

Lorenzo Doss Q&A: Broncos cornerback ready to make waves again in the NFL

By Nick Groke

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Lorenzo Doss' football education was born at prep powerhouse St. Augustine High in New Orleans, where he was also an honor roll student. But he really started to excel at Tulane in 2012, when, as a freshman, he had five interceptions. In three seasons at Tulane, Doss had 15 interceptions, second most in school history, for a school-record 271 interception return yards.

So the Broncos, already deep in the secondary, did not blink in drafting Doss in the fifth round in 2015 after his junior year. As a rookie, Doss was active for all 16 regular-season games and appeared in six. But his breakout game came last week against the Chargers when he knocked down a would-be touchdown pass from Philip Rivers in the fourth quarter.

Doss spoke to The Denver Post last week about his rise through the football ranks, from high school wide receiver to NFL cornerback:

Q: You have a colorful history. You were a Purple Knight in high school and a Green Wave at Tulane.

A: Now I'm a Bronco. Orange Crush.

Q: LSU running back Leonard Fournette was on your team in high school. And you were a standout wide receiver. So who got more touches?

A: I was two years ahead of him. But definitely him. He was the No. 1 player in the world. You have to give him the touches. And I just played my role. I'm definitely going to make plays though.

Q: Did you get recruited as a receiver?

A: Some schools, yeah. But a lot of schools wanted me to play corner. Tulane knew I was going to play corner. But I didn't know.

Q: They didn't tell you?

A: They switched me when I got there. Before I got there, after I committed and signed the National Letter of Intent and everything, they said, 'Well, now you're playing corner.' I was like, 'Oh, ok, that's cool.' Growing up, I played both sides. In high school, my last year, I played a couple reps at corner just because they needed me.

Q: It's not an unusual move, from receiver to corner. And with a receiver background, you can probably see how plays evolve from both sides.

A: Yeah, I can feel their routes better. You can just see the ball better. That's why I make plays on the ball like I do.

Q: Your stats were nuts at Tulane. You basically averaged an interception every other game. Who are these quarterbacks who even bothered throwing in your direction?

A: I was making some great plays. There were a lot of picks that I could have had too. I could have had way more. But 15, in college, is a lot of interceptions. And I always mess with (Aqib) Talib about it. He played three years at Kansas and had 15 interceptions too. I had five picks my freshman year, seven my second year, and three my last.

Q: Your sophomore year, maybe teams are thinking, 'Well, he was a freshman last year. He must have lucked into some interceptions.' But then you kept going and going. If I'm an offensive coordinator, at some point, I have to think about maybe just avoiding you all together.

A: In the beginning of that season, they were trying me. I think it was the fourth game when I caught my first. And then I really got going. My coaches at Tulane were telling me, 'Picks come in pairs. When that first one comes, you'll get more and more.'

Q: Did you catch on to cornerback right away?

A: Oh yeah, definitely. The first couple games, it was new to me, just being at that level. But after awhile, after I started played my technique the right way, listening to the coaches, it fell together. And I had a great coach in college (former Broncos cornerback Lionel Washington). He played in the league for 15 years and coached in the NFL. He basically taught me the game.

Q: You got in some games last year, in your rookie season, did you feel like you were coming along like you wanted in the NFL?

A: Yeah. I'm behind some great players. There's definitely no rush for me. I'm learning as much as I can from those guys. I just watch them and learn. I got to the Super Bowl my first year with the No-Fly Zone. I pick up stuff from them all the time. You can't beat it. If you ever see me on the sideline, I'm always with the secondary. I'm always involved.

Q: You got thrown right to the fire last week against the Chargers. That turn can happen in a snap. Did you feel in a good place?

A: I was ready. I'm going to prepare like I'm going to play each and every week. It's the coach's call. I don't stress about it. But they expect it out of me. And everybody in the secondary expects it out of each other. I don't want to be the only one out there looking bad. So I'm going to prepare like I'm going to play. It's fun to be out there.

Q: You're headed back to New Orleans soon, to face the Saints. What's the first thing you'll do when you get back?

A: Grab some of that cajun food, man. I have to. It's a must. That's pretty much it.

Total breakdown: Broncos draft CB Lorenzo Doss in fifth round

By Jeff Legwold

ESPN.com

May 2, 2015

A few quick thoughts on the Denver Broncos' fifth-round draft pick.

The pick: Lorenzo Doss, cornerback, Tulane

My take: Doss measured in at 5-foot-10 3/8-inches, 182 pounds at the scouting combine, so he's not among the biggest cornerbacks on the board. He was originally recruited by Tulane as a wide receiver before he was flipped to cornerback as a freshman. He'll need to be more physical in man-to-man situations in the NFL. But he was electronically timed at 4.50 seconds in his 40-yard dash at the combine, so he has quality top-end speed. He started 34 games in his three seasons at Tulane and also ran track. His strength is he gets to the ball -- he had 15 interceptions in three seasons, including two he returned for touchdowns.

Room to grow: The Broncos do pay attention to a player's age in the draft process and they have, at times, selected some of the younger players on the board. Quarterback Brock Osweiler was just 21 when the Broncos selected him in 2012 and running back Ronnie Hillman was just 20 when the Broncos also selected him in the 2012 draft. Hillman is entering his fourth NFL season this year and is 23. Doss was one of the younger players on this draft board as well, he just turned 21 in April. It means he still has plenty of upside and plenty of seasons to play in his physical prime.

How He Fits: Fifth-round CB Lorenzo Doss

Andrew Mason
DenverBroncos.com
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With 15 interceptions and two fumble recoveries in three seasons as a cornerback at Tulane, Lorenzo Doss showed a knack for being around the football, which resulted from above-average anticipation and the ability to read the quarterback's intent before the throw.

"He has tremendous ball skills and cover skills. So we're excited about getting him," Executive Vice President/General Manager John Elway said.

Given the Broncos' cornerback depth, he will have to transfer those skills to the practice field this summer if he is to see any substantial playing time beyond special teams, where he could project as a gunner.

At 5-foot-10 and 182 pounds, Doss' frame would project to being a nickel cornerback, working against small, quick receivers and using his anticipation to jump routes.

But the Broncos are so stacked at cornerback that opportunities might be scarce if the team has good health at the position. Chris Harris Jr. built his reputation as a slot cornerback before moving to a dual role that put him in the Pro Bowl; Bradley Roby also has the ability to work inside. Aqib Talib is a Pro Bowler on the outside. Kayvon Webster returns as a No. 4 cornerback, with Omar Bolden getting more looks at safety.

Doss would appear to be in a scrum for playing time with Webster, veteran Tony Carter and former Green Wave teammate Taurean Nixon, one of three Broncos seventh-round selections. If Doss shows the same takeaway touch he demonstrated at Tulane, he could have an edge and might earn repetitions in dime packages this year.

Broncos pick Tulane CB Doss in fifth

David DeChant

DenverBroncos.com

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With a pick late in the fifth round (164th overall) of the 2015 draft, the Broncos selected Tulane cornerback Lorenzo Doss.

Doss started all 12 games in 2014 for the Green Wave, collecting 48 total tackles (five for loss), three interceptions and nine passes defended.

In 2013, Doss collected seven interceptions and led the NCAA with 185 interception-return yards en route to scoring two defensive touchdowns. His performance earned him All-Conference USA honors and second-team All-America Status from Sports Illustrated.

As a freshman, Doss nabbed four interceptions and defended six passes while collecting 44 tackles.

Doss was also a member of the Green Wave's track team, where he competed in the 100 meter, 4x100 meter relay and 4x400 meter relay teams.