

Broncos long snapper Casey Kreiter signs exclusive rights tender

By Zack Kelberman
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Casey Kreiter is officially back in the fold.

The third-year and incumbent long snapper signed his exclusive rights free agent tender with the Denver Broncos on Friday, nearly a month after the team extended the offer. He didn't have much choice as an ERFA; it was either sign the tender or sit out the upcoming season.

Kreiter, 27, has been Denver's deep snapper for the majority of the past two seasons, appearing in 26 of a possible 32 games. He was added and earned the starting job in 2016, beating out Nathan Theus for the right to replace Aaron Brewer, who was released following the Broncos' Super Bowl 50 victory.

Kreiter originally entered the NFL in 2014 as an undrafted free agent with by the Dallas Cowboys. He played in six preseason games for Dallas before being waived in 2015.

Prior to joining the league, Kreiter starred at the University of Iowa, where he was the school's primary long snapper from 2011-13. He earned honorable mention All-Big Ten Conference honors as a senior for the Hawkeyes.

The Denver Broncos are coming off a brutal 2017 campaign, but they've vowed to return to prominence. What's next for the team? Don't miss out on any news, take a second to sign up for our FREE Broncos newsletter!

Although he is currently penciled in atop the tentative depth chart, Kreiter will need to earn his place on the roster. His seat got a little warmer following last month's signing of 2017 UDFA Christian Kuntz, a former second-team Associated Press All-America selection as a linebacker at Duquesne. Kuntz has since converted to LS. The Broncos, stressing competition under sophomore head coach Vance Joseph, also signed 2016 UDFA kicker Taylor Bertolet to push Brandon McManus.

If Kreiter sticks around, he'll be hiking the ball to new punter Marquette King, who on Thursday inked a three-year deal worth up to \$7 million.

The Broncos tendered a total of seven ERFAs in March: defensive end Shelby Harris, wide receiver Jordan Taylor, offensive tackle Elijah Wilkinson, linebackers Zaire Anderson, Joseph Jones and Jerrol Garcia-Williams and Kreiter. The remaining six players should ink their tenders in the coming days, likely prior to the NFL draft, which begins April 26.

The club also has a pair of restricted free agents, outside linebacker Shaquil Barrett and center Matt Paradis, who've yet to sign their second-round tenders, worth \$2.9 million for 2018. The league-mandated deadline to do so is April 20.

Broncos Long Snapper Surprises Patients At Children's Hospital

By Michael Abeyta

CBS Denver

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If you ask a football fan who the long snapper for the Denver Broncos is, even the most diehard fan might have a hard time coming up with a name.

But for some kids at Children's Hospital of Colorado, Casey Kreiter is a player they may never forget.

Liam is a big Broncos fan. When you ask him he emphatically shouts, "The biggest!"

"I do really love their games and I always wanted to be a football player," Liam said.

When he showed up to see his doctor and saw a Broncos player instead he was pumped.

Kreiter was at Children's Hospital of Colorado smiling for pictures, signing autographs and giving kids ice cream. It's something he's done before.

"I started doing work with the children's hospital in college at the University of Iowa. Just kind of kept involved because as a professional athlete in general, if we're not using our platform to do these types of things I don't think we are using it correctly," Kreiter explained.

Liam got treats and a smile along with a bunch of other kids, and Casey got something too. The opportunity to use his position to give back. "It makes me happy. It makes me feel good about making kids who are having a rough time feel better." Said Kreiter

In addition to ice cream and autographs, Casey donated one of the cleats he wore in the game versus the Miami Dolphins to the hospital.