organization," the Trust statement continued. "Our decisions will always be guided by what will ensure the long-term success and stability of the Broncos while also doing what's best for our community, our fans and the NFL."

"Consistent with Pat's long-standing succession plan, our decisions are not to be dictated by the short-term or personal interests of any individual. We will vigorously defend Pat's plan in responding to these and any statements that are contrary to Pat's words and intentions."

Clearly, the Trust wants to set the record straight regarding Bowlen Wallace's campaign. The timing of Bowlen Wallace's press release is also coming into question as her father Pat Bowlen turned 74 in February and while he is still dealing with Alzheimer's Disease, he is still recognized as the Broncos' owner.

In recent months, it appeared another one of Pat Bowlen's children, Brittany Bowlen, was getting groomed to become the team's future controlling owner. She got her degree from Notre Dame, worked two years in the NFL office, one year with the Broncos, recently completed her MBA at Duke and was recently hired by a worldwide business management consulting firm, McKinsey & Company.

Bowlen Wallace, perhaps sensing she is a longshot to take control of the team, decided to go public with her attempt to pull off an upset.

"I love the Denver Broncos," she said in her press release. "This team has been so special to my family, to the City of Denver and to the state of Colorado. My father's legacy is very important to me and my family. It is my desire to lead this team with the same passion my father did and help the Broncos become Super Bowl champions again. I have the ambition, experience and drive, and my mentor in running a winning NFL franchise is the best in the business -- my father."

It appears it will take more than simply Bowlen Wallace's desire to sit in her father's chair at team headquarters for the Trust to choose Pat Bowlen's successor.

Until then, NFL commissioner Roger Goodell seems pleased with how the Trust has been operating the Broncos' franchise.

"(Pat)'s done an extraordinary job of setting that up," Goodell said on January 31. "Those decisions... I think are all questions that the trustees have to decide. They are in compliance with our rules. They have been very thoughtful. They have done a terrific job of leading that franchise over the last several years as Pat has focused on his health issues, and I think Pat put that in place because of the care and the focus and the importance of the Broncos to him and making sure that it continued to be in the right hands and with the right kind of leadership."

Contacted by 9News, the league had no comment to Bowlen-Wallace going public with her desire to run the team.

# Beth Bowlen Wallace explains timing of her announcement

By Mike Klis

9 News

June 1, 2018

One of Pat Bowlen's seven children made a startling announcement Thursday that at least momentarily threw her father's seemingly tidy, unassailable succession plan into a state of chaos.

Beth Bowlen Wallace, Pat Bowlen's second daughter from his first marriage, said she has met all the criteria set forth by her father's trust and therefore she is ready to become the controlling owner of the Denver Broncos.

The Pat Bowlen Trust and trustee Joe Ellis responded with a strongly-worded statement that said Bowlen Wallace "is not capable or qualified at this time."

9NEWS circled back with Bowlen Wallace. Why, did she believe, the Trust stated she does not meet the criteria?

"I have read and fully understood the criteria that the Trustees developed in 2015 and how I've met it," Bowlen Wallace said Thursday evening. "I completed my law degree. I worked for the organization. I don't know why and can't explain why they are saying that I have not met the criteria.

"Law school is not for the faint of heart. The last time I checked, you had to be smart and committed. I earned it. The commitment I showed earned it. My character earned this."

So why now? Why go public with her desire to take control of the Broncos?

"Because it's the offseason," she said. "Everybody has been asking. And there's too much speculation on my father's health."

Pat Bowlen has been suffering from Alzheimer's Disease. The team officially announced in 2013 he has been inflicted with the neurodegenerative disease. Since then, the Pat Bowlen Trust has had controlling interest of the team. The Trust states one of his seven children will assume control once one of them satisfies the trustees that he or she has earned the right.

Is Bowlen Wallace concerned that going public with her desire to run the team has splintered the family?

"I don't believe that," she said. "I haven't heard that this is splintering the family."

Bowlen Wallace has received support from her uncle Bill Bowlen and older sister Amie Bowlen Klemmer but as of yet, Bowlen's second and current wife Annabel and their five children have not commented.

# Statements from Pat Bowlen Trust and Broncos President & CEO Joe Ellis

By KUSA-TV

9 News

June 1, 2018

The Pat Bowlen Trust and Denver Broncos President and CEO Joe Ellis released statements on Thursday in response to the press release issued Thursday by Beth Bowlen Wallace.

Statement from the Pat Bowlen Family Trust:

“The statements issued by Beth Bowlen Wallace today are contrary to Pat Bowlen’s long-standing succession plan that he created over many years of careful consideration.

“Pat was determined to ensure the Broncos would remain a premier franchise in the National Football League in the event of his absence. He chose to sustain the team’s success in that eventuality by appointing three non-family trustees to determine whether any of his children had become qualified at some point to step into his shoes.

“Pat did not designate Beth as a trustee or appoint her to a leadership position, nor did he instruct the trustees to specifically mentor her. He made it clear that his children were not automatically entitled to a role with the team and that they would have to earn that opportunity through their accomplishments, qualifications and character.

“As trustees honoring the clear wishes of Pat, we have thoroughly evaluated whether Beth is capable of succeeding her father as controlling owner. We have determined that she is not capable or qualified at this time.

“We have communicated our decision to Beth and her lawyers on multiple occasions. She is also fully informed as to why her employment with the team ended in 2015.

“Although Beth has declined our invitations to discuss her qualifications for the last two years, we will continue to proactively engage and meet with any of the Bowlen children who express a desire to earn the right to succeed their father.

“As trustees, we will continue to honor Pat’s long-standing plan to determine the Broncos’ future ownership and any potential appointment of his children to leadership positions within the organization. Our decisions will always be guided by what will ensure the long-term success and stability of the Broncos while also doing what’s best for our community, our fans and the NFL.

“Consistent with Pat’s long-standing succession plan, our decisions are not to be dictated by the short-term or personal interests of any individual. We will vigorously defend Pat’s plan in responding to these and any statements that are contrary to Pat’s words and intentions.”

Statement from the Broncos President & CEO Joe Ellis:

“As a trustee and someone Pat designated to oversee his team, I have an enormous responsibility to carefully administer his succession plan and make decisions in the best interests of the Broncos. We will continue to follow Pat’s blueprint—and nobody else’s—while keeping our focus as an organization on having a successful season.”

Statement from Pat Bowlen's brother Bill Bowlen:

“As Pat’s brother, I fully support my niece’s bid to become the controlling owner of the Denver Broncos. She is fully capable and qualified to run and manage the Broncos as she has met all the requirements established to lead the team.

“I’m Pat’s brother and a previous owner, and I am thrilled that Beth wants the leadership of this franchise. I also believe there is very strong support from the fans and the city of Denver for Beth to be the new controlling owner.

“My brother’s wish was for one of his children run the Broncos. Beth is in the best position of all the children to take over now. She has a plan; take over as the managing owner now and in the future allow the other to mature, learn and grow into a position with the team. Keep this team in the family and one of the primary franchises in the league.”

Statement from Kerry and John Bowlen, Minority Owners, Denver Broncos:

"We fully support Beth Bowlen Wallace to become the controlling owner of the Denver Broncos. Beth has worked extremely hard to meet the criteria established for the children of Pat Bowlen to be qualified to run and manage the organization."

"As minority owners of the team, we would be proud and thrilled to have her as the leader of this franchise. There is strong support as well from fans who favor her bid for controlling ownership."

"Pat Bowlen’s wish and his legacy was to have one of his children run this team. That is what he always wanted. Beth is the best positioned of all the children to take over now. Her plan is just right--to take over as managing owner now and in the future allow the other children to mature, learn and grow into the position, keeping this team in her family and in Denver, where the Broncos belong."

# Beth Bowlen Wallace wants control of Broncos

By Alexander Kirk

9 News

June 1, 2018

Beth Bowlen Wallace, daughter of Denver Broncos owner Pat Bowlen, announced Thursday she would like to take over the leadership role of the team.

"I love the Denver Broncos. This team has been so special to my family, to the City of Denver and to the state of Colorado," Bowlen Wallace said, in a news release. "My father's legacy is very important to me and my family. It is my desire to lead this team with the same passion my father did and help the Broncos become Super Bowl champions again. I have the ambition, experience and drive, and my mentor in running a winning NFL franchise is the best in the business – my father."

Bowlen Wallace, 47, said she has submitted a proposal for a succession plan to the Trustees of the Pat Bowlen family trust.

Bowlen Wallace's proposed succession plan has her taking over as the controlling owner after a short transition and mentoring period with current leadership.

The proposal also includes long-term succession planning that involves the six other Bowlen children and a succession plan beyond herself, according to her news release.

"Along with continuing the winning tradition of my father, the focus is to keep this team in my family and keep the Broncos in Denver," said Bowlen Wallace.

The Pat Bowlen Family Trust released a statement Thursday in response to Bowlen Wallace's statement, reading in part: "The statements issued by Beth Bowlen Wallace today are contrary to Pat Bowlen's long-standing succession plan that he created over many years of careful consideration."

Pat Bowlen, who has owned the Broncos since 1984, is currently battling Alzheimer's. Bowlen stepped down as controlling owner of the Broncos in July 2014.

Before Pat became ill, he said many times that he wanted his family to keep ownership of the team, according to Bowlen Wallace's news release.

"I have advised the Trustees that I am ready and have done everything they said I need to do to take this step. Working in management at the Broncos is something I have prepared for and dreamed of doing," said Bowlen Wallace.

"My father's number one goal was to win. He understood that took financial commitment, hard work, dedication, the right leadership, and drive. He was motivated to win not only for himself and the team but for the pride of Broncos Country, our beloved and loyal fans. He wanted to be number one in everything and in my eyes, he is," she said. "Maintaining his vision will be my singular focus."

Beth Bowlen Wallace says she has the support of her sister, Amie Bowlen Klemmer, the oldest Bowlen child.

“I fully support Beth,” said Amie Bowlen Klemmer, in a news release. “She is qualified and ready, and she worked closely with my dad. She is in the best position to carry out his vision. Based on my conversations with him, I know my father would have endorsed Beth and this plan.”

Beth Bowlen Wallace holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder and graduated from the University of Denver’s Sturm College of Law in 2016.

“My family and I have received such an outpouring of support from Broncos fans, the Denver community and friends across the country,” said Bowlen Wallace. “It means a lot to us, which further motivates us to carry on his legacy of winning for our fans.”

# Beth Bowlen, daughter of Pat Bowlen, says she wants to be Broncos' controlling owner

By Nicki Jhabvala

The Athletic

June 1, 2018

Beth Bowlen says she's ready to take over.

The second-oldest child of longtime Broncos owner Pat Bowlen told The Athletic that she has informed the team's current leadership and the league that she seeks to be appointed controlling owner of the Broncos.

"I know the fans have been anxious and asking quite a few questions about what's happening with the succession plan of the Denver Broncos," she said. "I have completed the criteria laid out by the trustees, so I felt it was a good time to come out and express my interest and desire to be a part of the organization again."

When reached for comment, the Pat Bowlen Trust offered an initial statement to The Athletic that read: "Beth Bowlen Wallace is not the only Bowlen child who is expressing interest in becoming controlling owner. The trustees have informed Beth of their determination that she is not capable or qualified at this time.

"We will continue to follow Pat Bowlen's long-standing succession plan for the future ownership of the Denver Broncos."

The Trust and team president/CEO Joe Ellis responded with a lengthier statement Thursday afternoon, emphasizing it informed Beth Bowlen that she was not qualified while adding that she had declined invitations by the Trust to discuss her qualifications further.

The Trust's full statement:

"The statements issued by Beth Bowlen Wallace today are contrary to Pat Bowlen's long-standing succession plan that he created over many years of careful consideration.

"Pat was determined to ensure the Broncos would remain a premier franchise in the National Football League in the event of his absence. He chose to sustain the team's success in that eventuality by appointing three non-family trustees to determine whether any of his children had become qualified at some point to step into his shoes.

"Pat did not designate Beth as a trustee or appoint her to a leadership position, nor did he instruct the trustees to specifically mentor her. He made it clear that his children were not automatically entitled to a role with the team and that they would have to earn that opportunity through their accomplishments, qualifications and character.

“As trustees honoring the clear wishes of Pat, we have thoroughly evaluated whether Beth is capable of succeeding her father as controlling owner. We have determined that she is not capable or qualified at this time.

“We have communicated our decision to Beth and her lawyers on multiple occasions. She is also fully informed as to why her employment with the team ended in 2015.

“Although Beth has declined our invitations to discuss her qualifications for the last two years, we will continue to proactively engage and meet with any of the Bowlen children who express a desire to earn the right to succeed their father.

“As trustees, we will continue to honor Pat’s long-standing plan to determine the Broncos’ future ownership and any potential appointment of his children to leadership positions within the organization. Our decisions will always be guided by what will ensure the long-term success and stability of the Broncos while also doing what’s best for our community, our fans and the NFL.

“Consistent with Pat’s long-standing succession plan, our decisions are not to be dictated by the short-term or personal interests of any individual. We will vigorously defend Pat’s plan in responding to these and any statements that are contrary to Pat’s words and intentions.”

The NFL declined to comment on the matter.

Beth Bowlen, 47, one of two daughters from Pat’s first marriage to Sally Parker, said she proposed a multi-pronged succession plan to the trustees of the Pat Bowlen Trust. Although Beth Bowlen declined to provide specifics of the proposal, she said it includes a short transition and mentorship period with the Broncos’ front office, and a long-term plan to include her six siblings, who range in age from 20 to 48.

“Coming back into the organization, I hope to gain respect from the peers I would work alongside,” Beth Bowlen said. “I think it’s important to reintroduce myself there, and any leader would want to try to earn the respect of the people they’re working with. I don’t know how long that transition period would take, but that’s something that can be discussed further with the trustees.

“Since it is my dad’s wishes, I’m hoping they’ll respond favorably, especially since it includes all of the children as having an opportunity at some point in time.”

In the fall of 2013, Pat Bowlen formally filed with the NFL his resignation as controlling owner because of Alzheimer’s disease. He placed ownership of the Broncos in the hands of three trustees — Ellis, team counsel Rich Slivka and Denver attorney Mary Kelly — who have been tasked with deciding the future of the franchise. But it is Ellis, as Controlling Owner Delegee, who represents the team at league functions and makes the day-to-day decisions for the club as Pat Bowlen would.

“As a trustee and someone Pat designated to oversee his team, I have an enormous responsibility to carefully administer his succession plan and make decisions in the best interests of the Broncos,” Ellis said in a statement Thursday. “We will continue to follow Pat’s blueprint — and nobody else’s — while keeping our focus as an organization on having a successful season.”

The progression of Alzheimer’s has steadily taken a greater toll on Pat Bowlen’s physical health and mental state, especially in recent years. The Trust, established nearly a decade prior to his diagnosis, was to serve

as a vehicle to transfer ownership of the Broncos to his seven children. Each would receive an equal stake, but only one would be appointed controlling owner and serve as the sole voice of the team within NFL ownership.

Although the trustees have the authority to sell the team, Ellis has said emphatically and repeatedly that doing so isn't in the cards. It has always been Pat Bowlen's wish to keep the team in his family and to have one of his children take the reins.

"When a child emerges that has the capability and has earned the right to have that job and take over their father's chair, the three trustees will determine that," Ellis said in 2016.

During the week leading up to Super Bowl LII in Minnesota, commissioner Roger Goodell lauded the leadership of Ellis, whom he worked with closely at the NFL in the 1990s, and said the decision of finding Pat Bowlen's successor is up to the Trust.

"The focus is what Pat Bowlen wanted and how he set this up," Goodell said at the time. "Having been very close to Pat, I care very much about him, his family, his health. He was an extraordinarily important person to the NFL when he was active in the league, and he continues to be somebody that we all admire and care for his health.

"Second, he was very active in making sure that he did exactly that, which is, 'How do I make sure that the Broncos franchise continues to be successful? I want it to be a point of pride for the people in the Denver community and Colorado. I want it to be something that the NFL is proud of, my partners are proud of,' meaning the other 31 clubs. He's done an extraordinary job of setting that up.

"Those decisions (about finding a successor) are all questions that the trustees have to decide. They are in compliance with our rules. They have been very thoughtful. They have done a terrific job of leading that franchise over the last several years as Pat's focused on his health issues. I think Pat put that in place because of the care and focus and the importance of the Broncos to him and making sure that it continued to be in the right hands and with the right kind of leadership."

Over the years, Goodell has also stressed the NFL's desire to have an individual at the helm of each club.

In response to a question about the Titans' ownership in 2017, he said, "the fundamental aspect of our policy is to make sure that we have an individual who has the ultimate authority over that franchise and can make those decisions, including league-level decisions as well as locally, and it's clear."

The Trust's process to begin to find the most capable successor of Pat Bowlen's children essentially began in February 2015.

The trustees sent Pat Bowlen's wife, Annabel, and his seven children a memo outlining criteria to be considered for controlling owner. The email included requirements such as leadership and integrity and sound judgment, as well as specific educational and experience qualifications. A bachelor's degree paired with an MBA, J.D. or other advanced business-related degree was one. So was at least five years of "senior management experience" with the NFL, the Broncos or the Stadium Manage Company (SMC), the organization that runs the team's stadium in Denver.

The email also included, however, the caveat that even if the criteria is met by a Bowlen child, it would not guarantee him or her appointment of controlling owner.

“As Pat’s brother, I fully support my niece’s bid to become the controlling owner of the Denver Broncos,” said Bill Bowlen, Pat’s brother who helped him purchase the team from Edgar Kaiser in 1984. “She is fully capable and qualified to run and manage the Broncos as she has met all the requirements established to lead the team.

“As Pat’s brother and a previous owner, I’m thrilled that Beth wants to take over the leadership of the franchise. I believe there is strong support for this with the fans and Denver as a whole. I’m very surprised and disappointed in the statement that the Pat Bowlen Trust group has put out.

“My brother’s wish was to have one of his children run this team. Beth is in the best position of all the children to take over now. She has a plan to take over as a managing owner now, and in the future allow the other children to mature and learn and grow into a position, keeping this team in the family and in Denver, where it belongs.”

Jane Elizabeth “Beth” Bowlen, a mother to two and step-mother to three with husband John R. Wallace in Colorado, was born in Alberta, Canada, where her father dabbled as an executive at his family’s oil and gas company and found success in real estate development prior to purchasing the Broncos. At an early age, Beth Bowlen moved to Hawaii, where her father has a residence and where her mother and sister, Amie Klemmer, still reside.

In 1994, Beth Bowlen received a bachelor’s degree in sociology from the University of Colorado and, shortly after, returned to Hawaii where she met her first husband, had her two sons and formed a event planning company, Social Butterfly LLC.

She returned to Colorado in 2008, in large part, she says, because of her father.

“A primary factor was certainly to come back and assess the situation with my father and his health, and to be as close to him as I could,” Beth Bowlen said. “I was incredibly privileged to have worked with my father the last years that he was at the Denver Broncos. Having the opportunity to be in the office with him, even though he was affected by the disease, helped me see his operating and leadership style.”

Starting in 2012, Beth Bowlen spent about three years as the Broncos’ director of special projects and played an integral role in the conceptualization and development of the Ring of Fame Plaza on the steps of the stadium. The Ring of Fame was created by Pat Bowlen in 1984 to honor his employees and his players, and in 2015, during the Broncos’ Super Bowl 50 season, his pillar was unveiled as the Ring’s 28th member.

Beth Bowlen has also been a regular figure at community and charitable events, working in conjunction with Alzheimer’s Association, Urban Youth Ministries and Colorado Uplift, among others. In the spring of 2016, she completed her J.D. at the University of Denver’s Sturm College of Law with the sole intent to become controlling owner of the Broncos.

“My desire is to have my father run this football team,” Beth Bowlen said. “That’s not possible, so I’ve gone out, I’ve met the criteria, I’ve educated myself, I’ve carried myself in the public authentically as who

I am and I want the opportunity to step into a leadership role because that's what my father wanted — for one of his children to step into a leadership role.”

Of Pat's five children with Annabel, three have also worked for the Broncos or SMC over the years.

Patrick Dennis Bowlen III, 34, the eldest son, is a facilities coordinator with SMC.

John Michael Bowlen, 32, was a marketing employee with the team, but parted ways after his 2015 arrest on domestic violence charges.

Brittany Alexandra Bowlen, 28, another discussed candidate for controlling ownership, was a part of the NFL's junior rotational program for two years and spent one year as a business analyst for the Broncos, in 2015. She received her bachelor's degree in finance from Notre Dame and completed her MBA at Duke University this year. Brittany has accepted a full-time position with the global consulting firm McKinsey & Company.

(Pat Bowlen has three other daughters: Christianna Elizabeth Bowlen, 20; Annabel Victoria Bowlen, 25; and Klemmer, 48.)

“We had talked about it in the past and I know he has very high expectations of his children working for him, but especially in taking the reins of this franchise he worked hard for so many years in building,” Beth Bowlen said. “I think he would be proud of all of his children that have pursued the dream to work with this team, or quite frankly any dream that they're passionate about. I know he would be proud of me in getting my law degree and meeting the criteria, and I know he would be proud of how I represented myself in the community.

“It's my priority to follow my dad's footsteps, reflecting on how he made decisions in working with the league and running his football team. He was an incredible mentor, and this is a lot more about preserving his legacy than it is about myself.”

# Beth Bowlen Wallace throws hat in Broncos ownership ring

By Troy Renck

KMGH

June 1, 2018

Beth Bowlen Wallace seeks to become controlling owner of the Broncos.

Bowlen Wallace, one of owner Pat Bowlen's seven children attempting to land the role, made her intentions clear Thursday. She released a statement to the media.

"I love the Denver Broncos. This team has been so special to my family, to the City of Denver and to the state of Colorado," Bowlen Wallace, 47, said. "My father's legacy is very important to me and my family. It is my desire to lead this team with the same passion my father did and help the Broncos become Super Bowl champions again. I have the ambition, experience and drive, and my mentor in running a winning NFL franchise is the best in the business -- my father."

The trust, put in place as Pat Bowlen's health declined, has discretion on determining which of Bowlen's children meets the criteria of the succession plan. The Pat Bowlen Trust countered Wallace's intentions with a statement on Thursday.

"Beth Bowlen is not the only Bowlen child who is expressing interest in becoming controlling owner. The trustees have informed Beth of their determination that she is not capable or qualified at this time."

In a statement, the Trust made clear that her employment as Director of Special Projects for the team, a job she held from 2012-15, ended for a reason.

"We have communicated our decision to Beth and her lawyers on multiple occasions. She is also fully informed as to why her employment with the team ended in 2015."

Per a release, Bowlen Wallace submitted a proposal for a succession plan. Following a transition period of mentoring from current leadership, Beth's preference is to take over as the controlling owner. Furthermore, her plan involved the other Bowlen children "and a succession plan beyond Beth."

"Along with continuing the winning tradition of my father, the focus is to keep this team in my family and keep the Broncos in Denver," she said.

But the Trust was more succinct in saying it was rejecting Bowlen Wallace's claims, saying she had declined chances to discuss ownership further in recent years.

"As trustees, we will continue to honor Pat's long-standing plan to determine the Broncos' future ownership and any potential appointment of his children to leadership positions within the organization. Our decisions will always be guided by what will ensure the long-term success and stability of the Broncos while also doing what's best for our community, our fans and the NFL," the Trust said in a statement. "Consistent with Pat's long-standing succession plan, our decisions are not to be dictated by the short-term or personal interests of any individual."

Bowlen Wallace does have the support of Broncos minority owners Kerry and John Bowlen, they said in a statement to Denver7. But the process is still controlled by the discretion of the trust.

“We fully support Beth Bowlen Wallace to become the controlling owner of the Denver Broncos. Beth has worked extremely hard to meet the criteria established for the children of Pat Bowlen to be qualified to run and manage the organization,” they said in the statement. “As minority owners of the team, we would be proud and thrilled to have her as the leader of this franchise. There is strong support as well from fans who favor her bid for controlling ownership.”

“Her plan is just right—to take over as managing owner now and in the future allow the other children to mature, learn and grow into the position, keeping this team in her family and in Denver, where the Broncos belong,” Kerry and John Bowlen added.

Meanwhile, Broncos' President and CEO Joe Ellis said it would continue to follow Pat Bowlen's blueprint.

"As a trustee and someone Pat designated to oversee his team, I have an enormous responsibility to carefully administer his succession plan and make decisions in the best interests of the Broncos," he said in a statement. "We will continue to follow Pat's blueprint—and nobody else's—while keeping our focus as an organization on having a successful season."

Pat Bowlen remains a strong candidate to earn election into the NFL Hall of Fame. He spearheaded success that resulted in three Super Bowl titles over a three-decade run of excellence. Following a drubbing in Super Bowl 48 to Seattle, the Bowlen family announced that Pat had resigned control of the team as he battled Alzheimer's. Joe Ellis, the Broncos CEO and a longtime figure in league circles, took over the day-to-day operations. It is left to Ellis and the other two trustees to direct the team in the present and make a decision on a potential future owner among Pat's children.

# Bowlen's daughter told she's not qualified to run Broncos

By Pat Graham  
Associated Press  
June 1, 2018

The daughter of Denver Broncos owner Pat Bowlen announced her desire to take over the leadership role of the team and was informed she hasn't met the criteria.

The Pat Bowlen Trust issued a statement Thursday saying Beth Bowlen Wallace "is not capable or qualified at this time."

The team was placed in a trust when Pat Bowlen stepped down in 2014 because of Alzheimer's. The trust is overseen by three people, including team president and CEO Joe Ellis, who has final say on day-to-day operations until one of Bowlen's seven children can succeed him as controlling owner.

Bowlen Wallace said in a statement that it is her desire to "lead this team with the same passion my father did and help the Broncos become Super Bowl champions again."

The Broncos have made 18 of their 22 playoff appearances during the Pat Bowlen era. Since he was introduced as the majority owner on March 23, 1984, the team has the second-most regular-season wins (behind New England) and captured three Super Bowl titles.

"I have advised the Trustees that I am ready and have done everything they said I need to do to take this step," the 47-year-old Bowlen Wallace said. "Working in management at the Broncos is something I have prepared for and dreamed of doing."

The stipulations to be controlling owner of the Broncos included completion of a business or law degree and five years in management in the NFL or another major business organization.

Bowlen Wallace graduated from the University of Denver's Sturm College of Law in 2016. She also worked with the Broncos as the director of special projects before her employment was ended in 2015.

She's assisted with Colorado-based nonprofits and charitable organizations, including the Alzheimer's Association. She's also worked as an executive in the oil and gas industry since 2016.

"My father's number one goal was to win," Bowlen Wallace said. "He understood that took financial commitment, hard work, dedication, the right leadership, and drive. He was motivated to win not only for himself and the team but for the pride of Broncos Country, our beloved and loyal fans."

Bowlen Wallace has the support of Amie Bowlen Klemmer, the oldest Bowlen child; Bill Bowlen, Pat Bowlen's brother; and minority owners of the team, Kerry and John Bowlen (John is Pat Bowlen's brother).

"Pat Bowlen's wish and his legacy was to have one of his children run this team," Kerry and John Bowlen said in a joint statement. "That is what he always wanted. Beth is the best positioned of all the children to take over now. Her plan is just right — to take over as managing owner now and in the future allow the other children to mature, learn and grow into the position, keeping this team in her family and in Denver, where the Broncos belong."

The Trust said Pat Bowlen made it clear that his children "were not automatically entitled to a role with the team and that they would have to earn that opportunity through their accomplishments, qualifications and character."

In the statement, the Trust said it had communicated this with her.

"Although Beth has declined our invitations to discuss her qualifications for the last two years, we will continue to proactively engage and meet with any of the Bowlen children who express a desire to earn the right to succeed their father," the statement said. "We will vigorously defend Pat's plan in responding to these and any statements that are contrary to Pat's words and intentions."

Added Ellis: "As a trustee and someone Pat designated to oversee his team, I have an enormous responsibility to carefully administer his succession plan and make decisions in the best interests of the Broncos. We will continue to follow Pat's blueprint — and nobody else's — while keeping our focus as an organization on having a successful season."

# Manning stops by as Broncos install simplified offense

By Pat Graham  
Associated Press  
June 1, 2018

A day after teeing it up with Tiger Woods, Peyton Manning stopped by the Denver Broncos' on-field workout to check things out.

By the end, the five-time NFL MVP quarterback probably had the new playbook deciphered.

The schemes have been simplified by offensive coordinator Bill Musgrave and his staff. He wants QB Case Keenum and the rest of the players to be reacting, not thinking about terminology.

"We don't want long-worded plays in the huddle," Musgrave said Thursday as the coordinators met with the media. "We'd love for guys to know it like the back of their hand and then they can cut it loose and play."

So far, Musgrave likes what he sees out of Keenum, who's taking all the reps with the No. 1 unit, unlike a year ago when Paxton Lynch and Trevor Siemian split time.

"Case is getting more concentrated work and it's paying dividends," Musgrave said.

Musgrave also spoke highly of Lynch as he competes with Chad Kelly for the backup job.

"Paxton's learning more about football, learning more about defense, learning more about the way he can be effective at this level of football, which is completely different than college and a world apart from high school," Musgrave said. "Shoot, he had another good day today."

Maybe it had something to do with No. 18 returning to the field. It's been a busy few days for Manning, who played golf with Woods the day before in a pro-am leading up to the Memorial in Ohio.

Manning wasn't the only familiar face hanging around at the workout. Retired pass rusher DeMarcus Ware also was on hand and looking like he could still play.

It was a reunion of leaders who helped the Broncos to a win in Super Bowl 50 over Carolina.

"It was fun to have Peyton out there, and fun to have DeMarcus. Just made for a special day," Musgrave said. "The energy was great to begin with and when those two guys are on the field, everybody steps it up a notch."

One thing's for sure, this isn't Manning's offense. It's abridged — for now.

"While a lot of football is X's and O's, and what are we doing, when are we doing it and why are we doing it, the crux of it is how do we do it?" Musgrave said. "We're training our players on how to execute these plays this spring, the technique and that's where our focus is right now. We've got a system now and we'll train them on how to be sound Denver Broncos and really execute those plays out on the field."

New special teams coordinator Tom McMahon is taking a more mathematical approach with his schemes. Especially with the new kickoff rules aimed at making the high-speed play a bit safer and perhaps more exciting.

He talked in terms of geometry, hypotenuse and how the Broncos plan to heavily use a 12th defender — the sideline.

Right off the bat, McMahon is trying to establish a new culture especially after all the mistakes on special teams a season ago. The principles, he said, are not easy to pick up.

"The wording is Spanish to these guys," McMahon said. "It's new every single time you change coordinators."

Defensive coordinator Joe Woods learned one valuable lesson coming off his first season running the show: It's a different kind of pressure.

"For me, I had to learn to game-plan different," Woods said. "I feel better about it. I feel more at ease. I just feel more comfortable."

He's impressed with No. 5 pick Bradley Chubb, a player Woods is still a little surprised fell to the Broncos. He has some special packages in mind for his rushers that include Von Miller, Shane Ray, Shaquil Barrett and Chubb.

"Dreams do come true," Woods said of the pass rush possibilities.

Woods tried to recruit one more — Ware.

"I saw him around the corner and asked if he could play," Woods cracked.

# Statements from the Pat Bowlen Trust and Denver Broncos President & CEO Joe Ellis

By STAFF

DenverBroncos.com

June 1, 2018

Please see below for statements from the Pat Bowlen Trust and Denver Broncos President & CEO Joe Ellis in response to the press release issued earlier today by Beth Bowlen Wallace.

## STATEMENT FROM THE PAT BOWLEN TRUST

“The statements issued by Beth Bowlen Wallace today are contrary to Pat Bowlen’s long-standing succession plan that he created over many years of careful consideration.

“Pat was determined to ensure the Broncos would remain a premier franchise in the National Football League in the event of his absence. He chose to sustain the team’s success in that eventuality by appointing three non-family trustees to determine whether any of his children had become qualified at some point to step into his shoes.

“Pat did not designate Beth as a trustee or appoint her to a leadership position, nor did he instruct the trustees to specifically mentor her. He made it clear that his children were not automatically entitled to a role with the team and that they would have to earn that opportunity through their accomplishments, qualifications and character.

“As trustees honoring the clear wishes of Pat, we have thoroughly evaluated whether Beth is capable of succeeding her father as controlling owner. We have determined that she is not capable or qualified at this time.

“We have communicated our decision to Beth and her lawyers on multiple occasions. She is also fully informed as to why her employment with the team ended in 2015.

“Although Beth has declined our invitations to discuss her qualifications for the last two years, we will continue to proactively engage and meet with any of the Bowlen children who express a desire to earn the right to succeed their father.

“As trustees, we will continue to honor Pat’s long-standing plan to determine the Broncos’ future ownership and any potential appointment of his children to leadership positions within the organization. Our decisions will always be guided by what will ensure the long-term success and stability of the Broncos while also doing what’s best for our community, our fans and the NFL.

“Consistent with Pat’s long-standing succession plan, our decisions are not to be dictated by the short-term or personal interests of any individual. We will vigorously defend Pat’s plan in responding to these and any statements that are contrary to Pat’s words and intentions.”

## STATEMENT FROM BRONCOS PRESIDENT AND CEO JOE ELLIS

“As a trustee and someone Pat designated to oversee his team, I have an enormous responsibility to carefully administer his succession plan and make decisions in the best interests of the Broncos. We will continue to follow Pat’s blueprint—and nobody else’s—while keeping our focus as an organization on having a successful season.”

# John Elway dishes on his golf game, favorite golfers after Colorado Senior Open

By STAFF

DenverBroncos.com

June 1, 2018

A few days after playing in the qualifying round of the U.S. Senior Open at the Broadmoor's East Course, President of Football Operations/General Manager John Elway stuck to the links and played in the opening rounds of the Colorado Senior Open at Green Valley Ranch Golf Club. After Elway finished at four over par following two rounds, local media spoke to Elway about his days on the course and got his thoughts on his favorite golfers.

"What went right for you yesterday?"

"You know what? I played good. I didn't finish well yesterday. It seems to be, I play 14 or 15 good holes every round, so I did it again today. I had four really poor holes, but other than that, 14 good holes. I've got to work on completing the round."

"What was the issue on the front nine?"

"Well, I had a shank in there. So when you get a shank — I don't know if you've ever had a shank, but it has a tendency to throw you off a little bit. So, yeah, it threw me off a little bit. I triple-[bogeys] eight with a shank, hit it in the hazard. I had a tough time rallying but then played well on the back side to bring it back. You see what happens."

"What did you think of the course?"

"It's in great shape. The greens are really good, and they're putting really well, so it's really in great shape."

"We got you on 18. Was that the second or third shot that went into the bunker? Did you drop back there?"

"It was the third shot. I skulled that one, went into the back bunker, was able to hit a good bunker shot and it almost went in. Then I made the come-back, so I was able to survive it."

"Right now in the PGA, who's your favorite golfer to follow?"

"There's so many good players. Obviously I like to watch Tiger [Woods], because I like to watch him coming back. I hope that he makes that comeback. Obviously he's doing great right now. But there's so many good players, it's kind of week-to-week. Dustin Johnson, I've played a little bit with, so I like to see him play well too. But a lot of good players out there."

"When you talk about Tiger and his coming back from back surgery — Peyton, he was talking yesterday about how he can really relate. Obviously he's been there. You were there through Peyton's experience coming back from that. ... What did you see from Peyton that you see Tiger may go through?"

“Obviously I don’t know exactly what he went through, but I know any time a golfer has a tough time with his back, you know it’s going to be tough. He’s battled back for a long, long time, so it’s nice to see that whatever was wrong seems to be fixed, because the mentality for him is already there. He’s already a great player, and I think he’s probably more motivated now than he’s ever been. So hopefully he can continue to play well like he is.”

“Talking about competitive, you’re quite the competitor. I think that’s a fair statement — in life, in football. Are you as competitive on the golf course?”

“Yeah, I am, and that’s probably something that works against me. I think there’s probably some bad shots I should let go a little bit more of than I do and just try to come back from the bad shots and see what happens. But I still like getting out there. It’s fun for me to compete. It’s really the only thing that I can still really compete at that I can’t get hurt at. That’s my new rule: I play things that can’t get hurt at, and golf’s one of them.”

“What’s the best club in the bag right now?”

“I’ve actually putted pretty well the last two days. I made some good putts and messed up on a couple little ones, but for the most part I putted really well, so I think that’s kind of what saved me a little bit. My driver came on as time went on. The back side, I drove the ball a little bit better, but the putter’s probably the one that saved me.”

“Peyton Manning got to do the pro-am with Tiger yesterday. If you had your choice of any golfer all time, who would you like to play a round with? And where?”

“I always say if I had one last round, I’d play at Augusta, because that’s a great place to play. ... I’ve played with Tiger once before, but that was a long, long time ago, so I think if I had a choice I’d play with Tiger again.”

“You had a little fan gallery out there following you. What did you think of that?”

“It’s always fun. Those guys, I’ve known those guys for a long time and so it’s nice to see them out there.”

“Do crowds bother you on the golf course at all?”

“No, not really. You kind of get used to it. The good thing is I’ve played enough years up in Tahoe, and after 25 years up there with a lot of people and not really a golf crowd, you get used to it. I think that’s what’s kind of made me immune to crowds when it comes to golf.”

# Case Keenum taking reps as established starter already 'paying dividends' for Broncos offense

By Aric DiLalla  
DenverBroncos.com  
June 1, 2018

The Broncos are just six practices into OTAs, but Offensive Coordinator Bill Musgrave can already see the benefit of having an established starter in place at quarterback.

As the team installs their offensive system, Case Keenum has gotten each of the first-team reps, and that value can't be understated for both Keenum and the team.

"Case is working hard," Musgrave said. "It's a new system for him, it's a new system for everybody. Case is getting — exclusively — all the reps with the ones. We're not splitting them like you would if you didn't have an established starter, so he's getting more concentrated work, and it's paying dividends."

Musgrave's system — which has been described as player friendly by several members of the offense — will retain a variety of formations and packages to disguise itself from defenses, but the wording of plays will be shortened.

That should help the Broncos' offense achieve its overall goal: putting its players in position to make plays. "Any offense worth its salt," as Musgrave said Thursday, should be based around its players' skills. One of Keenum's strengths, as he showed off last year during an 11-3 campaign for the Vikings, is his ability to make plays out of the pocket.

"He definitely was mobile last year in Minnesota, and he's been mobile when he played for Houston and St. Louis before," Musgrave said. "So I think that's a great part of his game. He can stay on the move and remain a passer [and] process what he sees instantaneously. So those are good attributes to have, especially when things break down."

On Thursday, Keenum had a chance to learn a little more. The signal caller spoke with former quarterback Peyton Manning, who observed the team's practice and addressed the group as they huddled to end the day.

With Manning in attendance, Musgrave sensed an added sense of urgency from the entire team.

"Fun to have Peyton out there and fun to have DeMarcus Ware," Musgrave said. "Made for a special day. That was our sixth day of OTAs, and the energy was great to begin with.

"When those two guys are on the field, everybody steps it up a notch, that's for sure."

The Broncos named a starting punt returner early in last year's training camp, but as OTAs roll on, there is no set hierarchy.

"I want them to earn it," Special Teams Coordinator Tom McMahon said. "I think naturally, Isaiah [McKenzie], Jordan [Taylor] — in my opinion, they're doing a great job right now. Royce Freeman's back

there. We're using them all. David Williams is back there. [DaeSean] Hamilton is back there. Phillip [Lindsay] is back there. If you watch us after practice, we've got seven punt returners that are rookies. I don't know who that guy is. I learned my lesson a long time ago with thinking, 'This is going to be the guy, not the guy.' A year ago, Chester Rogers popped out for us in Indy, and no one thought he could do it. We've got great talent here, we're going to have a great returner, whoever it is — and they'll develop."

McMahon stressed the Broncos "have got to have guys that make plays for us," but he also acknowledged the importance of catching the punt.

To ensure that happens, the returners have added a drill in which they must call out the words or numbers that have been written on the football as they catch a punt. You catch the ball with your eyes, McMahon said Thursday, and this drill makes sure the returners aren't looking elsewhere.

McMahon will also be busy helping his team adapt to the NFL's new kickoff rules. He spoke favorably of the changes, but he added that Strength Coach Loren Landow will be instrumental in helping the coverage team make the most of a shortened takeoff zone.

When the Broncos added safety Su'a Cravens via a March trade, they gained a player who has plenty of positional flexibility. The former second-round pick can play in the box at 6-foot-1, 224 pounds — but he also has the speed to play in coverage.

"He's a unique player," Defensive Coordinator Joe Woods said. "You can see his natural instincts in the box. When he's in the box, he fits the run like a linebacker. Right now, you can see that — you can see it's easy for him. We're just really spending a lot of time teaching him how to play off the ball, playing the deep safety position.

"But I think he's going to really help us in terms of what we're able to do with our sub-packages. I think there's a few things, actually, that we can do that we couldn't do last year."

So, is Cravens the missing piece that can help the Broncos solve their woes covering tight ends last year?

"Part of it," Woods said. "We're going to have to do it with safeties, with linebackers, with dime[-package players]. But he's definitely a big part of it."

Just days after Head Coach Vance Joseph said he was proud of Paxton Lynch's development, Musgrave provided a specific example of where the third-year player has improved.

"Paxton's growing every day," Musgrave said. "He's learning more about football, learning more about defense. He's learning more about the way that he can be effective at this level of football, which is completely different than college and a world apart from high school. So he's going through the process and, shoot, he had another good day today.

"He's doing a good job late in the down being real smart with the football. We have our times out there at practice where the ball doesn't go where it's supposed to. We've got to learn from when we stub our toe, but to Paxton's credit, after six OTAs, he's doing the best of the three in terms of protecting the football and making smart decisions, especially late in the downs."

# Pat Bowlen's daughter wants ownership of Broncos. His trust pushes back.

By Jonathan Rose  
Denver Business Journal  
June 1, 2018

Implying she would be fulfilling her father's wishes, Beth Bowlen Wallace Thursday announced her desire to take controlling ownership of the Denver Broncos. The trust set up to control the team by her father, former Broncos owner Pat Bowlen, responded that she's not qualified.

Pat Bowlen owned the Broncos for 30 years before giving up control of the team in 2014 due to a battle with Alzheimer's disease. At 70 years old, he passed ownership to the Pat Bowlen Trust, controlled by team president Joe Ellis and two other non-family trustees: Executive Vice President Rich Slivka and attorney Mary Kelly. Beth Bowlen Wallace is one of Pat Bowlen's seven children.

"I love the Denver Broncos," Beth Bowlen Wallace said in a press release issued by San Francisco PR firm Singer Associates. "This team has been so special to my family, to the City of Denver and to the state of Colorado," Beth said. "My father's legacy is very important to me and my family. It is my desire to lead this team with the same passion my father did and help the Broncos become Super Bowl champions again. I have the ambition, experience and drive, and my mentor in running a winning NFL franchise is the best in the business – my father."

She continued to say that her father "said many times that he wanted his family to keep ownership of the Broncos."

She has submitted a succession plan to the trust that would allow her to take controlling ownership "after a short transition and mentoring period with current leadership," according to the statement. She said she also has the support of Pat Bowlen's eldest daughter, Amie Bowlen Klemmer.

Broncos President and CEO Joe Ellis stressed his commitment to the three-time Super Bowl champions in a statement released today.

"As a trustee and someone Pat designated to oversee his team, I have an enormous responsibility to carefully administer his succession plan and make decisions in the best interests of the Broncos," Ellis said. "We will continue to follow Pat's blueprint — and nobody else's — while keeping our focus as an organization on having a successful season."

The Pat Bowlen Trust wasn't so measured in its official response.

"The statements issued by Beth Bowlen Wallace today are contrary to Pat Bowlen's long-standing succession plan that he created over many years of careful consideration," the trust said in a statement.

"Pat did not designate Beth as a trustee or appoint her to a leadership position, nor did he instruct the trustees to specifically mentor her. He made it clear that his children were not automatically entitled to a role with the team and that they would have to earn that opportunity through their accomplishments, qualifications and character. As trustees honoring the clear wishes of Pat, we have thoroughly evaluated

whether Beth is capable of succeeding her father as controlling owner. We have determined that she is not capable or qualified at this time."

The national sports rumor mill seems to think a storm is on the horizon.

"Broncos Ownership Battle Could Be Brewing," read the headline at sports gossip site YardBarker on Thursday afternoon.

# Beth Bowlen Wallace, Daughter of Iconic Denver Bronco's Owner Pat Bowlen, Throws Her Hat in the Ring to Serve at Helm of NFL Team

By STAFF

Denver Business Journal

June 1, 2018

Beth Bowlen Wallace today announced she is throwing her hat in the ring to take the leadership role of the Denver Broncos and carry on her father's winning legacy. Throughout his astonishing career, Pat Bowlen demonstrated great passion for the team, the game of football and the City of Denver.

"I love the Denver Broncos. This team has been so special to my family, to the City of Denver and to the state of Colorado," Beth said. "My father's legacy is very important to me and my family. It is my desire to lead this team with the same passion my father did and help the Broncos become Super Bowl champions again. I have the ambition, experience and drive, and my mentor in running a winning NFL franchise is the best in the business – my father."

Beth has submitted a proposal for a succession plan to the Trustees of the Pat Bowlen family trust that includes Beth taking over as the Controlling Owner after a short transition and mentoring period with current leadership. The proposal also includes long-term succession planning that involves other Bowlen children and a succession plan beyond Beth. "Along with continuing the winning tradition of my father, the focus is to keep this team in my family and keep the Broncos in Denver," she said.

Beth, 47, spent much of her childhood cheering for the Broncos from the sidelines with her father, Pat Bowlen, who has owned the franchise with his family for the past 35 years.

Before he became ill with Alzheimer's, Pat had said many times that he wanted his family to keep ownership of the Broncos, that he wanted one of his seven children to run the team when they were ready, and that he wanted the team to remain in Denver.

"I have advised the Trustees that I am ready and have done everything they said I need to do to take this step. Working in management at the Broncos is something I have prepared for and dreamed of doing," Beth said.

"I fully support Beth," said Amie Bowlen Klemmer, the oldest Bowlen child. "She is qualified and ready, and she worked closely with my dad. She is in the best position to carry out his vision. Based on my conversations with him, I know my father would have endorsed Beth and this plan."

Beth graduated from the University of Denver's Sturm College of Law in 2016 and before that, received her bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado, in Boulder. She is also a mom, step-mom and avid equestrian who rides in the hunter jumper discipline.

Pat Bowlen also earned his law degree and had encouraged his second-oldest daughter to do the same. "I know how proud my dad would be of Beth obtaining her JD and following in his footsteps. That was important to him," said Amie.

"I have completed my legal degree, worked at the Broncos and have strong ties in Denver and throughout Colorado," said Beth. "As controlling owner, I will work with leadership in the organization to ensure that we deliver the best results and meet the expectations of our fans, which is something I learned from observing and working with my father and his business associates."

Beth worked for the Broncos for several years as director of special projects and oversaw initiatives such as the Ring of Fame Plaza and the placement of a statue of her father, in addition to handling community affairs. "In 2011, my dad strongly encouraged me to join him in the organization. I was humbled and ready for the opportunity to work along side him, especially given his declining health," Beth said. "I have developed great relationships with members of the NFL and the Denver business community, and they have expressed their support for me in the past," added Beth.

In addition to working for the team, Beth has consistently asked the Trustees for opportunities to work in the organization to complete any mentoring they believe is necessary. "My current proposal continues to request a position within the team so that an orderly transaction can be achieved, including any mentoring," she said.

Beth is also very involved with Colorado-based nonprofits and charitable organizations, including the Alzheimer's Association, Urban Youth Ministries and Colorado Uplift, among several others. Since 2016, Beth has worked as an executive with Reign Energy Partners in the oil and gas industry – the same industry that helped launch Pat Bowlen's successful career.

"My father's number one goal was to win. He understood that took financial commitment, hard work, dedication, the right leadership, and drive. He was motivated to win not only for himself and the team but for the pride of Broncos Country, our beloved and loyal fans. He wanted to be number one in everything and in my eyes, he is," she said. "Maintaining his vision will be my singular focus."

Before he stepped down as Broncos CEO, Pat Bowlen set up a family trust to transfer controlling ownership of the team to one of his children. The trust is currently operated by three non-family members: team President Joe Ellis, team General Counsel and Executive Vice President Rich Slivka and attorney Mary Kelly.

Pat Bowlen played football in high school and, after becoming a successful business owner, he and his family bought the Broncos in 1984. Pat loved the game of football, and it showed. He was the first National Football League owner to reach 300 victories in 30 years. And more importantly, his commitment to winning led the team to seven Super Bowl appearances and three world championships. "I will also work hard to get my father where he belongs – in the Pro Football Hall of Fame," stated Beth.

In 2009, Pat revealed that he was struggling with severe memory loss, after he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's well before that. In July 2014, he officially stepped down as controlling owner of the Broncos, although he had relinquished day-to-day control several years before.

An estimated 5.7 million Americans of all ages are living with Alzheimer's, and more than 16 million Americans are taking care of people with Alzheimer's, according to the Alzheimer's Association. The disease has no cure.

Beth and her family have been at her father's side throughout his illness. She is also active in raising awareness about the disease and helping to raise funds for scientific research.

"My family and I have received such an outpouring of support from Broncos fans, the Denver community and friends across the country," Beth said. "It means a lot to us, which further motivates us to carry on his legacy of winning for our fans."

# Broncos listen up to Peyton Manning, DeMarcus Ware as they seek to rediscover mojo

By Lindsay Jones

USA Today

June 1, 2018

With the Denver Broncos trying to recapture their lost championship swagger, the franchise has called on stars of seasons' past to try to give players an offseason boost.

Former quarterback Peyton Manning walked onto the practice field midway through Thursday's voluntary practice session, striding onto the sideline while the offense was in the middle of a two-minute drill. Manning stepped into the huddle to address the full squad after practice ended.

"He just talked a little bit about being a pro, and what that means, and how that's something that is not just while they're here," Broncos quarterbacks coach Mike Sullivan told USA TODAY Sports. "It's on the field, it's in the meeting rooms, the weight room. It's when they are away from the facility. I think that was a great message he could convey to the entire team."

Former Broncos pass rusher DeMarcus Ware, who retired after the 2016 season, is also in Denver this week as a guest coach, working with outside linebackers like first-round pick Bradley Chubb and Ware's former teammates Von Miller, Shane Ray and Shaquil Barrett.

Having Manning and Ware back on the practice field must have felt like a reunion for the few Broncos' veterans who remain from the Super Bowl 50 championship team, including Miller, cornerback Chris Harris Jr., and receivers Demaryius Thomas and Emmanuel Sanders. But their presence was likely more important for the players who never shared a huddle or a locker room with the future Hall of Famers.

The Broncos offense certainly missed Manning's leadership and production over the past two seasons, which have featured a revolving door at quarterback and multiple changes to the coaching staff and roster. None of the Broncos' current quarterbacks — starter Case Keenum, Paxton Lynch and Chad Kelly — played behind Manning.

Keenum attended the Manning Passing Academy while he was in college at the University of Houston, and said Manning has been helpful since Keenum arrived as a free agent in March. Manning and his family still live in Denver.

"He's been receptive to questions and different things," Keenum told USA TODAY Sports. "He's a great tool to have right here in your backyard."

# Pat Bowlen's daughter told she's not qualified to be Broncos' controlling owner

By Jared Dubin

CBS Sports

June 1, 2018

Beth Bowlen, the daughter of longtime Denver Broncos owner Pat Bowlen, has requested that the team's leadership appoint her the team's controlling owner.

"I know the fans have been anxious and asking quite a few questions about what's happening with the succession plan of the Denver Broncos," Beth Bowlen told The Athletic.

"I have completed the criteria laid out by the trustees, so I felt it was a good time to come out and express my interest and desire to be a part of the organization again."

The Pat Bowlen Trust -- currently made up of Broncos president/CEO Joe Ellis, team counsel Rich Slivka and Denver attorney Mary Kelly -- is in charge of deciding the franchise's future. The trust was placed in control of the team when Pat Bowlen formally retired in 2014 due to Alzheimer's disease. The trust told The Athletic that it informed Beth Bowlen that it does not believe she is capable or qualified to take over the team at this time.

"Beth Bowlen Wallace is not the only Bowlen child who is expressing interest in becoming controlling owner," the trust said, in a statement provided to The Athletic. "The trustees have informed Beth of their determination that she is not capable or qualified at this time. We will continue to follow Pat Bowlen's long-standing succession plan for the future ownership of the Denver Broncos."

Per The Athletic, the trustees outline the following criteria in 2015:

In February 2015, the trustees sent Pat Bowlen's wife, Annabel, and his seven children a memo outlining criteria to be considered for controlling owner.

The email included requirements such as leadership and integrity and sound judgment, as well as specific educational and experience qualifications. A bachelor's degree paired with an MBA, J.D. or other advanced business-related degree was one.

So was at least five years of "senior management experience" with the NFL, the Broncos or the Stadium Manage Company (SMC), the organization that runs the team's stadium in Denver.

The email also included, however, the caveat that even if the criteria is met by a Bowlen child, it would not guarantee him or her appointment of controlling owner.

Beth Bowlen met the criteria after receiving her law degree from the University of Denver's Sturm College of Law in 2016.

"My desire is to have my father run this football team," she said. "That's not possible, so I've gone out, I've met the criteria, I've educated myself, I've carried myself in the public authentically as who I am and

I want the opportunity to step into a leadership role because that's what my father wanted -- for one of his children to step into a leadership role."

Beth Bowlen did not detail her succession plan to The Athletic, but did inform the site that it includes a transition period and a plan to include her six siblings in the team's operations.

# Beth Bowlen, one of Broncos' owner Pat Bowlen's daughters, wants controlling ownership of team

By Shalise Manza Young

Yahoo! Sports

June 1, 2018

It seems like Beth Bowlen, one of the daughters of Denver Broncos owner Pat Bowlen, has done everything required to take control of the team her father has owned for over 30 years, but she isn't getting it just yet.

A story published Thursday on The Athletic by Broncos writer Nicki Jhabvala details Beth's stated aim of becoming controlling owner of the Broncos; the team is currently run by a three-person trust, which took over in 2013 after Pat formally resigned due to health issues — he's afflicted with Alzheimer's disease.

Broncos president and CEO Joe Ellis, along with team counsel Rich Slivka and Denver attorney Mary Kelly, are the trustees, though Ellis operates as Pat Bowlen once did, representing the Broncos at NFL meetings and making day-to-day decisions.

Plan is to keep Broncos in the family

Bowlen's plan all along was for his seven children to each get an equal stake in the franchise, but with one emerging to take over. While the trustees do have the authority to sell the team, Ellis has repeatedly said that's not going to happen.

"When a child emerges that has the capability and has earned the right to have that job and take over their father's chair, the three trustees will determine that," Ellis said two years ago.

Beth, 47, is the second-oldest of Pat's children and one of two daughters he had with his first wife, Sally Parker, and has positioned herself to take control, but so far it has not been given.

'I felt it was a good time to ... express my interest'

Beth Bowlen has made it clear with the league and with the trustees that she intends on being appointed controlling owner.

"I know the fans have been anxious and have been asking quite a few questions about what's happening with the succession plan of the Denver Broncos. I have completed the criteria laid out by the trustees, so I felt it was a good time to come out and express my interest in and desire to be a part of the organization again," she told Jhabvala.

In a statement, the Pat Bowlen Trust said Beth is not the only one of Pat's children to express such interest and that the trustees have informed Beth that it's their belief she is "not capable or qualified at this time."

In February 2015, the trustees sent a letter to Annabel Bowlen, Pat's wife, and his seven children, outlining the criteria that had to be met before they'd be considered for controlling say: things like leadership, integrity and sound judgment were mentioned, but there were more specific demands, like a bachelor's degree plus either an MBA, law degree or another advanced business-related degree, and five years of

“senior management experience” with the NFL, Broncos or the Stadium Manage Company, which runs the team’s home stadium.

Qualified on paper

On paper, it appears, Beth comes close to meeting those criteria. While she spent much of her early life in Hawaii, Beth did receive a bachelor’s from the University of Colorado in 1994; she returned to Hawaii, met and married her first husband, had two sons, and started an event-planning company.

But she returned to Denver in 2008 to be near and work with her father. Starting in 2012, she spent three years as the team’s director of special projects; one of the things she was heavily involved in was the development of the Ring of Honor Plaza outside of the stadium. She has also been visible at numerous charity and community events.

Two years ago, she completed her law degree at the University of Denver, which she did for the sole reason of meeting one of the trustees’ criteria for controlling ownership.

“My desire is to have my father run this football team,” Beth said. “That’s not possible, so I’ve gone out, I’ve met the criteria, I’ve educated myself, I’ve carried myself in the public authentically as who I am and I want the opportunity to step into a leadership role because that’s what my father wanted — for one of his children to step into a leadership role.”

It does not appear there is a timetable for the trustees to name a controlling owner.

# Report: 'Alternate' NFL cheerleaders aren't treated any better than regular ones

By Shalise Manza Young

Yahoo! Sports

June 1, 2018

While it's become more and more clear in recent months and years how poorly NFL cheerleaders are treated by teams, New York Times reporter Juliet Macur continues to show just how bad things are.

On Thursday, the Times published Macur's latest story on the often-seedy side of cheerleaders with a little-known category of women: "alternate" cheerleaders, who are effectively scantily clad team ambassadors on gamedays.

What are alternate cheerleaders?

By definition, a cheerleader dances and chants in support of a team; in the NFL, that means being on the field during the game, performing during timeouts and after touchdowns.

It also means that if they're on the field, there's – gasp! – no one for fans in the suites to ogle and leer at up close during the game.

So some NFL teams created a secondary group of women for that purpose, ones that don't have to have the dance talent of cheerleaders, but are scantily-clad models to mingle with deep-pocketed, often-inebriated male customers.

Macur interviewed a dozen women who worked as non-cheering cheerleaders and a half-dozen others who have knowledge of these groups, and they described jobs with low wages and high incidences of harassment and groping.

'Alternates' are meant to blend in

The alternate cheerleaders are almost always dressed the same as on-field cheerleaders; they're not supposed to give the impression that they aren't cheerleaders.

"It's a really big secret, and now you know about it," said Jackie Chambers, a model who was part of the Houston Texans' non-cheerleader group last year. "But teams don't want fans to know about it. All of the cheerleaders are supposed to blend in with each other."

The Texans, Washington, New England Patriots and New Orleans Saints are among the teams that have alternate cheerleaders.

In the Patriots' case, the team holds auditions for cheerleader promotional models; while they don't dance, both groups of women are grouped together, and the models and cheerleaders are both part of the team's annual calendar.

Washington uses its "cheerleader ambassadors" in promotional materials meant to convince monied fans to invest in a luxury suite. In the team's online suite sales video, there are photos of suite-holders posing

with the cheerleader ambassadors; at another point in the video a voice says, “membership has its privileges,” as a bikini-clad woman is shown on screen.

The Baltimore Ravens aren’t secretive about their non-cheerleading group, calling them the Playmakers and treating them like marketers — but marketers whose job application asks for bust size.

#### Poor treatment for cheerleaders and non-cheerleaders

Earlier this month, Macur detailed a trip Washington cheerleaders took to Costa Rica in 2013 for the swimsuit calendar shoot in which women described the surprising – and unwelcome – presence of male sponsors at a photo shoot in which they were required to be topless. Team officials took women’s passports upon arrival at the resort, and later in the trip, women were chosen as “personal escorts” for a trip to a nightclub with sponsors.

For women who aren’t official cheerleaders, the treatment isn’t much better.

Six women who were ambassadors for Washington described the gig as a sexualized saleswoman. Some had to go to team tailgate parties, where attendees were encouraged to drink, and men would grab them and hug them or make inappropriate comments.

“The Redskins wanted to come up with extra ways to make money, so they dreamed up the idea of the ambassadors,” said one woman who worked as an ambassador. “We were made to look almost exactly like cheerleaders, but we weren’t a member of that society. We didn’t get the perks of dancing. We were just low-paid, underappreciated, exploited moneymakers in a huge moneymaking scheme.”

“We wore low-cut tops with cutouts and your butt cheeks would be sticking out the back. That’s how they sell the suites,” she added.

Dennis Greene, who was Washington’s longtime head of business operations (he was recently replaced) and remains in charge of hospitality and suites, treated the women like cattle, they said. Greene had women line up on to examine them, then chose two to work with him on gamedays, visiting suites.

“He would look each of us up and down and say, I want that one and that one, and everyone hated when you got selected for that,” a former ambassador said. “It was humiliating.”

Washington convinced women who hadn’t been chosen as cheerleaders to accept the ambassador role as a way to prepare for the next year’s auditions and get into the good graces of cheerleading team director Stephanie Jojokian.

They were encouraged to take classes at Jojokian’s dance company, Capitol Movement, or to either donate to the non-profit organization or attend fundraisers, and steered to the hair salon and tanning salon that sponsored the groups, where they got the look the team wanted.

Another former Washington ambassador said: “It was like, if you want to make the cheerleading team, you’d better do all this stuff, and that included going to parties where there was a lot of drinking and there were definitely underage ambassadors. It might not be the best experience for the ladies, but you just shut up and do it because you want to be a cheerleader.”

Despite the degrading conditions, women focused on the thing they enjoyed: cheering on the sidelines, in front of the crowds. Many women didn't give their name for Macur's story because of confidentiality agreements signed with clubs.

Lots of requirements, little respect

Chambers had no dance experience when she was chosen as a Texans "appearance-only cheerleader," and believed she'd be getting to do some good, like visiting with military members or attending events with children.

That wasn't the reality.

As the team earned thousands per event and per cheerleader, the women themselves were required to work at least 50 promotional events per year and earned just \$7.25 an hour.

Chambers said the team's coach, Alto Gary, was verbally and emotionally abusive of women, which was confirmed by three other members. Their contract forbade "arguing or showing disrespect" to Gary, whom Chambers said used thick tape to constrict a woman's midsection before one game, making it appear flatter under her costume.

Chambers often had to go into the stands for giveaways, and once a man ran his hands over her crotch. She told team officials and police, but nothing was done about the incident.

Earlier this month, three of Chambers' former teammates filed a class-action suit against the Texans and Gary; Chambers will join the suit if it is certified.

And here's a kicker: Last month, at the team's year-end meeting, Chambers said women were given Starbucks gift cards as a token of appreciation.

When Chambers went to use her card, the barista handed it back to her, saying it had a zero balance. Some women had \$5 on their cards.

"All of us said, wow, the Texans must have really appreciated us," Chambers said. "We were laughing, but crying."

# NFL coaches are rallying to avoid the death of the kickoff

By Terez Paylor

Yahoo! Sports

June 1, 2018

Kansas City Chiefs special teams coach Dave Toub was sitting across from Troy Vincent at the NFL head coaches symposium in Orlando in March, just laughing and joking, when a friendly conversation over breakfast suddenly turned serious.

“Hey man, get ready — they’re going to take the kickoff away,” said Vincent, the NFL’s executive vice president for football ops.

It was exactly the news Toub, 55, had been dreading. The architect of the dynamite Devin Hester-led Chicago Bears special teams from several years ago, Toub has long established himself as one of the league’s very best at his craft, so the concept of losing kickoffs and kickoff returns — two of the six special teams phases he’s responsible for — was abjectly terrifying, not only to him, but to the league’s other 31 special teams coordinators, as well.

“You can’t do that, Troy,” Toub said, adamantly. “No freaking way. There’s got to be a step in between that.”

There was, it turns out, even though the concussion-conscious NFL has long been working on ways to reduce the violence of kickoffs. Statistics compiled by the league show that concussions are five times more likely to occur on those plays than others, and although those changes — which included moving the kickoff spot up 5 yards — have reduced the number of returns, they haven’t actually reduced the rate of concussions on the play, which Green Bay Packers CEO Mark Murphy recently called “by far the most dangerous” in the game.

Still, the potential abolishment of the kickoff has been met with lots of resistance among special teams coaches who fear the elimination of the play — which incorporates significant strategy and thus, allows them to shine — would also lead to a league-wide de-emphasis of the special-teamer. This would not only have an impact on how teams construct rosters, as special teams help decide backup spots at the 53-man deadline, but could also lead to a reduction of special teams jobs across the leagues. Most teams currently have a special teams coach and a special teams assistant, but would the assistant really be needed if there was 33 percent less work to do on the surface? The NFL is, more than anything else, a business, so coaches really don’t want to find out.

“I told [Chiefs coach] Andy [Reid], I might have to get ready to be a tight ends coach,” Toub said with a laugh. “You’re not just taking kickoff away — you’re taking two phases, you’re taking all those jobs. That’s a drastic thing. Nobody wants the kickoff to go away.”

So when Vincent told Toub there was something he could indeed do, he couldn’t help but say yes. In early May, Toub and approximately eight other NFL special teams coaches gathered with members of the league’s competition committee for the player safety summit at the league’s offices in New York with the goal of coming up with a proposal that would allow them to keep the play, all while making it safer.

The special teams coaches took the responsibility so seriously, Toub said, that they'd talked enough in the weeks leading up to the meeting to have an idea of what they wanted to do before they even got there. By the end of the two-day summit, lots of ideas had been discussed, but only one proposal was agreed upon because they didn't want to risk muddying the water. The proposal proceeded to be approved, largely unscathed, by the owners only a few weeks later.

The rule changes that will go into effect this season will effectively eliminate a number of dangerous blocks — including wedge and jump-set blocks — and severely limit the number of double-team blocks faced by players on the kick coverage squad. They will also reduce the five-yard running start coverage players got at the outset of the play, mandate that five coverage players are on both sides of the kicker at the beginning of the play (thus changing the look of onside kicks) and force at least eight players on the return squad to be in a 15-yard "setup zone" prior to the kickoff.

"It won't be offensive linemen blocking skill players — it's going to be a speed and skill play now," Broncos coach Vance Joseph said.

The hope is the changes will not only reduce the number of massive collisions that frequently occur during kickoffs, but also the speed at which those collisions occur, all in hopes of reducing the number of concussions suffered on the play.

"At the end of the day, we need less guys injured on that play," said Vikings special teams coordinator Mike Priefer, another widely respected coach who was one of the nine who corroborated on the kickoff changes. "I think we can get there, too. I think if you teach blocking correctly, you teach taking on blocks correctly, you teach tackling correctly, you have a chance to keep guys healthier."

Special teams coaches have also noted over the past week that they expect the new rules will have an impact on the type of returner you see back there on kickoffs on Sunday. With kickoffs effectively functioning more like punts now, it's reasonable to expect more shifty, quick, make-you-miss types on returns, since you can't really scheme it toward a certain gap anymore. Think guys who are more Devin Hester (5-foot-11, 190 pounds), and less Cordarrelle Patterson (6-foot-2, 220).

"You aren't going to have the point of attack where you are hitting it and you have a running back style, like an iso play," Toub said.

It's unclear, of course, whether these changes will indeed reduce the number of concussions suffered on the play. But the good news for special teams coaches is that the league seems committed to exploring every option before it eliminates kickoffs, even beyond this season.

Rich McKay, the chairman of the NFL's competition committee, told Yahoo Sports that he believes there are more steps to be taken and more rule changes that can be enacted before the league will give up on kickoffs. Coaches seem to agree.

"It made a lot of sense to take it in steps," Toub said. "To do it this way, and now, if this doesn't work, then you go to the next level."

One idea that was tossed around, for instance, was giving the kicking team a point for kicking it through the uprights.

“We’re going to be for that — we have [Pro Bowl kicker Justin] Tucker, right?” joked Ravens head coach John Harbaugh, a former special teams coordinator.

Another idea that was discussed and tabled for later (which Toub liked) was tweaking the rules to make the play even more like a punt return, which is still a possibility down the road.

But for now, coaches like Toub seem to be content with the recently enacted rule changes, as early returns are positive after they’ve had a chance to get in the lab and practice some new approaches to the play the last few weeks of organized team activities.

“I really believe we’ve got something,” Toub said. “It looks like we’re getting what we thought we were going to get — two groups, running down the field together, not running at each other. We’re going to get more returns.”

# Broncos, Pat Bowlen Trust say daughter's pitch to own team is against Pat's plan

By Eric Ruble

Fox 31

June 1, 2018

The president and CEO of the Denver Broncos and the Pat Bowlen Trust said Beth Bowlen Wallace's interest in owning the team goes against plans laid out by her father.

On Thursday, Beth announced that she requested the team's leadership appoint her as the controlling owner, according to CBS Sports.

"I know the fans have been anxious and asking quite a few questions about what's happening with the succession plan of the Denver Broncos," Beth Bowlen told The Athletic. "I have completed the criteria laid out by the trustees, so I felt it was a good time to come out and express my interest and desire to be a part of the organization again."

However, the Broncos promptly issued a joint press release with the Pat Bowlen Trust saying Beth's plans are not aligned with her father's.

"The statements issued by Beth Bowlen Wallace today are contrary to Pat Bowlen's long-standing succession plan that he created over many years of careful consideration," the Pat Bowlen Trust said.

"Pat did not designate Beth as a trustee or appoint her to a leadership position, nor did he instruct the trustees to specifically mentor her. He made it clear that his children were not automatically entitled to a role with the team and that they would have to earn that opportunity through their accomplishments, qualifications and character," the release added.

The statement also said the trustees already determined that Beth is not capable of succeeding Pat as controlling owner. Moreover, the trust said it communicated the decision to Beth and her legal team a number of times.

The trust said it would "vigorously defend" Pat's plan moving forward.

"Although Beth has declined our invitations to discuss her qualifications for the last two years, we will continue to proactively engage and meet with any of the Bowlen children who express a desire to earn the right to succeed their father," the trust said.

Broncos President and CEO Joe Ellis also included a brief statement in the press release:

"As a trustee and someone Pat designated to oversee his team, I have an enormous responsibility to carefully administer his succession plan and make decisions in the best interests of the Broncos. We will continue to follow Pat's blueprint — and nobody else's — while keeping our focus as an organization on having a successful season," Ellis said.

# Pat Bowlen's daughter seeks to take over as Broncos' controlling owner

By Charen Williams

Pro Football Talk

June 1, 2018

Beth Bowlen Wallace, the daughter of longtime Broncos owner Pat Bowlen, wants to take over as the team's controlling owner. She has requested the team's current leadership appoint her to that role.

"I know the fans have been anxious and asking quite a few questions about what's happening with the succession plan of the Denver Broncos," Bowlen Wallace said, via Nicki Jhabvala of The Athletic. "I have completed the criteria laid out by the trustees, so I felt it was a good time to come out and express my interest and desire to be a part of the organization again."

In response, the Broncos released statements from the Pat Bowlen Trust and Broncos President and CEO Joe Ellis.

The Pat Bowlen Trust's statement reads:

"The statements issued by Beth Bowlen Wallace today are contrary to Pat Bowlen's long-standing succession plan that he created over many years of careful consideration.

"Pat was determined to ensure the Broncos would remain a premier franchise in the National Football League in the event of his absence. He chose to sustain the team's success in that eventuality by appointing three non-family trustees to determine whether any of his children had become qualified at some point to step into his shoes.

"Pat did not designate Beth as a trustee or appoint her to a leadership position, nor did he instruct the trustees to specifically mentor her. He made it clear that his children were not automatically entitled to a role with the team and that they would have to earn that opportunity through their accomplishments, qualifications and character.

"As trustees honoring the clear wishes of Pat, we have thoroughly evaluated whether Beth is capable of succeeding her father as controlling owner. We have determined that she is not capable or qualified at this time.

"We have communicated our decision to Beth and her lawyers on multiple occasions. She is also fully informed as to why her employment with the team ended in 2015.

"Although Beth has declined our invitations to discuss her qualifications for the last two years, we will continue to proactively engage and meet with any of the Bowlen children who express a desire to earn the right to succeed their father.

"As trustees, we will continue to honor Pat's long-standing plan to determine the Broncos' future ownership and any potential appointment of his children to leadership positions within the organization.

Our decisions will always be guided by what will ensure the long-term success and stability of the Broncos while also doing what's best for our community, our fans and the NFL.

“Consistent with Pat’s long-standing succession plan, our decisions are not to be dictated by the short-term or personal interests of any individual. We will vigorously defend Pat’s plan in responding to these and any statements that are contrary to Pat’s words and intentions.”

The statement from Ellis reads:

“As a trustee and someone Pat designated to oversee his team, I have an enormous responsibility to carefully administer his succession plan and make decisions in the best interests of the Broncos. We will continue to follow Pat’s blueprint — and nobody else’s — while keeping our focus as an organization on having a successful season.”

# Washington exec linked to cheerleader allegations resigns

By Darin Gantt  
Pro Football Talk  
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The unfolding Washington cheerleader scandal has apparently cost at least one executive his job.

According to Craig Hoffman of 106.7 The Fan, team executive Dennis Greene has resigned.

Greene was previously the team's president of business operations, but those duties were taken over when Brian Lefemina was hired from the league office two weeks ago. As recently as this morning, Greene was listed on the team website as president of hospitality.

The resignation came just before a new story in the New York Times which listed new details about Greene's involvement in a trip to Costa Rica in which cheerleaders said they felt like escorts. The team had promised they were "immediately looking into" the allegations.

Greene had been with the team since 2001.

It's unclear based on the report from The Fan if Greene was removed specifically because of the cheerleader story or for other reasons.

The Times article details the involvement of the cheerleader ambassadors, who weren't actual cheerleaders, but attractive props who made appearances on behalf of the team. Greene would reportedly survey a line of the ambassadors before games.

"He would look each of us up and down and say, I want that one and that one, and everyone hated when you got selected for that," a former ambassador said to the Times. "It was humiliating, like we were cattle."