

Tom Heckert not traveling to Super Bowl 50 because of illness

By Andrew Mason
DenverBroncos.com
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For the past two and a half months, the Broncos' player personnel department has operated without one of its key members.

Director of Pro Personnel Tom Heckert has been on medical leave throughout the second half of the season and the postseason because of an illness. His ongoing treatment will prevent him from traveling with the organization to the San Francisco Bay Area for Super Bowl 50. Heckert's status was first reported by KUSA-Ch. 9 Saturday afternoon.

"I was recently diagnosed with a very treatable blood disorder," Heckert said. "I'm feeling better every day as a result of the treatments and hope to get back to work in the near future.

"The Broncos' organization -- in particular John Elway, Matt Russell and Joe Ellis -- have been extremely supportive and accommodating during the last few months. I sincerely appreciate everyone's kind thoughts and will be rooting for the Broncos to bring home a Super Bowl win."

Heckert joined the Broncos in 2013 after spending the first 22 years of his NFL career working with the Dolphins, Eagles and Browns. He served as Philadelphia's general manager from 2006-09 and held the same position in Cleveland from 2010-12 before jumping aboard in time for the Broncos' 2013 run to Super Bowl XLVIII.

In his role as pro-personnel director, Heckert has helped the Broncos become one of the most successful teams on the free-agent market. T.J. Ward, DeMarcus Ware, Aqib Talib, Emmanuel Sanders, Darian Stewart, Owen Daniels, Jordan Norwood, Ryan Harris and Vance Walker are among the key veteran players acquired on Heckert's watch.

"Tom's a big part of our personnel department, and the Broncos support him 100 percent as he takes time to focus on his health," Elway said. "We're looking forward to Tom rejoining our staff as soon as he's cleared by his doctors."

Broncos Heckert to miss Super Bowl with illness

By Mike Klis

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There is one valued Denver Broncos' employee who won't accompany the team when it takes off for the Bay Area on Sunday in advance of Super Bowl 50.

Tom Heckert Jr., the Broncos' director of pro personnel, has been on leave the second half of the season while tending to a personal medical condition.

"I was recently diagnosed with a very treatable blood disorder," Heckert said. "I'm feeling better every day as a result of the treatments and hope to get back to work in the near future.

"The Broncos' organization—in particular John Elway, Matt Russell and Joe Ellis—have been extremely supportive and accommodating during the last few months. I sincerely appreciate everyone's kind thoughts and will be rooting for the Broncos to bring home a Super Bowl win."

There are NFL men and there is Heckert. He grew up in the NFL front office as his father, Tom Sr., spent more than 20 years as an executive for Cleveland and Miami.

Heckert Jr., 48, is in his 25th NFL season. He joined Russell as one of Elway's top two front-office executives in 2013.

"Tom's a big part of our personnel department, and the Broncos support him 100 percent as he takes time to focus on his health," said Elway, the Broncos' general manager. "We're looking forward to Tom rejoining our staff as soon as he's cleared by his doctors."

Heckert started as a scout for the Miami Dolphins in 1991. He eventually worked his way up to general manager of the Philadelphia Eagles from 2006-09 and Cleveland Browns from 2010-12 before joining the Broncos.

Two of several players Heckert helped recruit to the Broncos are strong safety T.J. Ward and slot receiver Jordan Norwood.

In the interim, the Broncos will have assistant director of pro personnel A.J. Durso fill in for Heckert while scout Darren Mougey slides over to the pro personnel staff.

Heckert Hired as Director of Pro Personnel

On Tuesday, the club announced that Tom Heckert has been hired as the team's new director of pro personnel

Gray Caldwell
DenverBroncos.com
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ENGLEWOOD, Colo. -- On Tuesday, the Broncos announced that the club has added Tom Heckert to the personnel department.

Heckert, who first entered the NFL as a scout in 1991, will step in as the club's director of pro personnel.

Now in his 23rd NFL season, he will work closely with Elway and Director of Player Personnel Matt Russell in his new role, helping to shape Denver's roster. His responsibilities will primarily include scouting current NFL players as well as managing the advance scouting for the club's upcoming opponents.

"With more than 20 years' experience in the NFL, Tom brings a tremendous amount of knowledge and insight to our personnel department," Executive Vice President of Football Operations John Elway said.

Most recently, Heckert served as the Cleveland Browns' general manager from 2010-12. Prior to that stint, he worked with the Philadelphia Eagles as director of player personnel, vice president of player personnel and general manager in nine seasons with the club. Russell was a scout with the Eagles during part of Heckert's Philadelphia tenure.

Heckert started his NFL career with the Miami Dolphins, working his way from a pro/college scout to eventually the title of director of pro personnel in 2000.

During his previous 22 years in the NFL, Heckert has been part of 14 postseasons, eight division titles and six conference championship game appearances. Over that span, he has worked with coaches the likes of Don Shula, Jimmy Johnson, Andy Reid and Mike Holmgren.

He has also previously served on the NFL's College Advisory Committee, which advises college prospects on their draft status, along with the General Managers Advisory Committee, which consults with NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and the

league's football operations department on player development, scouting and technology issues.

Heckert's father, Tom Sr., also spent more than 20 years as an NFL player personnel executive, including stints with the Browns and Dolphins like his son.

"He has worked in several different capacities for multiple teams," Elway said of Heckert, "and his diverse background in talent evaluation will be a strong resource for the Broncos."