

# 24 Hours ... With Bradley Chubb and His Team at the NFL Draft

By Jenny Vrentas

MMQB

May 1, 2018

Bradley Chubb is wondering what's inside the oversized plastic Hobby Lobby bag his agent is toting down the hallway of The Adolphus Hotel.

"We're 23 and a half hours away," replies the agent, Erik Burkhardt, as Chubb opens the door to his suite.

It's 7:30 p.m. central time on the eve of the NFL draft, and uncertainty abounds. This is true of the draft every year, but especially this year, when the identity of the No. 1 pick was shrouded in secrecy from even Browns senior staffers until hours before they were on the clock. Chubb, who won the Nagurski Trophy for the nation's top defender during his senior season at North Carolina State, was regarded by many teams as the best defensive player, in a draft flush with quarterbacks. A year earlier a player at his position, defensive end Myles Garrett, went first overall. But this year, one day before the draft, the potential permutations are dizzying.

Chubb did his best to stay out of the fray over the three months leading up to the draft. He'd often change the channel from sports shows to something neutral; he replied in interviews that yes, he did believe he was the best player in the draft, but if a team didn't think he was a good fit for them, that's fine. He showed up to each team visit in a suit, whether the team was picking No. 2 (Giants) or No. 8 (Bears).

But now that the final countdown is here, it's time for what's inside that Hobby Lobby bag. Burkhardt pulls out a large pad of paper, a wooden easel and a black marker. Chubb's parents, Stacey and Aaron, knock on the hotel room door a few minutes later and take a seat on the couch. This is akin to a final team meeting before the Super Bowl—everything has been done that could be done, but you want to make sure everyone is on the same page before the big event.

"This is our final 'what I'm hearing' before tomorrow, so we know as much as we possibly can going in," Burkhardt says. "We're going to go through scenarios."

He starts writing each pick, in order, on the pad of paper. Chubb knows the draft order by heart, too, murmuring each team before Burkhardt writes it down. Browns ... Giants ... Jets ... Browns ... Broncos ... Colts ... Bucs ... Bears ... Burkhardt stops writing after pick No. 8.

"Niners," Chubb continues, saying the name of the next team on the board, picking ninth.

"We're going to stop there," Burkhardt says. In other words, You're not going to be waiting that long.

There's no other feeling in sports akin to the buildup to when an NFL hopeful's phone rings on draft night. "Its own unique experience," Chubb says. That was amplified this year, with more intrigue surrounding a first round than NFL teams, agents or media members could recall in quite some time.

What, exactly, is draft eve like for a top-five prospect, his agent and his family and friends? The MMQB spent time with “Team Chubb”—as the group text message Burkhardt started months ago is named—to find out.

For starters, it’s much different from what Chubb’s father or his older brother, Brandon, experienced. Aaron Chubb was working at RPS, a part-time job at the shipping company as he finished up his degree at the University of Georgia, the day he was drafted by the Patriots in the 12th round in April 1989. He called Stacey, then his girlfriend, who was unaware a draft was even going on. “Drafted into what?” they joke now.

Brandon Chubb, a linebacker who played at Wake Forest, went undrafted in 2016. The Chubb family watched the entire draft that year without hearing his name called. He signed a few days later as a free agent with the Rams and was released during roster cuts; he later landed in Detroit, where he’s now competing for a roster spot under new coach Matt Patricia. Burkhardt represents Brandon as well, and as Bradley’s college career began to take off, Bradley took note of how hard Burkhardt worked to find opportunities for his big brother. “I knew I wanted that guy in my corner, too,” he says.

Burkhardt spent much of Wednesday on the phone with executives from NFL teams, doing his best to read the tea leaves for Chubb and his other clients. Burkhardt’s agency, Select Sports Group, represented 16 players entering this year’s draft among its six agents. All day Burkhardt was carrying around a spiral-bound, pigskin-textured notebook with a handwritten chart inside listing draft grades he’d been given for his clients by 20 to 25 NFL teams. In past drafts Burkhardt has represented a No. 12 pick (D.J. Hayden), a No. 20 pick (Kendall Wright) and No. 22 (Johnny Manziel), but the conversations about Chubb have been different. Two teams with picks in the top 10 told Burkhardt they had Chubb rated one spot higher than where they were selecting, i.e., top six for a team picking seventh. It was their playful way of saying, He’s not getting down to us.

While Burkhardt was culling information, Chubb was handling some off-the-field business. In the morning he led middle-school kids from the Dallas area in football drills at an NFL-sponsored clinic; in the afternoon, he had promotional appearances with companies including Old Spice. About two hours before the easel session in Chubb’s hotel room, Burkhardt drives up to the hotel to pick up Chubb and his agency’s marketing director, Jacquelyn Davis, for a speed dating event with NFL sponsors such as Pizza Hut and Snickers. In the pocket of Chubb’s light brown suit is a handful of mini Snickers, part of a plan he and Davis hatched to make an impression on the reps from one of Chubb’s favorite brands. “Hungry?” he’ll ask, while offering the candy. He’s charming enough to pull it off.

On the rooftop of the posh Joule Hotel, Chubb and Davis work the room alongside other top prospects like Sam Darnold and Josh Allen, while Burkhardt texts with a scout, a national media member and a No. 2 personnel executive. General managers tend to go dark the day before the draft, but Burkhardt has talked to high-ranking officials on nine teams since this morning: How do you think the top five plays out? Where do you think your guy goes? Some conversations last three minutes; others go on for 20. It’s a cat-and-mouse game where everyone has a vested interest and no one can be sure how honest the other side is being. Agents want their clients to go as high as possible. Teams want the players they like to still be there when they pick.

“All you can do is fight for your piece of the pie,” Burkhardt says. “All these conversations could be meaningless. But I can’t live in that world. I have to have every conversation with conviction, while also being realistic.”

After two hours, Chubb and his team hop in Burkhardt's black Escalade, headed back to the hotel for the easel session with mom and dad. Burkhardt cops to usually being a distracted driver, but not tonight, with Chubb in the car. "Are we clear?" he asks twice before pulling out of the garage. Precious cargo.

"I'm very conservative about the floor," Burkhardt tells the Chubb family. "It's really about the floor."

Part of representing a client in the draft is helping him go as high as possible; the other part is keeping expectations realistic. The wait in the green room on draft night can be excruciating enough. Burkhardt stops his list at eight, confident that no matter what pre-draft smokescreens teams are putting up, Chubb will not be waiting past that pick.

For the next half hour, Burkhardt presents different scenarios like a teacher at a chalkboard, stopping periodically to ask if there are any questions. At this point, ESPN has reported that Mayfield is likely to be the No. 1 overall pick. The Giants were roundly impressed by Chubb (and his suit) on his visit to team headquarters, and GM Dave Gettleman loves his "hog mollies," but he drafted a running back in the first round in his previous draft at Carolina, and it's widely suspected that he'll go for Penn State RB Saquon Barkley. The Jets are taking a quarterback at three. Browns GM John Dorsey, picking again at four, and Broncos GM John Elway, at five, were keeping their intentions particularly close to the vest.

"Elway said last week this pick is for sale, unless, possibly..." Burkhardt says, pointing at No. 5. "Look, these guys have been really quiet, so I can't get much of a read. But I know Von Miller is going up there talking about Bradley, saying he's a mix between himself and Khalil Mack. If Von has him on the other side, Von is going to keep eating; way less double teams. He's advocating for him, right? That's what he's doing."

Both parents are nodding. The Chubbs had heard Miller's comments. Bradley did not believe Miller had actually said that about him, until a video confirmed it. He's been quiet through tonight's presentation. The idea of his name being called tomorrow night in front of 20,000 fans, of finding out where his next home will be, of potentially playing next to Super Bowl 50 MVP Von Miller seems to just now be setting in.

"I'm taking it all in," Chubb says. "It hasn't really hit me yet, to be honest with you."

"You have done everything the right way, times 10, through this whole process," Burkhardt says. "We can only control so much, and whether it's up here [1] or down here [8], we keep it cool, keep it smiling. Everything happens for a reason."

Stacey stands up to take a photo of the easel, just in case she wants to reference their own personal draft board tomorrow. She turns to her son.

"Really, I have been so impressed, Bradley, with your composure," Stacey says. "You have a good mixture of confidence but showing your humility. And that's hard to do."

Three hours later, in a private room at Morton's steakhouse in uptown Dallas, there's a rare crack in that composure.

Burkhardt is hosting what's akin to a wedding rehearsal dinner for Chubb's family and friends. A special menu is at each seat, with CONGRATULATIONS, BRADLEY! printed at the top. Also as at a wedding, Burkhardt stands up and asks everyone in the room to support Chubb on the journey ahead.

"This is his squad," he says. "There's going to be good days, bad days, some hard times, injuries and everything else, and this is the group he's going to lean on to get through it with him. Here's to big No. 9 and a huge day tomorrow. His last night before he turns pro."

Burkhardt asks everyone in the room to take a turn giving a toast: Chubb's parents; his girlfriend, Bria; his sister-in-law, Cassidy; Burkhardt's wife, Kari; four other Select Sports Group employees who have been preparing Chubb for the draft; and seven friends from back home in Marietta, Ga., some of whom have been playing football with Chubb since they were on the 105-pound Milford Warriors. The year Chubb tore his ACL as a junior in high school, "the team went into panic," one of his high school friends tells the room. But Chubb stayed on the sideline, helped them get ready for games as if he was playing, and returned as a senior to lead the team to the state quarterfinals. Another of the seven buddies vows there will be seven stadium employees holding them back if Chubb goes first overall—or if he goes 31st.

The one person missing is Brandon, who is in Detroit for Lions minicamp. Missing practice time with his new head coach was a non-starter for a player fighting to make the roster, so he's booked on a commercial flight from Detroit to DFW after practice ends Thursday and is scheduled to land at 5:45 p.m. Not willing to risk rush-hour traffic, and wanting to be sure he'll make it on time, he'll out \$1,600 to rent a helicopter—cheaper than chartering a private flight to Dallas—to take him from DFW airport to AT&T Stadium. "I already know he loves me," Bradley says, "but the measures he went through?"

All day long, Chubb's phone has been pinged, well-wishers sending him the ubiquitous "You ready?" texts and others passing along articles speculating about his future. (The Athletic's Raiders writer reports, "A trade up? Bradley Chubb is a target if they can get to him.") But now he puts his phone away, focusing on the people in this room. He stands up and thanks each one, coming to his parents last.

"Everything you see right now is because of y'all two," Chubb says, suddenly unable to finish his sentence. His voice fades into sobs. He leans the weight of his 6'4", 269-pound frame on his chair, unable to get out another word for the next 60 seconds. "Let it out, man," a few in the audience say encouragingly. Stacey leaps up to hug him.

"Mom, you made us stay up until like 2 a.m. for school projects, but I needed that," he continues. "You were a perfectionist, but that pushed me to be who I am right now, because I always wanted to make you proud." His voice is breaking now. "Dad, you were always hard on us, but we needed that. They all said you raised us right. We needed that structure in our lives, and I'm so glad you all did that, because without y'all, I wouldn't be here." As Bradley fights back tears, Aaron rises to embrace his son, and Stacey joins them.

On every team interview, Chubb says, he was asked what motivates him. He always said his mom and dad. When he tore his ACL in high school, and thought his football career was over, Stacey encouraged him to pick something to help him get through it (he chose the Bible verse Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you..."). Aaron coached Bradley and his friends in middle school, and many of them still consider him their life coach. Together as a family, they took on the risk he made in deciding to return to North Carolina State for his senior year—a gamble that is about to pay off.

“It was probably one of the hardest things I had to do, because you never know what is going to happen,” Chubb says, voice faltering again. “I appreciate y’all being there for that, keeping my head on straight and making sure I stay humble, never let me get on my high horse. Everything I’ve been doing is because of you. I love y’all so much.”

Both parents are standing next to him now, his dad rubbing his back, waiting until he finishes to wrap their arms around him. Vegas has 8:1 odds on Chubb being the first player to cry on draft night, but the safer bet was tonight. There’s not a dry eye in the room.

The high school buddies are in their seats in Section 203 of AT&T Stadium. Brandon’s self-described “Mission Impossible” is complete—he touched down on Jerry Jones’ landing pad nearby the stadium with less than 30 minutes to spare. Bradley is seated between mom, dad and Brandon, and across the table from Burkhardt, waiting for his phone to ring.

Twenty-five minutes before the Browns go on the clock, Burkhardt receives a text confirming what has been widely speculated: Mayfield is going No. 1 to the Browns. Eight minutes before the start of the draft he receives another text from a source, planting the seed that the Browns might take a DB at four. The source estimates it’s 50/50 between Chubb and a DB, whom he does not name. Sitting at their table inside the green room, behind the stage on the field of AT&T Stadium, Burkhardt relays both pieces of information to Chubb.

Mayfield goes 1. The Giants pick Barkley at 2. Jets go QB, USC’s Sam Darnold, at 3. With the Browns on the clock at 4, it’s quiet in the green room for several minutes as time ticks down. Burkhardt receives two texts from officials on teams picking lower in the top 10, asking, “Are the Browns going to take him?” He doesn’t reply. Then, suddenly, the cameras rush over to a table in the corner—the pick is Ohio State cornerback Denzel Ward.

“My agent told me right before I went out, don’t be surprised by anything,” Chubb says, “so I wasn’t surprised when that happened.”

Others were. The NFL Network set gasps when commissioner Roger Goodell announces Ward’s name. The two teams picking later in the top 10 text Burkhardt again, now wanting to know if the Broncos are calling. Also surprised are the Broncos, who in none of their mock scenarios had Chubb still available to them at 5. They were ready to trade down—ESPN’s Adam Schefter reported Denver had a deal worked out with Buffalo, which was trying to move up for Josh Allen—but quickly scrapped those plans. “We didn’t trade,” Elway said at a press conference, “because Bradley was there.”

Chubb hadn’t taken a visit to the Broncos facility. He met with them only once, at the combine, and hadn’t had any communication since. And that’s why the 24 hours before the draft are like no other: No one knows exactly what will happen. When the call from the 303 area code comes in, Chubb is even-keeled as expected—while mom leaps up to do a little dance. The Broncos had Chubb rated as the top defensive player in the draft, and they can’t wait to pair him with Miller.

“The organization really wanted me,” Chubb says, “and I know it’s genuine.”

The next 12 hours would be a whirlwind: nearly two hours of media interviews, signing his first autographs as a member of the Broncos, an after-party at a lounge downtown. While in flight to Denver on the team’s private plane Friday morning, Stacey pulls up the photo she took of the easel on

Wednesday night and notices something: whether by a hunch or a hope, the Broncos were the one team Burkhardt had circled.

# Nick and Bradley Chubb can trace their roots back to a historic town in Georgia founded in the 1800s

By Morgan Moriarty

SB Nation

April 26, 2018

They aren't brothers, but the two are second cousins who grew up in Georgia. In fact, they both have family in Chubbtown, Georgia, which was founded by Nick and Bradley's ancestors in the 1800s. Via Dawg Nation:

That's the given name bestowed upon him from one of the eight original Chubb brothers who settled this area in the 1850s or '60s, depending on which account one believes.

What's certain, and verifiable in historical documents, is John Henry Chubb founded this community along with his wife, eight sons, a daughter, and a small colony of free blacks sometime around the Civil War. They came from North Carolina, near the Virginia border, and put down roots on a hillside above a creek in what then was and still is the middle of nowhere.

Most of the direct descendants of the family are named for one of those eight brothers: William, Henry, John, Thomas, Jacob, Isaac, George, and, of course, Nicholas.

The ancient history of Chubbtown sounds fascinating. According to a local article, Union soldiers in the Civil War spared the town during Sherman's March.

"A regiment of the Union Army, walking a trail of conquest through Georgia in 1864, spared the folks of this hamlet from plunder, making sure no one seized their livestock and their chickens for booty," an excerpt from a 1989 story in the Wilmington Morning Star reads.

"The story is not apocryphal," insists Kenneth Jones, a descendant of the family that settled Chubbtown. Jones heard it from his grandfather, who heard it from his father, who saw it happen.

A further explanation comes right at the 2:37 mark below:

"General [William Tecumseh] Sherman, when he left Atlanta, he was burning everything that was in sight," Eddie Washington, Nick's cousin said to ESPN. "Once he got to Chubbtown, when he found out that the Chubb brothers were self-supporting, he just told his soldiers to leave 'em be."

Per records obtained by the Wilmington Morning Star, the land was purchased sometime before or right at the start of the Civil War in 1864. The town was actually more diverse than the area around Chubbtown:

In addition to sprawling farms, there was a saw mill, a grit mill, a post office, a distillery, a general store, and a blacksmith. With wood from the sawmill and nails from the blacksmith, the Chubbs built the church, several cabins, and a lodge.

"It amazed me that blacks in the South were living free and thriving during the Civil War," Jones said.

The cousins are related through an aunt, according to Bradley, and the two grew up about 45 minutes from each other. Nick is from Cedartown, which is closer to Chubbtown, and Bradley grew up in Powder Springs.

Football runs in the Chubb family — Bradley's brother, Brandon, played linebacker at Wake Forest from 2012-15. He went undrafted in 2016, but spent time with the Los Angeles Rams', Detroit Lions', and San Francisco 49ers' practice squads. He'll get another chance to make the Lions' roster this summer.

The three didn't all grow up together, however.

As it so happens, the first time they all met was five years ago, when they bonded over football during Christmastime in Georgia. From ESPN:

"Christmas 2013," begins Brandon, a redshirt senior at Wake Forest. "I was home during bowl season. That was the first time we all caught up. Nick, with his success at Cedartown — word started spreading around Georgia. So, me and Brad kept up with him. There was definitely a football connection all around."

Bradley, a sophomore at NC State, chimes in: "I remember walking around our high school, and my coach asking me, 'Do you know that Chubb kid from Cedartown?' I started asking my dad, 'Do we know him?' So I think that helped get us together."

"When I heard there were Chubbs around, I had to meet them because we all love football. We're all very athletic," Nick, a sophomore at Georgia, adds. "I wanted to get in touch with them to see how everything was going with them."

Bradley and Nick almost didn't enter the NFL Draft in the same year, either.

Nick had made a name for himself for three years as Georgia's running back, but given the running back depth in 2017's draft class, with the likes of Christian McCaffrey and Leonard Fournette, he came back for his senior season last year. Bradley had his best season in 2017, too. It seems both of them were on the same page about coming back last year, for the most part:

"I saw him over New Year's Eve. ... That was around the time he made it public he was staying, and I asked him what went into his decision," Bradley Chubb told ESPN.com last fall. "At that time, I didn't know exactly what I wanted to do yet. Talking to him, seeing where his mind was at, my mind was at the same place. One of the reasons he told me is because he felt he didn't want to go off on the bad note his team went out on last year. And I just had a lot of similarities in the thought process. I felt it was best for me to stay."

We'll see how fast Nick's NFL dreams comes true in Dallas.

# Sacking quarterbacks, stealing towels ... inside the mind games of NC State's Bradley Chubb

By Joe Giglio  
The News Observer  
April 26, 2018

Hide your towels, Bradley Chubb is coming.

The N.C. State defensive end isn't going to change his towel-thieving ways just because ESPN caught him snagging Clemson quarterback Kelly Bryant's towel last week.

He won't change just because Clemson coach Dabo Swinney jokingly called him out or because one of his former teammates (with Chubb in on the joke) filmed a short video on the subject and posted it on Twitter.

Nope, if there's an edge to be had – within the rules – Chubb is willing to swipe a towel or embellish a push (see the Syracuse game) in order to gain it.

Chubb said he doesn't know Bryant, he was just going through his normal routine. After three different plays in the first half, Chubb pulled the small towel from Bryant's waist.

"I do that every week," Chubb said of the towel-swiping. "I've got film from Syracuse, Notre Dame, all that. I do it every week, the camera just caught me this week."

Which begs the question: Why?

"As a quarterback, the first thing you do before you hike the ball is wipe your hands on the towel," Chubb said. "If I take that away from you, that's one thing you're thinking about: Where's my towel? Who keeps taking my towel?"

"It's just mind games."

The Tigers seemed to take Chubb's antics with good spirits. Swinney joked a member of Clemson's social media team had a laptop on the sidelines in Saturday's 38-31 Tigers' win because he was ordering towels from Amazon. Clemson defensive end Christian Wilkins was jealous of Chubb's ingenuity in quarterback harassment.

"That was great," Wilkins said, according to ESPN. "I don't want to swaggerjack, but I wish I thought of it first."

One of Chubb's former Wolfpack teammates, Hampton Billips, posted a 30-second video of Chubb getting his towel swiped in different around-the-house situations on Twitter on Wednesday night. The video ends with the words: "Trying to teach this man a lesson. Can't be stealing towels." Hide your towels, Bradley Chubb is coming.

Clemson's Swinney throws some snark at NC State's Doeren over laptop remarks

Clemson football coach Dabo Swinney, in his weekly press conference on Tuesday, makes a joke about N.C. State defensive end Bradley Chubb's towel-stealing antics and also said he was disappointed in Doeren's accusation of Clemson illegally using a McClatchy.

"That was great," Wilkins said, according to ESPN. "I don't want to swaggerjack, but I wish I thought of it first."

Chubb doesn't plan on changing his tactics, which have rubbed some people the wrong way. He flopped, to borrow a basketball term, after he was shoved by a Syracuse linemen in the second half of the Wolfpack's win over the Orange on Sept. 30.

He also spit on the Florida State logo after the Wolfpack's road win over the Seminoles on Sept. 23, which caused a minor postgame commotion.

Chubb, who leads the ACC with 17.5 tackles for loss, said he doesn't think any of his extra-curricular activities should distract from his outstanding play this season.

"I'm having fun," Chubb said. "It's the only reason to play the game – to have fun."

# NC State DE Chubb eager to apply pass-rush lessons learned

By STAFF  
The Charlotte Observer  
June 29, 2017

North Carolina State's Bradley Chubb used to believe pass rushing was solely about getting to the quarterback as quickly as possible.

Ask him now, and his answer is far more detailed.

"It's understanding how that person lining up across from you thinks," he said, "how they're set, how they react to different things. . It's seeing those small things."

It's an example of how the senior has matured into one of the nation's top defensive ends and an NFL first-round draft prospect.

The 6-foot-4, 275-pound native of Marietta, Georgia, ranked tied for fourth in FBS with 22 tackles for loss last season and tied for 19th with 10.5 sacks. He flirted with entering the NFL draft but rejoins a veteran front that helped the Wolfpack rank eighth nationally against the run (108.6 yards).

Chubb said much of that success is rooted in understanding "the art of pass rushing" – a term picked up from former Wolfpack line coach and current New Orleans Saints assistant Ryan Nielsen – since arriving in 2014 as a 240-pound freshman.

"When I first heard it, I was like, 'What does he mean? Everybody's doing the same thing, you're just running up the field,' " Chubb said in an interview with The Associated Press. "But when you sit down and you're looking at the differences and looking at the small thing a tackle does, that's when it clicks." He nearly doubled his sophomore totals (5.5 sacks, 12 tackles for loss) last year as a result, helping the Wolfpack close with wins against rival North Carolina and against Vanderbilt in the Independence Bowl. Chubb said he tries to study details such as how a lineman uses his hands or moves his feet to handle different rushing techniques.

"Let's say you set them up with a speed rush, and then the next play you know what he's going to do because you just speed-rushed him," Chubb said. "That's when the power comes into play. I feel like the preparation brings you right to the field, because you know exactly what you've been studying all week. "You know exactly how you're going to attack different things he does. It's pretty much working off yourself."

His father, former Georgia defensive lineman/linebacker Aaron Chubb, said he has noticed changes in how his son talks about playing defensive end when the two watch games together.

"Early on, it was just like, 'Trying to make a play,' " Aaron Chubb said. "But then as he grew and got better and matured, it was more of a strategy. It was more of a concept that he was trying to grasp. That's where I can see that he's grown and become a better student of the game."

Fifth-year coach Dave Doeren has noticed another sign of maturity: Chubb is better at maintaining poise and shaking off frustration during practices and games.

He'll need all of those lessons this fall as a focus of opposing linemen.

NC State opens its season against South Carolina in Charlotte on Sept. 3.

# Bradley Chubb stealing headlines from cousin Nick -- and everyone else

By Andrea Adleson

ESPN

September 25, 2017

NC State arrived back in Raleigh, North Carolina, after a stirring win over Florida State around 7:30 p.m. Saturday. Bradley Chubb and teammate B.J. Hill decided to get some sushi for dinner at a local restaurant.

While they ate, the Mississippi State-Georgia game played on one of the televisions. Chubb looked up to see highlights of his cousin Nick rolling through the Mississippi State defense for two touchdowns in an impressive 31-3 victory.

For perhaps the first time since they got to college, both Chubbs made headlines on the same day. Nick had his typical big game, and Bradley had a big game too, with two sacks and a forced fumble in the Wolfpack's 27-21 upset win over Florida State. But a postgame clip that showed Bradley spitting at midfield overshadowed that performance.

Bradley has since apologized, explaining he allowed his emotions to get the best of him. But what Bradley did was hard to square with the young man who sat in a meeting room inside the Georgia football facility in the summer of 2015 with his brother Brandon, father Aaron and cousin Nick.

The four gathered to talk about the Chubb football connections. Bradley sat quietly as Brandon, Aaron and Nick spoke. Bradley and Nick grew up 50 miles apart, and first learned about each other thanks to their own burgeoning football careers, when they got constantly asked whether they were related. A little digging found that they were, and soon the Chubb cousins met for the first time in winter 2013. Bradley and Nick were getting recruited at the same time. Nick was the No. 63 player in the ESPN 300 in the class of 2014 with offers from 23 Power 5 schools.

Bradley was a late bloomer coming off a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his knee his junior year, a three-star recruit with offers from seven Power 5 schools.

They both played as true freshmen at their respective universities, though Nick grabbed far more headlines after a breakout season in which he ran for 1,547 yards. Bradley played mostly special teams. When the Chubbs met up the following summer, Nick had preseason Heisman hype; Bradley was just hoping to start at his new position, defensive end.

Tall and still undersized for the position, Bradley had drawn praise from NC State coach Dave Doeren for his work ethic and strength (that is a trait all the Chubbs have in abundance). At the time, Bradley said, "If I go through camp healthy, it could be my first college start. If that happens, it's going to take off from there."

But really, the idea that both Nick and Bradley Chubb still would be playing as college seniors seemed far-fetched even then. Nick almost certainly was headed for NFL stardom sooner rather than later, but a knee injury in the 2015 season changed that course. As Nick rehabbed, Bradley blossomed. During their

junior seasons, Nick became a 1,000-yard rusher again, and Bradley finished fourth in the nation in tackles for loss.

They each faced a tough decision about their futures, a prospect that probably never occurred to either of them as they sat in that room together.

“I saw him over New Year’s Eve. ... That was around the time he made it public he was staying, and I asked him what went into his decision,” Bradley Chubb told ESPN.com. “At that time, I didn’t know exactly what I wanted to do yet. Talking to him, seeing where his mind was at, my mind was at the same place. One of the reasons he told me is because he felt he didn’t want to go off on the bad note his team went out on last year. And I just had a lot of similarities in the thought process. I felt it was best for me to stay.”

So here Nick and Bradley Chubb are, among the best players in the nation at their respective positions. They still text each other often to stay in touch. And now it is Bradley who is listed on Mel Kiper Jr.’s latest Big Board, at No. 19. Since he arrived at NC State, Bradley has gained 50 pounds and developed into an All-American performer. He is no longer the quiet young man sitting in the background. Excruciating losses to Florida State, Clemson and a slew of others through the years have raised Bradley’s competitive spirits. He told teammates headed into Florida State the game was personal for him.

“When I decided to stay here, these were the games I circled on my list,” Chubb said. “Every year, we’ve come so close and having it slip away from us at the last minute -- I never wanted that feeling again. I came back for a reason. I didn’t come back just for selfish reasons. I came back to finish what I started with the team.”

Bradley has grown into an emotional leader for NC State, one unafraid to speak out. Perhaps that helps from a motivation standpoint, but too many emotions also can lead to what happened Saturday after the game.

Next time, Bradley knows the focus needs to be on his performance only. That way he and Nick have a chance to share the spotlight again, for all the right reasons.

# NC State's Bradley Chubb named ACC Defensive Player of the Year

By Steve Wiseman  
The News Observer  
November 29, 2017

A problem for opposing offenses all season, N.C. State's Bradley Chubb easily won the ACC defensive player of the year award on Wednesday.

A 6-4, 275-pound senior defensive end, Chubb led the ACC in sacks (10) as well as tackles for loss (26). He had 10 more tackles for loss than any other ACC player and his total is second-best in the country. With one game remaining in his college career – a bowl game – Chubb already holds N.C. State's career records with 26 sacks and 60 tackles for loss. He recorded at least one tackle for loss in every N.C. State game but one this season. The ACC named him its defensive lineman of the week three times this season.

The league's panel of 14 head coaches and select 45 media members voted him the overwhelming winner as defensive player of the year. Chubb received 45 votes, followed by Clemson's Clelin Farrell and Christian Wilkins, who each received four votes. Others receiving votes were Micah Kiser and Quin Blanding with two each and Miami teammates Jaquan Johnson and Shaquille Quarterman, with one each.

Chubb joins Levar Fisher as the only N.C. State players to win the ACC defensive player of the year award. Fisher, a linebacker, won the award in 2000.

Chubb is also a finalist to win the Chuck Bednarik and Bronko Nagurski awards, given to the nation's top defensive player, and is a semifinalist for the Ted Hendricks Award as the nation's top defensive end.

# One for the ages: A Historical look at Bradley Chubb's Outstanding Career

By Steve Wiseman  
The News Observer  
November 29, 2017

On Monday night, NC State's Bradley Chubb was announced as the winner of the 2017 Bronco Nagurski Award. It's the cherry on top of an exceptional four-year career in red and white for Chubb.

Let's take a quick run through some of the future first round picks numbers.

### What he did this season

Well, where should we start? There are plenty of options; Bradley Chubb did absolutely everything for the Wolfpack. For the second straight season, Chubb recorded 10 sacks; he's one of only two players — along with Ja'Von Rolland-Jones of Arkansas State — to record double-digit sacks in back-to-back seasons.

NC State's defensive line is outstanding, but Chubb is a one-man demolition crew. And a good one at that. The 6-foot-4 senior led the ACC with 25 tackles for loss — way more than anyone else. Clemson's Clelin Ferrell was second with 17 tackles for loss. Chubb's tackles for loss resulted in a total of 103 lost yards for NC State's opponents.

After four more QB pressures in NC State's win over North Carolina, Chubb finished the season with 55 total QB pressures, per Pro Football Focus. That's a top-five number in the FBS.

According to Football Study Hall, Chubb accounted for 27 run stuffs this season. That, too, was easily the most in the ACC this season.

Chubb, however, isn't done there. Havoc Rate is a Football Study Hall statistics that measures the percentage of plays that a defense or position group records a tackle for loss, forces a fumble, or defends a pass. NC State's defensive line, led by Chubb, posted a Havoc Rate of 7.4 percent — No. 4 in the FBS.

### Historical Perspective

Even if Bradley Chubb decides to sit out NC State's bowl game — a totally reasonable decision, by the way — then he will still finish at or near the top in several statistical categories.

It should come as no surprise, but Chubb's chief rival in NC State's record book is Mario Williams — the No. 1 pick in the 2006 NFL Draft and an All-Pro defensive end. Williams holds the season and career records for sacks and tackles for loss. Here's how the two pass-rushing menaces stack up.

# Bradley Chubb Strikes a Balance Between Serious and Fun

By Jonathan Jones

MMQB

March 20, 2018

Bradley Chubb, the best pass-rushing prospect in this year's NFL draft, is a jokester and a habitual towel thief. More on the latter later—first, a look into Chubb's mind.

After consulting with his family and Wolfpack head coach Dave Doeren, Chubb decided at the beginning of last year that he would return to NC State for his senior season, even though defensive line coach Ryan Nielsen took a job with the New Orleans Saints.

Just before Valentine's Day in 2017, the Wolfpack announced the hiring of a new defensive line coach. Enter Kevin Patrick, who was a former two-time national champ with the Miami Hurricanes and 1992 Big East Defensive Player of the Year before joining the coaching ranks. Chubb was the first player to meet Patrick when he arrived on campus, and quickly the stud defensive end realized his coach has a stereotypical 'serious football coach' demeanor.

To test his new coach's limits, Chubb went to a nearby dollar store and bought about 15 Valentine's Day cards, wrote "Can't wait to meet you! Coach KP" on the inside and placed them in the lockers of his fellow defensive linemen.

"I'm going to have to ask Chubb about that," Patrick tells The MMQB Monday afternoon, having never before heard that story more than a year after the prank was pulled. "I got to grab him. That's funny, man."

For the past year or so, Chubb's personality has been on display alongside his football talents in a fashion similar to Von Miller. And his personality has attracted a following of sorts. At his pro day on Monday, NFL Films was there, taping Chubb's every step. Chubb is also taking part in a six-video series with his cousin and former Georgia running back Nick Chubb in partnership with Chubb Insurance, a publicly traded insurance company that happens to share a name with the draft prospects.

What's most important, though, is that Chubb rushes the passer like Miller does more than he acts like him in front of the camera—and that's clear to the top prospect. He went through the gauntlet of position drills at defensive end (no scout or coach from any of the 32 teams represented Monday wasted time putting the 275-pound 4-3 defensive end through linebacker drills). And apparently unsatisfied with his 4.41-second 20-yard shuttle time at the combine, a time that ranked fourth among all defensive linemen in Indianapolis, Chubb shaved his time to 4.34 seconds Monday and chose to sit on the rest of his combine numbers.

As a pass-rushing prospect out of NC State, Chubb is second only to Mario Williams, who went No. 1 overall in 2006. Chubb, a former three-star recruit, had 5 1/2 sacks his sophomore year, 9 1/2 sacks his junior season and then 10 in his senior campaign where he earned the Bronko Nagurski award for the nation's top defender.

Chubb would have likely been a first-rounder had he chosen to enter the draft last year, but he chose to stay in school to work on his secondary moves and stamina. Chubb's long arm had been lethal in ACC play, but he would have been figured out if that's all he had going into 2017. So his hands got more violent and faster as he also worked on his counter moves. Along the way he developed greater endurance, and Doeren saw his stud pass rusher making more plays at the end of each half this past season.

Patrick, the defensive line coach, said he heard multiple times Monday from coaches who raved about Chubb's relentlessness during the drills.

"He never stops. His effort is unbelievable," Patrick says. "They were preaching to the choir but it's always impressive when they talk about a 275-pound guy who is relentless."

At least a third of all NFL defensive line coaches attended this pro day, which was packed with line prospects other than Chubb. B.J. Hill stood out as second-best on the day while Justin Jones and Kentavious Street both performed well. The only head coach in attendance was Patriots' Bill Belichick, who put the linemen through their final bag drill before introducing himself to Chubb. "We're picking 31st," Belichick said to Chubb. "Not a chance we'll see you there."

On Sunday Chubb met with three of the six teams picking the top seven (the Browns have picks No. 1 and 4), and on Monday he had meetings set up with two others. Agent Erik Burkhardt has remained mum about which teams, though.

It's difficult to imagine the Colts and Buccaneers aren't among those teams, though. Bucs GM Jason Licht was the only general manager to show up to the pro day and Tampa Bay has a need at defensive end even with the addition of Vinny Curry. The Colts have most closely been associated with Chubb, and their defensive line coach Mike Phair kept a close eye on Chubb throughout the workouts. Pick any mock draft published before last weekend, and it likely had Chubb slotted as the No. 3 going to Indianapolis. Then the Colts traded down to 6 with the Jets—Chubb was playing NBA 2K when his roommate got an alert on his phone, to which Chubb replied "Oh... O.K."—but they still figure to be in the Chubb sweepstakes, one spot ahead of the Buccaneers.

"I feel like I'm a top-five caliber player," Chubb said, "but if I get drafted seventh, eighth, it doesn't matter to me."

Because the tape, the combine and the pro day workout all speak for themselves, NFL types ask Chubb's college coaches about his personality, and that's where this distinction is important. Chubb is quick to make a joke, but it's clear that he's not the class clown. I spoke with several people close to him—his agent, his girlfriend, his coaches and even NC State's sports information director who has hosted Chubb and others at her house for years—who all say he's well aware when he needs to be serious. Back to the towel-stealing ... that lies somewhere between Chubb being serious and joking. It's unclear when this thievery began, but throughout the season Chubb was regularly spotted swiping towels dangling from opposing quarterbacks' hip pockets. Of course, questions about the heists came up throughout his meetings at the combine.

"The only thing I told them was it was something I did to get in people's heads. That's how I play the game," Chubb says. "I always do stuff. If it's the smallest advantage, I'm going to do it. I did it every game pretty much and some quarterbacks let it go. But Clemson caught it and he was bothered by it. He

kept trying to get his towel back. I saw it bothered him so I kept doing it and trying to get him out of his game and got caught on the skycam.”

Clemson quarterback Kelly Bryant is the most notable Chubb victim. Three times Chubb snatched Bryant’s towel during Clemson’s 38–31 win in Raleigh. The first time, Bryant noticed it but let it go. The second time, Chubb employed an old pickpocket maneuver by bumping into Bryant while slipping the towel away. No immediate reaction from Bryant.

The third time, though, Bryant had enough. Chubb crept up behind and snatched the towel and Bryant turned around immediately. A Clemson offensive lineman held Chubb up to return Mr. Bryant’s property to him. An official would later talk to Chubb about his antics, but Chubb never got an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty for his heists all season.

“Like I told all our guys,” Doeren says, “if you play the way he’s playing, no, I do not have an issue with it. “He wasn’t a player—really until this year—that drew a lot of personal attention. He had made a lot of plays but he was creative this year in his branding. He earned that. It was fun.”  
It was fun? Chubb isn’t ruling out continuing the tradition in the NFL.

“It just depends,” he says. “A lot of the stuff just comes to me at the spur of the moment.”

# Bradley Chubb might be 'the best player in the draft'

By Jonathan Jones

ESPN

January 19, 2018

ESPN's Mel Kiper released his NFL mock draft on Thursday. It is the first of what will be many Kiper mocks between now and the actual draft in April.

Also on Thursday, I explored the question of whether the Indianapolis Colts should take a pass-rusher (North Carolina State's Bradley Chubb) or a running back (Penn State's Saquon Barkley) with the No. 3 overall pick. Kiper would opt for Chubb, and on Thursday afternoon he held a conference call on which he explained why he had the Colts taking Chubb despite Barkley being ranked higher on the draft big board.

"You could make the argument [Chubb] is the best player in the draft," Kiper said. "He's not that far off from being the No. 1 guy in the draft. He had two great years back-to-back. He's got a great attitude, great approach. He's not the elite talent that [2017 No. 1 overall draft pick] Myles Garrett is, but he's more consistent and more on a daily basis gave you everything he had against the run and the pass. He chased down plays. He's not Myles Garrett, but he's close enough to say, 'Hey, he could be the No. 1 player on anybody's board.'"

Kiper thinks the Colts can find a running back later in the draft. Veteran Frank Gore is a free agent, Marlon Mack finished up his rookie season by rushing for 358 yards and adding another 225 receiving yards and veteran Robert Turbin will be back after missing the final 10 games with an elbow injury. Now back to Chubb.

As I noted Thursday, the Colts desperately need a pass-rusher who will cause opposing quarterbacks to point out where he's lined up. Chubb had 54.5 tackles for a loss and 25 sacks during his final three seasons at North Carolina State. He's exactly the type of player the Colts need on a defense that registered only 25 sacks last season.

"First of all, he has a real good takeoff," Kiper said. "He has strong hands. He has really good feet technique -- rip, swim move, everything with him. He chases. He goes through double-teams. He gets coverage sacks. He hustles; he never quits. He practices hard and sets the tone for the rest of the team. Great character."

# Broncos select Bradley Chubb: Here's how people reacted on Twitter to Denver's NFL draft pick

By Joe Nguyen  
The Denver Post  
April 26, 2018

The Denver Broncos selected North Carolina State defensive end Bradley Chubb with the No. 5 overall pick in the NFL draft on Twitter. Here's how people reacted on Twitter:

John Elway  
@johnelway

We really wanted Bradley Chubb and are thrilled to make him a Denver Bronco.

Bradley's the best defensive player in the draft. He can rush the passer, is a hard worker and will be a great fit, complementing Von, Shane & Shaq!

D-Ware  
@DeMarcusWare

I like it @Broncos with that Bradley Chubb selection !! Gonna be killer with @VonMiller 🏈🏈

Denver Broncos  
@Broncos

Safe to say @VonMiller approves of our #BroncosDraft pick ... 😊

Case Keenum  
@casekeenum7

Welcome to Denver @astronaut!!! Let's do this!! #BroncosDraft

Ed McCaffrey  
@87ed

Welcome to @Broncos Bradley Chubb!

CBS Sports  
@CBSSports

Seeing Von Miller and Bradley Chubb on the same defense..

Pack Pride  
@PackPride  
Bradley Chubb.  
Von Miller.  
Let's do this.

Samantha Feil  
@samfeil\_

Von Miller and Bradley Chubb on the same line 🤔🤔🤔🤔 super bowl '19 SUP  
Anthony

@AskTrillAC

Bradley Chubb on one side. Von Miller on the other. My God.

Evan Silva

@evansilva

#Broncos Updated Front 7

LE Derek Wolfe

RE Adam Gotsis

NT Domata Peko

OLB Von Miller / Shane Ray

OLB Bradley Chubb / Shaq Barrett

ILB Brandon Marshall

ILB Todd Davis

#SackSZN

@BroncosRT

Just a reminder Bradley Chubb is 6'4 275 pounds and runs a faster 40 than Jarvis Landry and has a higher vertical than AJ green

Joel Klatt

@joelklatt

Von Miller and Bradley Chubb...Get a lead Case....get a lead @Broncos

Cody Roark

@CodyRoarkNFL

HUGE PICK BY THE #BRONCOS! Bradley Chubb, Derek Wolfe, Von Miller, Shane Ray, Shaq Barrett, Clinton McDonald.... that D Line is scary!

Brett Kollmann

@BrettKollmann

Bradley Chubb and Von Miller. The word misery has a new definition: "3rd and 7 in Denver, Colorado"

NFL Research

@NFLResearch

The last time the Broncos selected in the Top 5, they drafted 6-time Pro Bowler Von Miller #2 overall in 2011. He will be joined on the edge by 2018's 5th overall pick, Bradley Chubb.#Broncos #NFLDraft

Chris Jose

@ChrisJoseWSB

Cobb County, GA is proud! Congrats to @astronaut Bradley Chubb. The @Broncos D just got NASTY again. I'm sure @peacelovechubb is one proud mom!

Mark Kizla

@markkizla

Bradley Chubb? There at No. 5? Are you kidding me?

The Ringer

@ringer

Quarterbacks in the AFC West after seeing the Broncos take Bradley Chubb. #NFLDraft

Cecil Lammey

@CecilLammey

Bradley Chubb can be an incredible player for the #Broncos defense. strength, length and a non-stop motor coupled with high football intelligence equals perennial Pro Bowler. @1043TheFan #NFLDraft

# Broncos grab Bradley Chubb to team with Von Miller

By Arnie Stapleton  
Associated Press  
April 26, 2018

Bradley Chubb and Von Miller are big fans of one another. Now they're teammates, too.

Seven months after calling his team a bunch of softies, Broncos general manager John Elway picked one of the toughest players in the draft in Chubb at No. 5.

The prolific edge rusher from North Carolina State is a high-motor pass rusher with a rare mix of speed, strength and savvy that helps him beat double teams to get to the quarterback or stuff the running back.

Despite constant attention his senior season, Chubb collected 26 tackles for loss, 10 sacks and the Bronco Nagurski Trophy as the nation's top defender.

It's safe to say Miller approved of the pick.

"Ahhhh! Ahhhh! Ahhha!" Miller hollered in a videotaped selfie as St. Jude patient Austin Denton of Albuquerque, New Mexico, announced his beloved Broncos' pick Thursday night.

It's safe to say Elway and his staff had a similar reaction when the Cleveland Browns, thought to be high on Chubb, instead took Ohio State D-back Denzel Ward at No. 4 to go with their surprising pick of QB Baker Mayfield at No. 1.

Elway said his phone blew up with "a ton" of trade offers from other teams desperate to move up to fifth, "but we really wanted Bradley and we're thrilled that he was still there."

Coach Vance Joseph said seeing Bradley "there at five was definitely a surprise — and for sure exciting."

Chubb is Denver's highest draft pick since Elway chose Miller second overall in 2011 and he immediately upgrades an already stout defensive front where Miller, Shaq Barrett and Shane Ray suddenly look even more formidable.

Chubb said at the NFL combine that he'd love to land in Denver and learn firsthand from his hero.

"If I got to play with Von Miller that would be crazy. He's such a great player, such a dynamic player. Definitely could learn a lot from him," Chubb said.

Chubb also provides the antidote for the constant double- and triple-teams that opponents have thrown at Miller over the last two years. The Super Bowl 50 MVP's production slipped following DeMarcus Ware's injury-marred 2016 and retirement last summer.

Coming off a 5-11 debacle, the Broncos sorely needed a quarterback upgrade this offseason and they filled that void in free agency with the signing of Case Keenum to a two-year, \$36 million deal.

That left Elway with the option of bypassing this year's deep class of promising but problematic quarterbacks to grab a blue chipper.

Still, few foresaw Chubb slipping past the first few picks.

Last week, Miller said he'd love to play alongside Chubb.

"He's Khalil Mack and Von Miller put together," Miller said with a laugh. "He is a great player and I would love to have him on my team. You don't come across a guy like that often. We don't (normally) have the No. 5 pick in the draft. I hope we don't have a high pick like that for a while. So if we can steal a player like that, I'm all for it."

That was an echo of Chubb's comments at the NFL combine when he said, "I try to take Khalil Mack and Von Miller and put them into one person," modeling Mack's strength and Miller's speed.

Chubb comes into the NFL a better run stuffer than Miller was as a rookie. Like any great pass rusher, though, he said he takes the most pride in getting to the quarterback.

Even with a stockpile of moves, however, Chubb knows he'll have to refine his game in the NFL, and that's where Miller's tutelage will come in.

"It's definitely going to have to get fine-tuned because there's no weak offensive linemen in the NFL," Chubb said.

# For John Elway and Broncos, Bradley Chubb plus Von Miller equals more than a franchise quarterback

By Paul Klee  
Colorado Springs Gazette  
April 26, 2018

The “No Fly Zone” has “the Astronaut.”

Quarterback, schmwarterback.

John Elway and the Broncos put their case in Case Keenum’s hands and selected the best defensive player in the entire NFL draft Thursday. They used the No. 5 pick on primo pass-rusher Bradley Chubb, who was shockingly made available when the Browns drafted a cornerback at No. 4.

The Broncos lucked out. Asked how many scenarios he had envisioned that would bring Chubb to Denver, Elway said emphatically: “Zero.”

The Browns will be the Browns, and Elway continues his love-hate affair with Cleveland. “The Drive” now has “The Slide.” (By one spot.) A bunch of Broncos staffers played 18 holes on Thursday morning. They could've played 72. Chubb was a no-brainer, automatic, “press send now” pick for the Broncos.

On opposite ends of the line, the Denver ‘D’ now boasts Von Miller, the No. 2 pick in 2011, and Chubb, the No. 5 pick this year. Vroom, vroom. This Broncos pass rush was inevitable. Two-plus-five equals No. 7.

“We didn't think he (Chubb) would be there,” Elway said after drafting the closest thing to a sure thing.

The '15 Broncos were the first team in history with two cornerbacks named All-Pro (Chris Harris Jr., Aqib Talib). By using a top-five pick on Chubb, Denver believes it soon will have two All-Pro pass rushers.

“He’s Khalil Mack and Von Miller put together,” Von said of Bradley, his new dancing partner.

“If we could steal a player like that, I’m all for it,” Miller added.

Know who wouldn’t be? Patrick Mahomes, Philip Rivers, Derek Carr (and Keenum, in practice). Von can host his annual “pass-rush summit” strictly within the AFC West: Von, Chubb, Mack, Melvin Ingram, Joey Bosa and Justin Houston. That’s 53 sacks last season in the division. Plus Chubb.

Elway had said the Broncos labeled four quarterback prospects with first-round grades. Then the Broncos passed on quarterbacks Josh Allen and Josh Rosen. Woo, boy, for a minute there it was Mile High drama: when the Browns took Baker Mayfield (No. 1) and Denzel Ward (No. 4), that left Allen and Rosen right in front of Elway’s nose. It had to be tempting. He said it wasn’t. I don’t believe him.

“When it was all said and done ... we felt pretty comfortable with Case Keenum,” Elway said.

“We still believe Paxton can be a good quarterback in this league,” he said.

Other than let Lynch play another snap, there are two ways Denver's decision to pass on the quarterbacks makes the Broncos look foolish: if the Keenum era crashes and burns, or if Allen (No. 7 to Buffalo) or Rosen (No. 10 to Arizona) wins a Super Bowl and the Elway Broncos don't.

"There were nine mistakes made ahead of me," Rosen told reporters in the Dallas area. "I will make sure over the next decade or so they know they made a mistake."

Chubb was a safe pick. And the right one. Chubb had 20 sacks and 44 tackles for a loss over his final two seasons against ACC competition. Chubb, whose brother nicknamed him "Astronaut Jr.," is 21, 6-foot-4 and 269 pounds. He's from Marietta, Ga., and last season passed former No. 1 overall pick Mario Williams as North Carolina State's all-time sacks king.

"He's all football," Elway said. "He loves football."

Von Miller posted a video online of his wild-and-crazy reaction to the Chubb pick.

Harris, Bradley Roby and Darian Stewart — the remaining members of the original "No Fly Zone" — must love the pick. Many moons ago I asked Harris if Von Miller and DeMarcus Ware were considered part of the "No Fly Zone." Harris said, "Definitely." (He says "definitely" to a lot of things.) Once I dropped the voice recorder out of view, Harris laughed and added: "But it starts with us (the defensive backs)."

Now the Broncos will start the 2018 season with a turbo-driven pass rush.

Shane Ray should be worried. The Broncos have until May 3 to decide whether to pick up the fifth-year option on Ray, who is more luxury than need at this point. They should look to trade Ray for a second- or third-round pick on Friday. The Wade Phillips' "NASCAR" package is gassed up and can move with the size and speed of Miller, Chubb and Shaq Barrett.

"We have to make sure that we have the most dangerous pass rush in the NFL," Chubb said.

The Broncos still have needs at running back, cornerback, tight end, offensive line and linebacker, in order. With the 40th pick, the Broncos should look long and hard at Georgia running back Nick Chubb.

Double Chubble.

# Despite stardom, Bradley Chubb embraces underdog persona

By Edward Aschoff

ESPN

April 26, 2018

As Bradley Chubb snaked his way through the plethora of top-notch high school prospects competing at the Adidas 7-on-7 National Championships in early April, one thing became abundantly clear.

Not many people really noticed him.

Despite the vibrant tie-dye shirt atop his hulking 6-foot-4, 269-pound frame, Chubb didn't stand out.

Kids buzzed past him during their off time at a nifty players' lounge to stand in line for pictures with Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver JuJu Smith-Schuster ... and his French bulldog, Boujee.

Even former Alabama All-American safety and projected top-10 NFL draft pick Minkah Fitzpatrick, who traded his signature curled locks for a fresh fade, was more recognizable than Chubb.

"I come out here and no one knows me. That's like the perfect thing," the former NC State All-American defensive end told ESPN at the competition. "It keeps me working hard. I want to keep proving people wrong, no matter what I do. Playing football, everybody doubted me from high school to now."

The lack of attention from the sport's rising stars didn't really bother Chubb, but he does sense a trend. As names like Josh Allen, Baker Mayfield, Sam Darnold and Josh Rosen and their dazzling arms buried Chubb in draft talk, he was prepared to hear several names before his on draft night, which was proved right as he went No. 5 to the Denver Broncos. And he is convinced the teams who passed on him have made a mistake.

"I feel like I should be the No. 1 pick, but I realize that not everyone is gonna like me," Chubb said. "They have their people that they want so I have to let that go by and whatever team I go to, I'm going to be happy and they're going to be happy."

"There are great players in this draft, but my value is a lot higher. It's not a cocky thing, just a confidence thing."

There's no question that Chubb was college football's best defender in 2017. He won both the Hendricks (best defensive end) and Nagurski (best defender) awards during a fantastic senior year, in which he registered 73 tackles with 26 tackles for loss and 10 sacks. Despite going so high in the draft, Chubb said he believed he deserved even better. He believed that after four seasons with 204 tackles, 60 tackles for loss and 26 sacks, Roger Goodell should have called his name first.

Chubb's self-confidence hasn't always been there though. He arrived at NC State in 2014 motivated to prove that he was an elite talent, but Chubb admitted he didn't take his game or his preparation seriously until the summer before his sophomore year. After totaling only four tackles during his freshman season, Chubb said he dedicated himself to training and eating properly.

He had to bulk up after moving from linebacker to end, so he committed to eating five meals a day and cutting out as much of the fried food and empty-calorie snacks as he could. Chubb transformed his body from a 230-pound project to a 275-pound masterpiece.

And as his body changed, so did his game, as he played well enough to flirt with a first-round draft grade after a junior season in which he had 22 TFLs and 10.5 sacks.

"You can't sit there and say every kid you recruit is going to be that way," NC State coach Dave Doeren said of Chubb's physical transformation. "It's a great story for kids out there that want to be like him. When you dig into how hard that guy worked, it's incredible. Guys come in [and say], 'I want to be the next Chubb.' Well you don't know what that means. The amount of sacrifice and work and extra time away from what we're allowed to do with them that he did on his own."

Chubb isn't here to discredit any other draft pick outside of the very first one, let alone a top-5 spot, but he does feel as though he's worth top-pick status, and he'll use any slight or passing by a team -- or teams -- as motivation.

He has never forgotten being able to count his college offers on six fingers or the fact that Wake Forest, the school that signed his brother, Brandon, didn't offer him until after Jim Grobe was replaced by Dave Clawson before Chubb's senior year at Hillgrove High in Powder Springs, Georgia.

Chubb wouldn't say he had it out for Wake Forest or any of the bigger schools that passed on him coming out of high school, but it's pretty telling that he was able to conjure just a little more spirit in bigger games at NC State.

ACC elites Clemson, Florida State and Miami didn't offer Chubb, so he registered 44 tackles, nine TFLs, three sacks, a fumble and an interception in his last seven games against those three. In his last three games against Wake Forest, Chubb totaled 10 tackles, 3.5 TFLs, three sacks and forced two fumbles.

Now, this isn't to say a similar fate would befall the teams that pass on Chubb in the draft, but it could serve as a warning.

But even having this discussion at all seems silly if you look at the case Chubb has presented to all 32 NFL teams. The stats are fantastic and receive an extra coat of gloss when you realize that all but four of his tackles took place in only three seasons. The film is almost mesmerizing when you consider that his speed, athleticism and agility should be reserved for a human being much smaller than him.

He's immensely powerful, but he also has the endurance and open-field speed to drop back in coverage.

In a recent evaluation of Chubb, ESPN's Todd McShay ranked him as his No. 3 overall player in this year's draft, and called Chubb "a terrific all-around player and has the same grade as I had on Myles Garrett last year." You know, the 2017 No. 1 pick who plays the same position as Chubb.

Fellow ESPN draft expert Mel Kiper lists Chubb as his No. 2 overall player, three spots higher than the first quarterback on his list -- Wyoming's Josh Allen.

When asked how to defend Chubb earlier this season, Syracuse coach Dino Babers simply said, "I-D-K."

Future NFL Hall of Fame edge rusher Von Miller told the NFL Network a week before the draft that Chubb looks like "Khalil Mack and Von Miller put together. ... You don't come across guys like that often."

ESPN NFL analyst Louis Riddick lauded Chubb for his ability to be able to play with his hand in the dirt in a 4-3 scheme or standing up in a 3-4. He also rated him as a better overall prospect than Garrett was a year ago.

Chubb is thankful to even be in this position, but he refuses to sell himself short. He wants to be the No. 1 pick and he sees himself as a worthy choice at the top.

"I've been working tirelessly from the day I stepped on campus to now and I'm still trying to prove people wrong," he said. "There's a lot of people out there doubting me and saying I'm not this, not that. I knew I had the potential in me so just proving people wrong is something I love to do."

# Bradley Chubb could help bring edge back to Broncos' defense

By Lindsay Jones  
USA Today  
April 27, 2018

As soon as the Denver Broncos went on the clock for the No. 5 pick in the draft, Von Miller turned to Instagram to record the moment for his 1.3 million followers.

When the pick was announced as North Carolina State pass rusher Bradley Chubb, Miller sprinted around his hotel suite in Las Vegas, screaming, cheering and dancing.

It was an all-pro edge rusher and Super Bowl MVP who knew the Broncos were adding a perfect complement to him. Miller has thrived most when paired with another elite rusher, from Elvis Dumervil early in his career to DeMarcus Ware from 2014-2016. With Chubb being widely projected to go No. 4 to the Cleveland Browns, few expected Denver could land arguably the draft's most talented defender.

But now general manager John Elway, head coach Vance Joseph and defensive coordinator Joe Woods can spend the next several months dreaming up ways to pair Chubb not just with Miller, but also the team's other pass rushers, including 2015 first-round pick Shane Ray and Shaquil Barrett.

The Broncos can now line Miller and Chubb up on opposite sides, like they did with Miller and Ware in 2015, or use a combination of three rushers in what they call their NASCAR package. At least initially, Chubb is expected to be an outside linebacker, but with limited coverage responsibilities.

Chubb will likely join Miller in meetings specific to the pass rush with defensive line coach Bill Kollar, while Ray and Barrett will spend more meeting time working with the team's linebackers.

"You can never have enough good pass rushers, and we've got another good pass rusher, but also a really good football player," Elway said Friday.

Chubb pledged to be a "sponge" around Miller and the Broncos' other rushers. He most admires Miller's bend and how the six-time Pro Bowl selection "wastes no movement" in getting to the quarterback. Miller, meanwhile, recently described Chubb as a freakish combination between himself and Raiders pass rusher Khalil Mack.

But what makes the addition of Chubb even more intriguing for the Broncos is how he could impact the team's personality. Denver's Super Bowl championship defense in 2015 had a distinct attitude, with several players who brought an edge, including defensive end Malik Jackson (now in Jacksonville), cornerback Aqib Talib (traded this offseason to the Los Angeles Rams) and safety T.J. Ward (currently a free agent).

For all of Miller's on-field prowess, he's not a trash talker. Chubb, however, enters the NFL with a reputation as a player who enjoys pestering his opponents. He might just be able to bring back some of the swagger the Broncos' defense was missing last season when it ranked third in yards allowed but tied for 22nd in points.

“I think what you'll really like about Bradley is not only his ability on the field, but also how he goes about playing the game,” Elway said. “That is really what we're excited about because I think it's contagious and he'll really rub off on the other guys we have on this football team.”

# Lions' Brandon Chubb took helicopter to see brother Bradley get taken in NFL draft

By Lindsay Jones

USA Today

April 27, 2018

When Detroit Lions linebacker Brandon Chubb realized new head coach Matt Patricia didn't seem inclined to excuse him from minicamp on Thursday, he started running through the various of just how he could manage to get to Arlington, Texas, in time to see his brother, Bradley Chubb, get drafted.

His first thought was maybe one of his Lions teammates, like Dallas native quarterback Matthew Stafford, might have a hook up with a charter flight, but that was a dead end – too expensive for a player who was undrafted in 2016.

Instead, Chubb booked himself on a commercial flight out of Detroit at 3:30 p.m. ET that landed him at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport at 5:45 p.m. CT, just over an hour before the draft was set to begin.

But the combination of Metroplex rush hour and draft-related traffic in Arlington meant driving wasn't a good option, either. Additionally, an Uber would have easily cost more than \$150.

So Chubb did what any dedicated brother with a decent amount of disposal income would do: He took a helicopter. And he did it in a way that would make many Millennials proud: He searched for it via the Yelp app on his phone.

The chopper picked him up near the airport and dropped him off just outside AT&T Stadium – on Cowboys owner Jerry Jones' normal landing pad – at 6:35 p.m., and he joined his family in the green room minutes later.

"People thought I was probably Michael Jackson. I had a suit on. It was crazy," Chubb said. "It actually worked out. I got one of the best Instagram pictures of my life.

Select Sports Group

@SelectSports

Not quite a 🚁, but it'll do. OTAs by day, #NFLDraft by night. Family over everything....right,

@astronaut?#SSGFam 📷: @DerrickSpencer\_

Bradley Chubb's wait in the green room lasted a little longer than his family expected. The Broncos took him at No. 5 after the Giants passed on him at No. 2 and the Browns went with cornerback Denzel Ward at No. 4.

The call from the Broncos quickly came later, with general manager John Elway not hesitating on turning in the card for the player the Broncos had ranked as the best defensive player in the draft.

On Friday morning, the Chubb family was back in the air again, this time on the private plane owned by Broncos owner Pat Bowlen's family.

"Everybody wants to be higher, but I think this is just perfect. You know?" Brandon Chubb said.  
"Definitely a win-win for everyone."

# Family legacy drives Bradley Chubb's relentless drive on and off the field

By Ben Swanson  
DenverBroncos.com  
April 27, 2018

In the southern foothills of the Appalachian Mountains in the northwestern reaches of Georgia, you can find a small chapel that has gained plenty of renown in recent years as Bradley Chubb and second cousin Nick Chubb emerged as college football stars.

The Chubb Methodist Episcopal Church, which was entered into the National Register of Historic Places in 1990, of course shares their surname. It stands as a historic reminder of Chubbtown, a community founded in 1864 by Henry Chubb and his brothers, all freed black men.

In the embers of slavery in America, they started a small town in the vision of making a world they wanted to see.

Over 15 decades later, the descendants of the Chubb brothers have branched out to other parts of the state and the country, but the spirit that led to the founding of Chubbtown remains in every Chubb, including the newest Bronco.

"[It] was just a lot of hard work, and that's where I feel our hard work and background comes from," Bradley said.

"It means the world to me," said Bradley, when asked about what being a Chubb means. "I feel like growing up, my dad would make sure that he held us to a higher standard than everybody else around us, and I feel like that helped not only me, but my brother as well, to be great men. Being a Chubb is something different, and I've got to have a higher expectation for myself and for future generations to come, as well."

Bradley's parents, Aaron and Stacey, and his brother, Brandon, joined him on his trip to Denver and for his welcome tour at UCHHealth Training Center, offering support as he took the next step on a path he'd dreamed of for years. When he got the call from John Elway, it was emotional for them, too.

"It was just a moment of joy and a moment of just relief for him and himself so he can start his journey," Aaron said.

"It's not even comparable, because you raise your kids to grow up to be strong men. And just for them to see the opportunity to get to the point where they can do what they want to do and to be able to know their dreams will come true, it's just a relief and a proud moment as a parent."

Raising Bradley to be strong wasn't just about being physically strong, but also cultivating a relentless drive. Ultimately that mental integrity was tough enough to help convince President of Football Operations/General Manager John Elway that Bradley was their man.

"I think what you'll really like about Bradley is not only his ability on the field, but also how he goes about playing the game," Elway said. "That is really what we're excited about, because I think it's contagious and he'll really rub off on the other guys we have on this football team."

It wasn't just Bradley's speed and skill that made him the fifth-overall pick; it was also his tenaciousness.

"I would describe myself as relentless," Bradley said. "That motor came from just always wanting to make plays. I always want to be around the ball. It's just something that I was raised with. If I'm going to do it, I'm going to do it 100 percent. That's my mindset every time I step on the field, and I feel like I bring that to the pass-rush game as well."

It's not hard to see how a relentless spirit could be passed down through generations in a family that survived the devastation that slavery wreaked and then built their own town in Georgia during the Civil War.

But the Chubbs are instilled with more than just determination. They also have a compassion for humanity that they have passed down.

"I was raised — and my wife, as well — we were raised to treat people how you want to be treated," Aaron said. "Treat people with respect and dignity, and in the process, reaching back and helping people less fortunate than you. And that's just one thing we try to instill in our kids, to be of service to other people. You've got people looking up to you and you've got a lot of people that's ... not as fortunate as you are, so just being able to help a common man or common woman, just help them out. Just be good in that type of way."

Already, Bradley is part of a charitable foundation he runs with Brandon. The Chubb Foundation's mission is "to use sports as a platform to activate human potential." In 2017, the foundation sponsored five children to see a college football game at Georgia Tech, and in 2018 it will kick off the first annual Chubb Foundation Football Camp at the new home of the Atlanta Falcons, Mercedes Benz Stadium.

By bringing Bradley Chubb to Denver, it seems clear that the legacy of the Chubb family will make more than just the Broncos better.

# “Chubbtown” roots laid foundation for Bradley Chubb’s path to Denver Broncos

By Kyle Frederickson

The Denver Post

April 29, 2018

Don’t assume Bradley Chubb was simply born for this moment. Or that his destiny to become the Denver Broncos’ top NFL draft choice was predetermined or his towering frame preordained he would chase down quarterbacks on Sundays. To appreciate Chubb’s rise to becoming the No. 5 overall pick requires an understanding of the work ethic and fearlessness ingrained in his family’s DNA.

The story began in the 1860s when Chubb’s ancestors, eight brothers in all, left North Carolina for rural northwest Georgia to found a self-sustaining, all-black community. On a 2,600-acre plot of rolling plains and forests, tradesmen of all kinds gathered to pursue a new life with endless possibilities. They called their home Chubbtown.

Bradley has since visited the site where the town’s church still stands, and while holding an orange Broncos’ No. 1 jersey Friday at his introductory news conference, he reflected on the family foundation that led his path to Denver.

“(Chubbtown) is where I feel like my hard work and background comes from,” he said.

And, much like his ancestors, Chubb’s success was never guaranteed.

Long before he blossomed into a 6-foot-4, 275-pound edge rusher who broke North Carolina State records for career sacks (26) and tackles for loss (60), Chubb was a Hillgrove High School (Ga.) sophomore who didn’t start on varsity. His head coach, Phil Ironside, has tracked Chubb’s football development since the fifth grade and called Chubb a “late-bloomer.” Chubb’s progress was also halted with an ACL tear as a junior, leading many colleges to stop recruiting him.

That’s when Chubb leaned on the advice of his father, Aaron, a former Georgia linebacker (1985-88), with lessons passed down from Chubbtown.

“I was raised to treat people with respect, dignity and how I wanted to be treated,” Aaron Chubb said. “I raised my kids to be their own men. ... If you’re going to do it, do it right.”

Chubb embraced his ACL rehab full steam. “It was remarkable how fast he came back,” Ironside said. Chubb accepted a scholarship from N.C. State over offers from Iowa, Mississippi State, West Virginia and others.

“When I dropped him off at N.C. State, he was 18 years old, an immature kid, wide-eyed and bushy tailed,” Aaron Chubb said. “Eventually, little by little, you just saw a change in him. It’s like he was becoming a man.”

Chubb faced another learning curve at N.C. State. He arrived at 6-foot-3, 220 pounds with his coordination yet to fully catch up with his athletic gifts. Chubb played mostly special teams as a true

freshman. By his junior season, he had blossomed into a feared pass rusher. Wolfpack coach Dave Doeren said: "I knew he was going to be the best player we had. You just try to keep him buying in to what got him there."

So many moments could define Chubb's dominance at N.C. State. His brother, Brandon, a Detroit Lions linebacker, points to a 2017 home game against Louisville where Chubb chased quarterback Lamar Jackson from sideline to sideline in a 39-25 victory. Chubb recorded a pair of tackles for loss and a sack.

"That game was not a coming-out-party," Brandon Chubb said. "But it solidified the player (Bradley) is and not just a straight downhill guy — he can play in space."

Intimidating on the field, Chubb's persona changes off the field.

"He literally has that switch," Doeren said. "He's so polite, it's not fake, and he cares genuinely about people. But when he starts competing, if you're in his way, he's going to come after you."

Chubb's father, mother and brother were in attendance at Dove Valley when Bradley was introduced for the first time as a member of the Broncos. So much has changed since Chubbtown was a thriving community, and yet, the opportunity that awaits him today isn't so different than those Chubbs that came long before him.

A chance to make the family name proud.

"It means the world to me," Chubb said. "Growing up, my dad would make sure he held us to a higher standard than everyone else around us. I feel like that helped not only me, but my brother as well, with being great men. Being a Chubb is something different, and I have to have a higher expectation for myself and for future generations to come as well."

# Giants' Evan Engram recalls high school practices with Bradley Chubb

By Tom Rock  
Newsday  
April 29, 2018

It was just a few years ago on the practice fields at Hillgrove High School in Georgia that Evan Engram and Bradley Chubb were facing off against each other as teammates. Engram was, as he is now, a tight end. Chubb was, as he is now, a defensive end.

"We banged heads a bit," Engram told Newsday on Thursday, smiling while recalling those battles in practices.

There is a chance that the Giants could use their first-round pick to select a player from Hillgrove for the second year in a row. Last year it was Engram, and Thursday night it may be Chubb. He's the highest-rated defensive player and would certainly fit in well with the Giants' new defense.

"Definitely," Engram said if he would like to be teammates with Chubb again and rekindle their friendly practice rivalry. "Definitely."

Chubb told Newsday earlier this week that he enjoyed his time practicing against Engram as well. Engram was a year older. And while Chubb was much better at handling Engram on the line of scrimmage, when they got into space the advantage shifted.

"I had to cover him a couple of times," Chubb recalled. "We got into it in practice a couple of times. We made each other better."

Engram and Chubb, if he were to become a Giant, would not be the only players on the roster who attended the same high school. Eli Manning and Odell Beckham Jr. both attended Newman High School in New Orleans, although a decade apart.

The two Hillgrove products might have actually been drafted in the same year were it not for Engram's advice. Chubb was considering declaring for the 2017 draft but after consulting with his friend decided to stay at N.C. State for a fourth college season. Engram made the same decision and spent four years at Ole Miss.