

# Cody Latimer says 'it's time to make an impact' for Broncos

By Jeff Legwold

ESPN.com

June 16, 2016

Apparently knowledge just isn't power, but it's speed, too.

And if there is a if-not-now-when player on the Denver Broncos' roster at the moment, that guy would almost certainly be wide receiver Cody Latimer. Latimer was a second-round pick in the 2014 draft, the 56th player selected, and had expectations to match.

However, Latimer has eight career receptions and one career touchdown over two seasons and there are some lingering questions about confidence as well as his ability to find a role in the offense.

"But when you don't know what you're doing in football you get slow, when we first got here, to me, he was playing slow," Broncos coach Gary Kubiak said. "He wasn't showing his God-given talent, but now he's starting to play faster."

As a result, Latimer finds himself at a crossroads at a time when the Broncos have plenty of playing time up for grabs at his position beyond Demaryius Thomas and Emmanuel Sanders. The three, perhaps four, spots remaining on the depth chart and in the rotation are there for the taking for receivers who show initiative and production.

Latimer said this week, as the Broncos closed out their offseason program, that he's ready to be both the player the Broncos believed he would be when they selected him as well as the player he believed he would be by now.

"I think I'm ready for a big step, from my rookie year, to last year and now to what I think I can do this year," Latimer said after Wednesday's practice. "I just have a lot of confidence right now, I'm just ready to play, I feel like it's time to make an impact."

When the Broncos drafted Latimer, they saw a player who had dominated almost all contested pass situations during his college career at Indiana, and a player with the size/speed combination to contribute immediately in scoring-zone situations.

But in Adam Gase's offense, with Peyton Manning at quarterback, the Broncos played a high-speed attack that demanded receivers make plenty of decisions on the fly. So often Latimer would run one way, Manning would throw another and frustration would ensue.

His confidence seemed to waver at times, and when Kubiak arrived with a new offense last season, Latimer was back to Square 1. But the Broncos saw his continued efforts on special teams, and then Latimer gave a little glimpse of his potential when Sanders suffered an ankle injury and missed the Nov. 22 game against the Chicago Bears.

"Nah, I don't think I really lost confidence, but I gained a lot, especially when [Sanders] was down in the Chicago game, had my first touchdown, played special teams," Latimer said. "... I'm just glad I'm in position maybe."

Asked this week if he believed Latimer was poised to add impact to the offense, Kubiak said:

"I think he's on his way to doing that, he's behind two great players [in Thomas and Sanders]. And my position with him has always been 'Cody, guys at your position do one of two things, some guys sit there and say 'heck, I'm not going to pass up those two great guys' or some guys say 'I'm going to be better';' and he's taken the working approach to it. Now it's got to transfer to the field. I think Cody mentally having a better understanding of the big picture offensively of what you're trying to do his job, it's allowing his talents to take over more."

At the moment Thomas and Sanders also happen to be the only givens on the wide receiver depth chart. If they keep five or six receivers, that leaves several spots open for players to fill.

Latimer, Jordan Norwood and Bennie Fowler were on the team's roster last season. While Jordan Taylor was on the practice squad last season, Manning endorsed him as a player that could make a future impact. The Broncos also have four undrafted rookies to go with third-year veteran DeVier Posey.

"But I got a good grip on what we're doing, how the NFL goes and what I need to do," Latimer said. "I'm a lot more comfortable."

Latimer's productive offseason took a turn when he was arrested earlier this month. Latimer called police to report that he was slapped in the face by his girlfriend but was arrested at that time for an outstanding misdemeanor traffic warrant.

"I feel like everything was headed the right way before that," Latimer said. "But I talked to the (Broncos) right away, told them the whole situation. Getting arrested that wasn't supposed to happen if I had taken care of the ticket. But all the charges were dropped and I think they know here I won't have anything like that again. I have too many plans for that."

# Through My Eyes: Cody Latimer's first NFL touchdown

By Cody Latimer

DenverBroncos.com

November 27, 2015

My first touchdown against the Chicago Bears was good, but it was more of a relief. I finally got to show everybody what I can do and that I can make plays when the ball comes my way, but it was a relief to myself.

It's a big weight off my shoulders and it happened to come during a good week after I visited Carson, a patient at Colorado Children's Hospital. When I was visiting with Carson, he said, Man we need to get you in the end zone and get you some catches, and I'm like, They're going to come. Then I asked him, What would you do if you were in the end zone?

And then he did his little pose with his arms crossed in front of him. Right then I promised him that when I get in the end zone I would do his pose. So on Sunday, as soon as I got in the end zone, it was the first thing that popped into my head.

I told this young guy that I'm going to do his pose for him and that was the first thing I thought of when I scored.

On Tuesday, Carson's mom sent me a video that during physical therapy, where he's learning to walk again, he stood up and did his pose.

Having Carson be a part of that game made it special, but also seeing Brock Osweiler do so well in his first start made it even more memorable. Brock and I have been working together every practice since I got here.

People don't see during the day or before the game, but Brock warms up like he's about to start, to the point where you'd think Brock was the starting quarterback.

He brings it everyday in practice. Whether it's film, study, or thinking of different ideas -- he's always prepared like he's a starting quarterback. It wasn't a shock to me that he did so well.

But what did shock me was how he stood in front of our entire team Saturday night and spoke like he had done it a million times. Most people are nervous in front of the team, but he was so confident. After the meeting, everybody was so hyped about it because we knew we could trust this guy because he is so confident -- let's go ride for him.

With the adversity that we've gone through this season, it's amazing to see everybody step their game up. It's looking good for us and I'm excited to see what we've got against the Patriots.

# Latimer makes good on his promise

By Aaron Matas

9 News

November 25, 2015

Football is motivation for 8-year-old Carson Cline and he needs a lot of it right now. He plays catch with his parents at Children's Hospital as part of his daily work.

Carson was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at 14 months old and has been in therapy ever since.

"We elected to do a major surgery almost 3 weeks ago called selective dorsal rhizotomy," said Carson's mom Jennifer.

A complicated procedure that requires a six-week stay at Children's hospital for rehabilitation.

"Because you're basically giving your child a whole new set of legs all over again," said Jennifer.

Carson will have increased mobility and range of motion but first has to re-learn everything and it's not easy.

"He's over it," said Jennifer. "He's ready to go home for sure."

He needs any boost he can get.

"That's really where Cody Latimer comes in," said Jennifer.

The Broncos wide receiver visited Carson in the hospital last week.

They face timed Demaryius Thomas, who at the time was Carson's favorite player, but that was about to change with a picture taken in the hospital room.

"Cody was like, I didn't even know we were posing, so he asked me what pose we're doing and I said this," said Carson with his arms crossed across his chest. "And he said 'What's that', and I said well that's my touchdown pose."

Latimer made a promise that if he scored in Sunday's game he would use Carson's touchdown post. At the time of the promise, Latimer's next NFL touchdown would be his first, so it was a long shot. But sure enough, after his career milestone, and securing the eventual game winning score against Chicago, Latimer's first thought was of an eight year old in an Aurora hospital.

"When he got a touchdown I wasn't even looking and my dad was like 'Oh, oh, you gotta see this,' and I looked and there he was doing it," said Carson.

In a split second before he got mobbed, Latimer made a six-week stay in the hospital a whole lot easier.

"Just to make his day," said Latimer, "Seeing him in the hospital being as strong as he is I felt like I owed it to him. I told him I would do it so I gotta do it."

Carson has some fresh motivation for his rehab and a new favorite Broncos player.

# Cody Latimer of Broncos inspires Children's Hospital patient, pays tribute with TD celebration

By Nicki Jhabvala  
Denver Post  
November 25, 2015

Broncos coach Gary Kubiak foreshadowed the moment less than a week before it happened. After a season and a half, Cody Latimer's time was near, he told reporters.

What Kubiak failed to mention, however, was just how big the moment would be — not just for him or his team.

With 11:42 remaining in the fourth quarter of the Broncos' 17-15 victory at Chicago on Sunday, Latimer caught a 10-yard pass from Brock Osweiler for his first career touchdown. He quickly stood up, folded his arms and posed for fans at Soldier Field as his teammates piled on top of him in celebration.

More than 1,000 miles away, in a room at Children's Hospital in Aurora that housed 8-year-old Carson Cline, a similar celebration was taking place. To Carson, a cerebral palsy patient, that touchdown and that celebratory pose were worth more than the scoreboard could reflect.

Long before he was a football player, Latimer faced, perhaps, the most trying time in his life. In April 2005, when he was 12, he lost his father to cancer. Colby Latimer, a former linebacker at Bowling Green State, was 38.

After going pro in 2014, Cody launched his personal website where he sells custom T-shirts and donates all proceeds to the American Cancer Society. He also spends some of his off-days at Children's Hospital, visiting young patients on the oncology ward.

That's where he requested to be five days before the Broncos' took on the Bears.

"I have a son on the way and just seeing kids in there and how strong they are — it was something I wanted to be around," Latimer said.

But the Broncos asked Latimer to make a special stop in another wing of the hospital that day.

On Nov. 6, Carson was admitted to Children's Hospital and expected to stay six weeks after selective dorsal rhizotomy, a neurospinal surgery that requires cutting sensory nerves in Carson's spine. The procedure will help him walk flat-footed, ultimately giving him greater mobility. But first he must endure weeks of rehabilitation to re-learn putting one foot in front of the other.

Latimer's visit was intended to be a surprise as Carson, a diehard Broncos fan, sat in his room wearing his orange No. 88 Demaryius Thomas jersey.

"I saw his jersey and was like, 'DT is your favorite player, huh?'" Latimer recalled. "I said, 'You know what? Let me see what he's doing right now. I'm going to try to Facetime him.' Luckily, DT answered. It brought a smile to a kid's face."

For nearly 30 minutes, Latimer devoted his time to Carson. He signed Carson's hat, but requested Carson give him his signature, too. He learned of Carson's journey — the one that included four brain surgeries, one eye surgery and several outpatient procedures before his recent spinal surgery. And he learned of Carson's lifelong love of the Broncos.

"Where another child would put on cartoons in the morning — this is true — he gets up and puts on the 1997 Super Bowl on demand," Carson's mother, Jennifer Cline, said. "It's crazy."

Then Latimer posed for photos with Carson. The two sat side-by-side on the edge of Carson's bed, their arms crossed and heads cocked to the side while donning a "cool guy" look, as Jennifer describes it.

That afternoon, Latimer posted the photo on Instagram.

"He said this is his touchdown pose..," Latimer's caption read. "Time for me to start getting in the end zone so he can see it on TV."

When Latimer left Children's Hospital the afternoon of Nov. 17, he left behind more than a bag of Broncos gear and a few memories. He left behind a source of hope and motivation for a kid who has endured pain and frustration.

For hours each day Carson endures grueling physical therapy as he works muscles he's never had to use before and retrains his mind so he can walk.

In the span of a week, Carson has gone from barely being able to sit up to standing on his own for a few seconds at a time. Doctors have told the Clines they expect Carson to be able to walk by the time he goes home in a few weeks, a notion that seems unfathomable to Jennifer now, but one she trusts could happen.

She's seen the progress her son has made, and she's seen the effect Latimer's visit and his continued interactions with the family have had on Carson's recovery.

"Most days in therapy he cries for the first 10 minutes or so," Jennifer said. "But now it's been, 'Well, Cody Latimer probably doesn't cry.'"

"Carson will be like, 'OK, I'm tough.'"

Before the surgery, Carson had asked that Jennifer sign him up for flag football in the spring. Now the requests are daily. So, too, are the ones to have his therapy sessions filmed and edited in slow motion to post online, just like Latimer does with his workouts on Instagram.

Sunday evening, Latimer posted another image to his Instagram account, this one for Carson. In a split photo of him and Carson posing in his hospital room was one of Latimer, standing in the end zone, his arms folded and head cocked to the side.

"S/O to the lil homie Carson for the touchdown pose I hope you got to see it," Latimer wrote online. "Great team win!!! Get well soon #broncoscountry"

# WR Cody Latimer joins fight against cancer in honor of dad

By Arnie Stapleton  
Associated Press  
October 2, 2015

When Denver Broncos receiver Cody Latimer was 11, his father was diagnosed with colon cancer.

The two had not lived together since his parents divorced when Latimer was a toddler. After surgery and chemotherapy, Colby Latimer became a bigger part of his son's life: picking up Cody from school, taking him out for pizza and playing basketball together.

Cody didn't notice his dad losing weight. The older Latimer was a 6-foot-3, 240-pound linebacker at Bowling Green until his junior year when bi-polar disorder and manic depression ended his college career.

Cody doesn't remember the whites of his dad's eyes starting to turn yellow. Doctors thought it was hepatitis. But when they went in to check on his liver, they found the cancer had returned.

Colby Latimer was 38 when he died in 2005.

Cody, then 12, lost the father he'd only just found.

"He just came around like every day that last year. Me and him grew real close," Latimer recalled. "And then he was just gone. That's why it hurt so much."

In his last year, Colby Latimer showered his son with love and never talked about his own health.

"His dad was just one of those people that never complained about anything," said Tonya Dunson, Latimer's mother. "He always saw the best in everything. He would tell you everything was going to be OK."

Latimer inherited his father's athleticism, only he figured his future was on the hardwood. Although one of his high school teammates was Adreian Payne, who now plays for the Minnesota Timberwolves, it was Latimer who led Dayton Jefferson Township to a small-school Ohio state title in his junior year.

"I thought I was going NBA," Latimer said.

His mother encouraged him to play football. She saw a lot of Colby in her son and thought he could transfer his basketball skills to the football field.

"He wanted to play pro sports, but my gut feeling was he had a better chance of doing that playing football," she said.

Because there were only 13 other players on the football team at the 225-student school, Latimer played safety, linebacker, wide receiver, running back and even punter.

"I never got off the field," he said. "My senior year, I started getting a lot of scholarship offers for defense, which was crazy."

Michigan State wanted him as a safety, Ball State as a linebacker.

"But I wanted to catch touchdowns," Latimer said.

So, Indiana it was.

After a standout career for the Hoosiers, the Broncos drafted Latimer in the second round in 2014.

Earlier this year, another family member died of cancer. His mother's aunt, Ana "Lala" Vigay, who looked after Latimer and his little brother when their mother was working full-time and going to school, died at age 73.

"Cancer runs on both sides of my family," said Latimer, who spends some of his off days visiting young cancer patients.

He also raises money for the American Cancer Society by donating proceeds from T-shirt sales on his personal website [www.thecodylatimer.com](http://www.thecodylatimer.com) that he launched this summer.

Like his career, his cancer awareness and fundraising efforts are just getting started, Latimer said.

"It's just going to be bigger," he said. "I just got to wait until I get a bigger name."

He's working on that.

Latimer received an invitation to Peyton Manning's annual passing camp at Duke this spring and got plenty of snaps with the starters during Demaryius Thomas's protracted contract stalemate. So far this year, Bennie Fowler and Jordan Norwood have worked in the slot ahead of him.

The Broncos still believe the exceptionally sure-handed Latimer will start showing up on Sundays.

"He's a special young man," coach Gary Kubiak said. "He's young in his career and handles himself tremendously. I know we're sitting here and want things to go faster for him football-wise and they will happen because he's made of the right stuff. He's got all his priorities in line."

By playing in the NFL, Latimer is honoring both his mother's wishes and his father's memory.

When he first tried football at his mother's request and realized he was good at it, "I said, this is coming from him, this athleticism, because football wasn't my thing," Latimer said. "I'm still raw at it now. I'm learning. But it was his legacy. He couldn't get this far but I did."

# Cody Latimer said he had to 'regroup myself' to get ready for 2015

By Jeff Legwold  
ESPN.com  
August 10, 2015

It would be easy for Cody Latimer to say he remembers every snap of his rookie season with the Denver Broncos like it was yesterday.

And it wouldn't be because the receiver has Peyton Manning-like recall to recite football drives from two decades ago. It's because when it comes to snaps in Latimer's 2014 season, there just weren't very many of them.

Latimer had played just 37 snaps on offense in 2014 -- totaling two receptions in eight games. Not exactly what he, or the Broncos, expected when this time last summer he was reeling in pass after pass over one frustrated defensive back after another in training camp.

"But this time is different," Latimer said. " ... Way different."

When Gary Kubiak was hired as Broncos' coach this past January, one of the first players Kubiak said he wanted to see play more in the coming season was Latimer. And with Julius Thomas having moved on in free agency (to Jacksonville) and the Broncos having not re-signed Wes Welker, the Broncos put Latimer in a position to fix what went wrong and put themselves in a position to help him do it.

Latimer said the first step was to simply own up to what happened. Asked if he got frustrated last season, Latimer said: "A little bit, of course, it was a down time. I'm like 'man I can go out there and make these plays and help the team,' but I wasn't on path, I wasn't focused. It's why I had to regroup myself and come back this year stronger."

And when he said "regroup," Latimer said it was simply about finding a way to calm himself, to get past a rookie season when he looked to be going one way on plays when the Broncos wanted him to go another.

For all of the athleticism and play-making potential Latimer showed in camp last summer, the regular season brought indecision and frustration. Perhaps no play exemplified the situation more than an incompleteness in the regular-season finale against the Oakland Raiders.

Latimer was lined up against man coverage on the left sideline and, as result, was Manning's first read. Manning quickly threw to Latimer's back shoulder, but Latimer was running up the sideline without looking for the ball.

"I just needed to have confidence in myself," Latimer said. "Last year I was down, I was always nervous of getting in the huddle with Peyton and not wanting to mess up. This year it's just like go out there and play fast, if you mess up you mess up, as long as you're playing fast and keep playing fast."

The expectations for Latimer were clear early in the offseason when Manning invited him to the workouts at Duke University that included wide receiver Emmanuel Sanders and tight end Owen Daniels. There Latimer got an introduction to the new playbook. Daniels has played in an offense with Kubiak as a play-caller in all nine of his previous NFL seasons.

Latimer arrived to training camp with some confidence in tow. And through the first 10 days, Latimer also got plenty of work as Demaryius Thomas was being eased into things after missing the offseason program while Sanders missed some practice time with a hamstring injury.

"We kind of monitor how much our players run, [strength coach] Luke [Richesson] has got a little program and that kid has run more than anybody on this football team -- he runs a lot," Kubiak said Friday. "So, he's wore down. ... When he's fresh in practice, you can watch him, things are good, things are sharp."

Latimer figures to get plenty of work in the coming preseason games as well -- the Broncos' preseason opener is Friday in Seattle -- as part of a group of the team's younger players Kubiak wants to see function in a game setting.

"Cody is like some of the younger guys, we know what they can do on the practice field, we've seen them out here," Kubiak said. "I want to see those guys in games now, see what they can do. Cody is one of those guys."

"I feel like I'm in a great place right now," Latimer said. " ... There are still a lot of things that I do need to work on, but as of right now, in my position this year, compared to last, I'm way ahead."

# Latimer putting 2014 dud of a rookie year in rearview

By Arnie Stapleton

Associated Press

August 9, 2015

Cody Latimer had to get past the fear and doubt that held him back his rookie season.

That process started with a coveted invitation to Peyton Manning's annual passing camp at Duke, where hundreds of routes and countless catches began chasing away the butterflies, slowing his heartbeat and quelling his concerns.

"Last year I was down. I was always nervous about getting in the huddle with Peyton and not wanting to mess up," Latimer said. "This year, it's like, 'Just go out there and play fast. If you mess up, you mess up.'"

That hasn't happened very much.

Emboldened by his experience at Duke, Latimer, a second-round pick in 2014 out of Indiana, is intent on showing last year's terrific draft class of receivers is even better than anyone thought.

Latimer took his newfound bravado into the weight room, producing a chiseled torso. He took it into the classroom, absorbing the offense like a college student retaking a course for a better grade. He took it into the locker room, gaining the trust and respect of his teammates, particularly Emmanuel Sanders, who has been effusive in his praise of Latimer.

And he took it onto the football field, where he capitalized on the absence of Demaryius Thomas in a contract stalemate during the offseason program to get thousands of snaps with the starters.

The only downside: fatigue, but even that's fixable.

"That kid's run more than anybody on this football team," coach Gary Kubiak said Sunday. "He runs a lot, so he's worn down. When he freshens up, you can watch him. When he's fresh in practice things are good, things are sharp. He's a vastly improved player from OTAs to now and that's what we need."

Latimer acknowledges he didn't handle himself well last year, when he caught more flack than passes. He had just two receptions for 23 yards and no TDs in eight games. Looking back, Latimer said he just didn't prepare properly for the pros and tried too hard to please Manning.

He would regularly wow everyone as a member of the scout team, just like he had in training camp, when he routinely schooled fellow rookie Bradley Roby only to watch the first-rounder quickly make his mark in the regular season while he languished on the sideline.

Latimer just couldn't translate that play into games because he couldn't always decipher Manning's many changes in the play call at the line.

So, the only times he'd flash his unusual mix of speed, strength and superb hands came three hours before kickoffs, when he'd head out with a backup QB to work on his game.

"I feel like I'm way more prepared this year," Latimer said.

He doesn't fret that there's not enough footballs to go around in Kubiak's run-heavy, two-tight end offense, either.

"No, it doesn't worry me," Latimer said. "Everybody's going to go out there and make plays. My name will get called and when it gets called, I'm prepared this year."

NOTES: Thomas was banged up Sunday when he ran into the goal post while making a great play in the end zone. Kubiak said Thomas was OK. ... ILB Brandon Marshall (sore foot) came out of practice early and TE/FB Joe Don Duncan left early with a neck injury. ... About 20 players sat out practice, including Manning. One player who insists he needs no rest is TE Virgil Green. "I have a lot of stamina," he said. "I don't know why, but I have it and I'm happy about it."

# Cody Latimer 'way ahead' of where he was last year

By Allie Raymond

DenverBroncos.com

August 9, 2015

Wide receiver Cody Latimer has come a long way since his first training camp in 2014. A combination of his youth and jitters held him back from the season he was hoping for – but now he has a chance to make up for lost time.

"I just needed to have confidence in myself," Latimer said. "Last year I was down. [I] was always nervous about getting in the huddle with Peyton [Manning] and not wanting to mess up. This year, it's just like, 'Go out there and play fast.' If you mess up, you mess up, as long as you're playing fast and keep making plays."

Last season, Latimer just skimmed the surface of his ability. He was active in eight games and totaled two receptions for 23 yards and two kickoff returns for 22 yards.

In 2015, Latimer has been playing fast and furious during training camp thus far. After getting plenty of repetitions during the offseason, he has impressed fans, coaches and teammates alike while showcasing highlight-reel catches and his sheer athleticism.

"I feel like I'm way more prepared this year," Latimer said. "Last year, still, like I said, I was nervous. It's coming into the league. You're nervous and 'man, I don't want to mess up. I don't want to do all these things in front of people and make sure I don't mess up.' This year I'm way more confident. I feel like it will be a good preseason for me."

Latimer may be able to attribute his preparedness to the amount of runs he's had since the offseason training activities.

"That kid's run more than anybody on this football team for the last year," Head Coach Gary Kubiak said. "He runs a lot, so he's worn down. When he freshens up, you can watch him. When he's fresh in practice, things are good. Things are sharp. He's a vastly improved player from OTAs to now, and that's what we need."

One improvement Latimer has seen is in his relationship with Manning. His chemistry with the signal caller started to build this offseason when he and some Broncos worked out together at Manning's annual training session at Duke University. This coupled with his commitment to learning Kubiak and Offensive Coordinator Rick Dennison's playbook has been the difference for Latimer.

"Studying—I got a head start down at Duke," said Latimer of changes from last year. "Now I go home every night and look over my plays. Even when we're on day eight install, you have to go back to day one and just make sure you keep mentally getting the reps because you don't ever know what they're going to call that day."

That preparedness will help when Latimer and the Broncos when they travel to Seattle this week for their first preseason game against the Seahawks on Friday at 8 p.m. MDT.

“I feel like I'm on a great pace right now,” Latimer said. “There is always stuff that I can work on and there are still a lot of things that I do need to work on, but as of right now, in my position this year compared to last year, I'm way ahead.”

# Details in demand at Camp Kubiak

By Mark Kiszla  
DenverPost.com  
August 6, 2015

Broncos receiver Cody Latimer stepped in the NFL's version of a confessional booth, and refused to make lame excuses. With chin held high and eyes unafraid to examine the hard truth of his shortcomings, Latimer sought absolution for his football sins as a rookie.

"Excuse my words, but I should have known what the (expletive) I was doing. And I didn't know what I was doing," Latimer told me, explaining the root cause of why he caught only two passes for 23 yards a year ago. For him, the Denver playbook was as inscrutable as an algebra word problem written in Chinese. "Felt like I was taking the ACT exam every day," he admitted.

To make a great leap forward, what Latimer needed was a mentor, not another reminder he was a football dunce.

Instead of Mr. Miyagi, the Broncos hired Gary Kubiak as their new head coach.

And on a fine summer morning for training camp, when the Colorado sun shined so brightly every detail came into 20/20 focus, Kubiak stood 30 yards from where the Broncos' receivers dispersed on pass routes, and when the play was over, the coach calmly summoned Latimer for 30 seconds of private, one-on-one consultation.

Latimer had zigged when it would have been smarter to zag on his route. Rather than get angry, Kubiak seized the small mistake as a teaching moment.

"He wasn't down on me. Not at all," Latimer said Thursday. "Coach was just giving me pointers. And he does that every single day. In this case, I had an option route and I took the defensive back inside. Coach told me I should have gone outside in that situation, and he told me why. It ain't no downer when the coach comes talk to us. It's all positive stuff."

While we've all heard the mantra of kicking and screaming for the 2015 Broncos, the real distinguishing feature of Camp Kubiak is teaching and development.

Yes, the Broncos want to be meaner and more competitive. Those kicks in the teeth by the Seahawks and Colts still hurt long after the final gun of disappointing playoff losses. Kubiak, however, recently explained to me what kicking and screaming means to him is not made up of testosterone and vinegar so much as unrelenting focus to detail that demands every Denver player becomes a student of the game.

One reason Champ Bailey was a perennial Pro Bowl cornerback is he saw the immutable truths of football with great clarity. And Bailey always told me the No. 1 way any championship contender improves is through the contributions of young players, because the long haul of the regular season is destined to put so many dings in veteran stars, they are challenged to perform at peak efficiency by the time the playoffs begin.

Many respected, accomplished coaches graduated from the old school. John Fox did, and as coach of the Broncos, he clung to the same view Dusty Baker brings to a baseball dugout or George Karl takes to the basketball court. As a general principle, Fox believes what rookies don't know is dangerous, they are seldom to be trusted and the best cure for what ails them is time on the pine. Maybe it's solid thinking. It's also a major reason Fox no longer coaches the Broncos.

Latimer was selected 56th overall in 2014 NFL draft, and Broncos executive John Elway expected him to make some noise for the Denver offense. Instead, Latimer quickly turned into the Cellophane Man. When the Broncos' coaches looked for help on the bench, they looked right through Latimer, as if he wasn't there.

"If a player doesn't know what he's doing, if he's out there on the field, with his head spinning and not playing like he's capable, a coach shouldn't play him," said Latimer, who participated in only half of Denver's 16 regular-season games as a rookie.

"It wasn't easy. It was a stressful time, knowing: 'Man, I want to be on that field.' But I was sitting on that sideline, and some games not even being able to dress. You've got to man up and know that it's your own fault. It wasn't the coaches' fault."

With Demaryius Thomas and Emmanuel Sanders as big-time, big-talent receiving targets for quarterback Peyton Manning, the Broncos probably won't need Latimer to be a star this season.

But if one teaching point has become obvious at Camp Kubiak, it's that the new man in charge thinks the real benefit of preseason goes beyond selecting a roster to prepare young players, whether it's Latimer or rookie guard Max Garcia, as the next wave of stars in a Denver locker room where the NFL salary cap forces constant roster churn.

Fox preached: Next man up.

Kubiak practices: Tomorrow is sooner than you think.

# Cody Latimer overlooked? Emmanuel Sanders thinks so

By Nicki Jhabvala

DenverPost.com

August 2, 2015

Second-year receiver Cody Latimer has been champing at the bit for more time on the field and more targets from Peyton Manning. The 2014 second-round pick played eight games last season but was targeted only four times and had two receptions that averaged out to 11.5 yards apiece.

So he found his reps elsewhere.

Latimer joined Manning and some of his Broncos teammates at the quarterback's annual Duke workouts in early April. He absorbed the advice of veterans, including Emmanuel Sanders, throughout mini camp and organized team activities. And for the better part of the offseason, Latimer has been tabbed the Broncos' Player to Watch in 2015.

"Starting from Duke to here, OTAs — we never got to run with the ones," Latimer said. "It's been good. Time has been good. Like I said, there's always stuff we can work on. We're trying to get better every day."

Although Latimer said he's striving for day-to-day improvements and is grateful for the reps with Manning and the first unit, those around him have seen potential for more.

With No. 1 receiver Demaryius Thomas absent from the team's offseason workouts because of contract negotiations, Sanders took the time to help bring up Latimer and some of the Broncos' younger wideouts. The Broncos may only be three days into camp, but Sanders has seen many more days of Latimer at work.

His assessment?

"You want to talk about a guy who's a physical tool just like Demaryius Thomas? I feel like coming in with the rookie class of Odell Beckham, Jarvis Landry, Mike Evans and all those guys, he feels like he's kind of overlooked," Sanders said. "I'm big on Cody. He's strong, he's fast and I think that's he's going to come in and he's going to have a big year for us. I'm looking forward to him just taking off and showing everybody, 'Hey, look at (No.) 14 over here from the Denver Broncos.'"

# Broncos WR Cody Latimer expects a breakout season in Year 2

By Cameron Wolfe  
DenverPost.com  
June 23, 2015

In the NFL's highly touted 2014 wide receiver draft class, Cody Latimer is one name you didn't see among last season's top performers.

The second-round pick flashed his athleticism through training camp and the preseason but couldn't get on the field when it counted. Latimer suited up for only half the Broncos' regular-season games and played just 37 snaps.

He plans to erase his lackluster rookie season from the minds of those who have written him off.

"Last year was a disappointment to myself. I hated not being on that field," the former Indiana star said. "I took it as an oath of mine. This year I'm going to get on that field. I'm going to study extra and do whatever I need to do."

Studying might be where Latimer can make his greatest leap. He admitted he was nervous and afraid to mess up in his first season with quarterback Peyton Manning. His main struggle was learning the offense and keeping up with Manning's adjustments on the line of scrimmage.

Latimer attended Manning's camp at Duke in April and made a concerted effort to develop more chemistry. He also said he dived into new Broncos coach Gary Kubiak's playbook during the offseason and feels a lot more comfortable than he did at this time a year ago.

"It's much easier to catch on. It gives you time to play fast; you don't have to think so much," Latimer said. "Not as many adjustments in this offense. Once you know what you're doing out of the huddle, you stick with that. No changing on the run."

The switch in scheme, Latimer believes, will allow his talent to shine. He believes he lost snaps to Andre Caldwell last season because he didn't know what he was doing.

With former Broncos tight end Julius Thomas signing a five-year contract worth \$46 million with the Jacksonville Jaguars this offseason, there is a void in Manning's receiving corps that needs to be filled. Latimer is expected to be the team's third receiver if he has a strong training camp.

"It's time for some of these young guys to step up," Kubiak said. "Can Cody step up and get where he needs to go? Players like that have to come along."

Wide receiver Demaryius Thomas' absence from minicamp and organized team activities has been a benefit to Latimer, who was running with the first team for most of the off-season workouts. The snaps started to take a toll toward the end of OTAs. Kubiak held Latimer and receivers Jordan Norwood and Kyle Williams out of the end of a practice last week after their hamstrings flared up. Those sort of precautions are normal during voluntary workouts.

While he was on the field, Latimer drew the attention of his teammates, who expect an improvement over last season, when he had but two receptions for 23 yards.

"Cody's ready for a breakout season. He's got a ton of talent," quarterback Brock Osweiler said. "I expect great things out of him."

Osweiler isn't the only one. Latimer is motivated by the phenomenal years of fellow receivers in his draft class such as Odell Beckham, Mike Evans and Kelvin Benjamin, all of whom surpassed 1,000 yards and eight touchdowns as rookies. Latimer got left behind.

"I didn't have the opportunity to get on the field because I wasn't doing my job," Latimer said.

"This year, they'll know who I am."

#### **Latimer file**

*A look at Broncos receiver Cody Latimer:*

**Height:** 6-foot-2; **Weight:** 215 pounds

**College:** Indiana, 2011-13

**Drafted:** Second round (56th), 10th receiver off the board

**2014 stats:** Two receptions, 23 yards in eight games (37 snaps)

**Best traits:** Size, athleticism, dominant run blocker

**Off the field:** Lost dad, grandmother and aunt to cancer. Launched the site [TheCodyLatimer.com](http://TheCodyLatimer.com), where he sells T-shirts, with proceeds going to the American Cancer Society

# Emmanuel Sanders: Cody Latimer will 'jump onto map' in 2015

By Jeff Legwold  
ESPN.com  
April 14, 2015

There are times in and around the NFL when answers to offseason questions become little more than sunshine-and-rainbow propositions.

There are fresh starts, big expectations, best-shape-of-my-life conversations when the actual winning and losing won't happen for another five months. But Monday, Denver Broncos wide receiver Emmanuel Sanders joined the growing chorus about a player to watch.

Sanders echoed the sentiments of Broncos chief football decision-maker John Elway and coach Gary Kubiak, who have already used Cody Latimer's name in reference to how productive 2015 can be for the wide receiver.

"On my Twitter, I'm real vocal about Cody," Sanders said. "And that's because I believe in Cody -- Cody, he's a special player. He has strong hands, he's a physical tool, I think that this is going to be the year that he jumps on to the map, on to the scene."

Latimer was the Broncos' second-round pick in the 2014 draft. And even after a training camp where Latimer often went into a crowd and came out with the ball, he had just 37 plays on offense last season.

He was often in uniform, but not in the plan because of the steep learning curve for an offense where quarterback Peyton Manning calls much of the game at the line of scrimmage. But as the Broncos made the coaching change away from John Fox, who had won four consecutive AFC West titles, to Kubiak, Latimer's name was one of those spoken by Elway over and over again. He would like to see more of him.

With tight end Julius Thomas departing in free agency and wide receiver Wes Welker an unrestricted free agent who isn't expected back, to go with wide receiver Demaryius Thomas skipping the Broncos' offseason program as his representatives and the team negotiate a long-term deal, Latimer has plenty of opportunity to seize in the weeks and months ahead.

"I think he's going to have a big year," Sanders said. "I'm happy that he is on my team and in our wide receiver group."

Sanders, who is coming off his first 100-catch/Pro Bowl season, will start on one side for the Broncos; Demaryius Thomas will start on the other. The Broncos and Thomas want and expect to get a deal done. So, by the time the Broncos are playing games -- and Thomas said he would be in training camp at minimum -- Thomas will be in his customary spot as the No. 1 receiver.

While the Broncos are expected to move toward a more committed approach to the run game, at least that's the plan if they can get it blocked up, with a far more liberal use of two-tight end, two-running

back formations, they are still going to use plenty of three-wide receiver looks in these pass-happy times with a guy like Manning behind center.

And Latimer can be, and the Broncos want him to be, the third wide receiver. Wide receivers coach Tyke Tolbert has already talked to Sanders about his role in a three-wide set: "I am going to move into the slot, which I'm comfortable doing," he said. That would put Latimer and Thomas on the outside.

Kubiak, a run-game, play-action pass disciple, has vowed the Broncos will be more physical on offense. The team signed three tight ends during free agency. Kubiak believes a better run game will benefit Manning. Kubiak has said he would be "stupid" and "crazy" not to build an offense that suits the future Hall of Fame quarterback.

That Manning will have some of the same freedoms to call games at the line of scrimmage -- Kubiak has said "you can make decisions during the week about how you call games at the line during games and that's what we'd do" -- and when it's time to air it out, the Broncos will.

"We're going to be able to run the football, but ... you've got Peyton Manning as your quarterback," Sanders said. "You've got a combination of both. I think it's going to be really successful once we get everything down pat in terms of, hopefully, implementing a little bit of Peyton's offense with Kubiak's run scheme. I think that's a recipe for success."

Or as Thomas has put it: "They've got everybody saying we're going to run, run, run and I know the coaches have run the ball before and that's good, I think. We know we can throw, we know we have guys who can make plays, I don't think Coach Kubiak is going to just ignore that. But I think we all feel like, if we can add in a good running game, you can win the Super Bowl."

In recent workouts at Duke University, Manning had Sanders, Latimer, tight end Virgil Green, tight end Owen Daniels and wide receiver Andre Caldwell as pass-catchers. Daniels has spent his nine previous seasons in Kubiak's offense -- eight in Houston, one in Baltimore -- and could offer a glimpse of what's to come in the two-a-day sessions.

"I just want to win ballgames, no matter how we get the job done," Sanders said. "The ultimate goal is to win the Super Bowl ... that's why we play this game."

# Expectations high for Cody Latimer in second year

By Troy E. Renck  
The Denver Post  
Feb. 20, 2015

INDIANAPOLIS — The Broncos' inability to develop young players became a growing concern last season. The team's top two draft choices, wide receiver Cody Latimer and right tackle Michael Schofield, were ghosts in uniforms.

Latimer, who honed his skills on the scout team, should benefit from a less complicated offense under coach Gary Kubiak.

"I spent a whole day with him in Baltimore (last year before the draft)," coach Gary Kubiak said. "We really, really liked him. He has a lot of ability. Usually a player like that is going to make his biggest jump from year one to year two."

Latimer caught two passes and returned two kickoffs last season. It sat in stark contrast to his impressive preseason. Wes Welker's potential departure could clear a spot to the field.

"Cody worked his tail off. We have high expectations for Cody. He's a big, fast, strong wide receiver that we really believe is going to be help us win," general manager John Elway said. "He's got the ability now to catch the ball and get open, but also he does a great job on fourth down and has the ability to run after the catch. Obviously he didn't have the production that I'm sure he would have liked to have, as well as us, but he took advantage of all the opportunities he got, and he'll get a lot more opportunities this year."

**Footnote.** German linebacker Mark Nzeocha on playing for Wyoming. "It's a great fan base. The whole state supported us. The wind? I could live without it." Nzeocha remains ahead of schedule in his recovery from knee surgery.

# Rookie receiver ready to add to Broncos' weaponry

By Arnie Stapleton  
Associated Press  
November 21, 2014

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP) — Wide receiver Cody Latimer spent his summer burning cornerback Bradley Roby in a daily must-see matchup of Big Ten rookies vying to make an immediate impact in the NFL.

Yet, the one who's gotten all the playing time so far is Roby, a first-round pick from Ohio State getting on-the-job training as Denver's slot cornerback.

Latimer, a second-round pick from Indiana, is buried in the Broncos' deep receiving corps.

While Roby has made a quick name for himself with 10 pass breakups, including a game-clincher, and two interceptions, Latimer has just one catch, from backup Brock Osweiler, to go with five game-day deactivations.

"I'm just waiting my turn," Latimer said. "I know it's a numbers game."

With two of Peyton Manning's top targets — Emmanuel Sanders (head) and Julius Thomas (ankle) dealing with injuries, Latimer's number could be called in the Dolphins-Broncos showdown Sunday.

Sanders returned to practice Friday but Thomas, who leads the league with 12 TD catches, didn't practice all week.

Manning no longer sees in Latimer a wide-eyed rookie scared to mess up but a confident receiver who knows the plays, understands the calls and looks ready for a bigger role.

"I certainly think if his name and number were called, he'd go in and answer the bell for us," Manning said.

Latimer recently passed a pop quiz from his famously demanding quarterback.

"He came up to me and had me go out there early before practice and put me through a drive and I did a good job on it," Latimer said. "So he congratulated me and said, 'You've been in your (play) book.' I said, 'Yeah.' So, it should be good whenever my time comes."

GM John Elway moved up in the draft to take the 6-foot-2, 215-pound receiver. So far, though, Latimer has mostly had to flash his unusual mix of size, speed, strength and superb hands and footwork at empty stadiums.

He goes out three hours before kickoff to practice his craft.

"I don't want to waste my time sitting around. You can always get better at something," he said.

Latimer has added one more attribute to his repertoire: patience.

"It's tough because most of these guys were the best player in their high school and, if not the best player in college, one of them," offensive coordinator Adam Gase said. "Anytime you come in and you're not playing a lot (you either) shut it down or stay with it. He's done a great job of staying in his book. He constantly is around me through the whole practice, asking me questions."

Receivers coach Tyke Tolbert called Latimer "a big sponge" and said this delay in getting him significant snaps from scrimmage will pay off because it's allowed him to better absorb the intricacies of this offense.

"Oh yeah, our audibles have audibles, our signals have signals, our code words have code words," Tolbert said.

Latimer insists he gets it now, and his teammates say it shows at practice.

"He's going against Aqib Talib, Chris Harris, so I feel like he's getting better and better every week," Demaryius Thomas said. "And also, I feel like he's learning stuff from me, Coach Tyke, Wes Welker, Emmanuel. I just see growth. He's going to be a good ballplayer."

Sanders practiced Friday for the first time since being knocked from the game last week by Rams safety Rodney McLeod's hit that drew a flag but no fine.

McLeod led with his shoulder and didn't hit Sanders in the head. "But I think his intentions the whole time were to come over and deliver a blow. That's the only thing I'm not happy about," Sanders said. "I feel like in the NFL, it is a violent game (but) you're also supposed to protect your brother, and most free safeties, they like interceptions. Obviously his intent was to try to make a statement, and I guess he did."

Notes: TE Virgil Green (right calf, questionable) said he's ready to return to the lineup after missing three games, which coincided with the O-line's nosedive. ... K Brandon McManus said he's not bothered by a strained groin anymore nor is he vexed by John Fox forgoing two long field goals at St. Louis last week. "We play the

percentages and when you've got 18 (Manning), you've got a good chance of getting the first down," McManus said.

# Will Latimer get his opportunity?

By David DeChant  
denverbroncos.com  
November 19, 2014

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — Flash back to the warm days of training camp.

The temperature was in the '70s and '80s, and time and time again, No. 14 made a play that brought oohs and ahhs from the watching media.

Second-round pick Cody Latimer was working primarily with the second team throughout camp — after all, Demaryius Thomas, Emmanuel Sanders, Wes Welker and Andre Caldwell sat in front of him — but his dominant physical tools were obvious from the jump.

He gave fellow rookie Bradley Roby — who has acquitted himself quite well as the Broncos' third corner this season — all he could handle in one-on-one sessions. Then there was a deep post in team drills on Day 8 of camp that Latimer pulled in with just his left hand for a long touchdown despite double coverage. And on the second day of joint practices with the Texans, he dropped the jaws of all onlookers when he made a fully extended, right-handed snag behind his head in the back of the end zone, perhaps the play of camp. That remarkable grab was sandwiched by a diving 33-yard touchdown catch against the 49ers and a 57-yard catch-and-run against the Cowboys in the preseason.

But even with the big plays and obvious talent the rookie showed early, don't be surprised that Latimer has been limited to 16 offensive snaps this season. The factors that kept him from running with the first team in training camp haven't changed.

Really, who would you take off the field?

"He's got some pretty good guys in front of him," Head Coach John Fox said Wednesday. "...It's no fault of his. He's working hard, just like everybody out there. It's just a numbers game."

For a player who starred at Indiana and was one of the top wide receivers in the draft, the time on the sideline hasn't been easy. But Latimer said Wednesday that he's found ways to turn it into a positive. For starters, he had more time to completely heal from a broken foot suffered during the draft process, and he's also had the chance to learn more about the NFL game before being counted on in games.

"First I was down about it, like 'Man, why am I not playing?" Latimer said. "You're used to playing so much, but I took it in a positive way. It's a learning experience for me.

"It just makes it easier on me, so when my time comes I can just go out there and play ball."

Whether or not that time comes this weekend remains to be seen, but after Emmanuel Sanders' concussion against the Rams, it's possible that Latimer could get a longer look against the Dolphins. He described his Week 10 game against the Raiders, when he had 14 snaps and caught his first NFL pass on a screen, as "like getting your feet wet," adding, "hopefully there's more to come."

The rookie receiver ran extra routes with Peyton Manning after practice throughout training camp and says the two have continued to work together to stay on the same page. Latimer described his chemistry with his quarterback as "way better" than it was early in the season, when Latimer says he was "nervous about being out there."

"But now it's more comfortable, it comes easy to me, so I just go out there and line up and play," he said.

"I think he certainly has taken advantage of his time out here at practice," Manning said Wednesday. "...I think Cody has done a good job studying and I know he certainly wants to be out there. He's a competitive guy and I think he's improved throughout the season.

"I certainly think if his name and number was called, I think he'd go in there and answer the bell for us."

# Broncos' Adam Gase: Cody Latimer has done 'great job' staying ready

By Jeff Legwold

ESPN.com

November 7, 2014

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. – The Denver Broncos have reached the halfway point of their season and one of the team's prized rookies hasn't seen any time in the team's high-powered offense.

Wide receiver Cody Latimer, who was the Broncos' second-round draft pick in this past May's NFL draft, has been active for three games this season, but has played just two snaps on offense -- both against the New England Patriots this past Sunday -- as he continues to battle through the growing pains in the Broncos' substantial playbook. For his part, Latimer has consistently said, "I'm just trying to study, get in my [playbook] and be ready for when the opportunity comes. I want to make plays that help us win games. Whatever that means, I'll do it."

Overall, in the Broncos' rookie class, the first-year players on defense have had an easier time cracking the lineup. Cornerback Bradley Roby and linebackers Corey Nelson and Lamin Barrow have played 78, 14 and 5 percent of the team's snaps on defense. Nelson and Barrow also have been regulars on special teams.

Offensively, the rookies have had a more difficult time in the Broncos' no-huddle, audible-heavy attack. Tackle Michael Schofield has been a game-day inactive for eight of the Broncos games. Matt Paradis is on the Broncos' practice squad.

In Latimer's case, for a wide receiver, this is not your father's offense and the receivers have a pile of choices to make both before and after the snap that have to match the decisions quarterback Peyton Manning makes in the pocket. If Manning throws to the spot where he expects the receiver to be, the receiver has to have made the right adjustment to get there.

"Any time you're a rookie, it's tough because most of these guys were the best player in their high school and, if not the best player in college, one of them," said offensive coordinator Adam Gase. "Anytime you come in and you're not playing a lot, you're inactive, you're active, you're not really involved in the offense, it's that guy's decision to shut it down or stay with it. He's done a great job of staying in his book. He constantly is around me through the whole practice, asking me questions

– ‘How would I do this?’ or ‘What’s the adjustment here?’”

Since Wes Welker’s return from his suspension to open the season, there hasn’t been much room for a fourth receiver in the offense. Since Week 3, Andre Caldwell, who has been the No. 4 receiver on game day since Welker’s return, has appeared for more than nine snaps on offense in just one game – 20 snaps against the San Francisco 49ers.

The Broncos still expect Latimer to contribute at some point in the season and believe he’s ready if an injury to one of the team’s other receivers forces him into the lineup. Overall, Gase said the most difficult thing in the offense for a young receiver is making adjustments to the route based on the coverage he sees.

Gase said Latimer is on a similar developmental path to Demaryius Thomas and Eric Decker when the two were Broncos’ rookies in 2010 and Gase was the team’s wide receivers coach in an offense that didn’t do nearly as many pre-snap adjustments at the line of scrimmage.

“If you’re running a comeback and it’s Cover 2, you have a completely different route, whether it be a fade or you turn it into some kind of corner route,” Gase said. “It’s a tough thing to adjust on the fly, and all of a sudden you release and they’re disguising it. ... Things like that, it happens so fast. If you’re not used to doing that stuff, it takes some time to get used to ... I had [Thomas] and Decker, and we didn’t get those guys going until late in the season. It’s not easy. It’s a tough position to learn.”

# Broncos Q&A: Cody Latimer receptive to being patient

By Troy E. Renck  
The Denver Post  
October 12, 2014

Cody Latimer continues to wait for his first professional reception. His work, however, shows up every week on the stat sheet. The second-round draft pick from Indiana stars on the Broncos' scout team. He already has played the role of T.Y. Hilton, Dwayne Bowe and Percy Harvin — and this past week, he played the role of the man Broncos fans hope he can become, Eric Decker.

"I am doing what I can to help team win. I want my work to translate for the defense on game day," Latimer said. "In my predicament now, I don't really worry about whether I will play or not. I know my time will come."

The transition to the NFL has been jarring. Latimer had always been a star, excelling in basketball before picking up football during his junior year of high school. Watching from the Denver sideline — a healthy scratch in three consecutive games — has been humbling but educational. Latimer's practices serve as graduate school.

"It's crazy. I will be talking to our defense on the sideline, and I will tell them, 'This is about to be a touchdown.' They are like, 'You were right,' " said Latimer, who dropped only one pass in his senior season at Indiana and caught the Broncos' attention with his blocking. "I see the formations, picture what will happen and picture myself out there. It's helping me. My football knowledge is growing every day."

His role will grow too, whether it's this season or next year. Before the Broncos headed to the Meadowlands to play the New York Jets on Sunday, Latimer talked about his hoop dreams, movies and the challenge of learning the Denver playbook.

Q: As a former college star, how have you dealt with not playing?

A: It's tough. I have been getting a lot of support. I didn't know a lot of the offense when I got here. I would get down on myself. My teammates helped me build my confidence. Now each day I smile, practice hard and make plays. I know I can do this. I am confident. It's just whenever the time comes, be ready. You don't want to be one of those players that when somebody goes down, you are unprepared.

Q: Denver's playbook isn't easy to master. What makes it difficult for a wide receiver?

A: It's totally different than college. We had audibles, but we looked to the sideline for signals. A couple of routes converted. Here, all of the routes convert. Here, you don't play a certain position. You could play either slot, outside, or maybe even the tight end position. You have to learn everything. In college, I might know two outside roles. Here, I know all of the roles, routes and the blitzes. And each position has something different. It has helped a lot. I am learning so much, soaking it in.

Q: In arguably the deepest wide receiver draft ever — 33 were selected, including 12 in the first two rounds — you went 56th overall. Were you worried you might be overlooked because you played at Indiana, which isn't a power program?

A: I wasn't worried about that. I was just trying to do my job. My first couple of years there, I wasn't even thinking about playing in the NFL. I was just trying to help turn around the program because everybody knows it's a basketball school. We were trying to get to a bowl game.

Q: You excelled at hoops, winning a high school state title for Jefferson Township in Dayton, Ohio, with former Michigan State star Adreian Payne. Who is your favorite basketball player?

A: I am a Kobe Bryant fan. I love the way he plays, how hard he works, the way he wins. You can't go wrong with that. I was going to try to play basketball at Indiana my freshman year, but I tore my groin. I had to sit the second half of my freshman year in football, so my hoops dreams ended.

Q: Dealing with a broken bone in your right foot, you ran 4.38 in the 40 at your pro day before the draft. How did you pull that off?

A: It was just about pain tolerance, knowing you have to go if you want to make it to the pros. I had a goal to reach. I had put in the work to do it, so it was now or never. I was ready to get out there. As long as I could run, I was doing it.

Q: What do you like most about pro football, and how are you spending your downtime?

A: The fans knowing who we are is the coolest part. And having great teammates. Everybody wants to win, has the same goal. I like to relax by going to movies, whatever is new. I like Denzel Washington. You have to say Denzel wins when talking about movies. Yes, I have seen "Remember the Titans." Hasn't everybody seen it?

Cody Latimer file

- Starred as a high school basketball player at Jefferson Township in Dayton, Ohio.
- Won state hoops title in his junior season, scoring 24 points with 12 rebounds in championship game.
- Started playing football his junior year of high school.
- Before going to Indiana University, had offers from Michigan State and Ball State to play defense.
- The 10th of 33 receivers selected in last year's NFL draft.
- Bench pressed 225 pounds 23 times at his pro day.
- Orange one of his favorite colors. Wore an orange suit and orange shoes when met media after he was drafted.
- Made five catches for 116 yards and one touchdown in the preseason.

# Latimer wants to show Broncos he's ready

By Jeff Legwold

ESPN.com

September 25, 2014

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. -- A year ago at this time, football had a far different march through the calendar for Cody Latimer.

There were practices, there were games and the touchdowns followed. Week after week, month after month.

Now, for the Denver Broncos rookie wide receiver, there has been practice and, well, more practice. Make no mistake, the second-round pick carries plenty of expectations and high hopes from team officials. But after three games in the regular season he has been active for just one game, played 10 special-teams snaps and has not appeared on offense.

"At first it was tough, but you get it," Latimer said. "They have to and you have to do what's best for the team. At the end of the day sometimes they need more positions than others. You're used to playing a lot in college, but every guy in here played a lot in college, that's not how they measure it. Once you come into this league you have to understand."

The team's decision-makers like Latimer's physicality at the position, his top-end speed and the ability he showed to go up in a crowd and come down with the ball. As a result the team believes Latimer can, and will, be a factor in the offense.

The question is when that time will come and that's not even something Latimer can answer with any certainty, even as much as he'd like it to be sooner rather than later.

"I just keep grinding, try to wait your turn, keep working in practice," Latimer said. "That first game, I was kind like, man, but you look and see what's happening and keep going. I do know if I don't practice hard, make plays in practice, they're not going to play me. I want to keep their attention."

He has it, but in the Broncos' big picture, the Broncos are choosing veteran Andre Caldwell at the moment to be the offense's No. 4 receiver behind Demaryius Thomas, Emmanuel Sanders and Wes Welker while the fifth receiver spot on game

day has been taken by rookie Isaiah Burse, who is the team's primary punt returner. Caldwell has been the No. 1 kickoff returner as well, but after 40 snaps on offense in the season opener, Caldwell has played five and two snaps, respectively, on offense in the past two games.

So, when the Broncos make the move from 53 players to 46 on game day, Latimer has been moved aside because of others' special-teams duties.

"They don't let us suit everybody up," said Broncos head coach John Fox. "We have to make a decision every week. The good news is those are tough decisions. I think when Wes was out it gave [Latimer] more of an opportunity. Now that Wes is back, we've got decisions to make and not everybody gets a uniform. That's the same thing I told him. This is about numbers."

Latimer did not return kickoffs or punts in college, but did play on the Hoosiers' coverage units at times, including this past season when he was a 1,000-yard receiver. He returned some punts and kickoffs in training camp, but not in any of the Broncos' preseason games.

His entry point on offense will be when he has earned the confidence he can handle all of the potential audibles quarterback Peyton Manning will use, and that's not a short list. The Broncos also ask their receivers to learn all of spots in the offense, so while they could simply teach Latimer one spot and play him, they have chosen a more long-term approach to have Latimer ready for everything when he does get in the lineup.

To that end Latimer said this week he has tried make sure he understands what's happening on the field on game day as the Broncos work through their possessions.

"When it's my time, be ready for your time," Latimer said. "I hear the play calls, see what they're doing, kind of say to myself, all right, this is the play -- and we have to know all the positions -- so I see if I can work through what every guy is doing before the snap."

On his progress with the vast playbook, Latimer said: "I'm way better than when I first came in. When I first came in a lot was thrown at me. I think I'm playing with more confidence and you have to build the trust. If it was training camp, nah, I'd say I wasn't ready, but now I think if they wanted to put me in I could get it done."

# Player Q&A: Cody Latimer

By David DeChant

DenverBroncos.com

August 25, 2014

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. -- The Broncos moved up in the second round of the 2014 NFL Draft to take receiver Cody Latimer out of Indiana with the 57th overall pick. The rookie receiver has been an electric addition to the team ever since he showed up at Dove Valley in a rather appropriate outfit. He offered a few thoughts on his NFL experience thus far.

Take me back to that moment when you got drafted. You knew it was coming, but the actual moment – What was that like?

“I mean it was a long journey up to the draft. But when it happened, it was very exciting. Just sitting in that green room – it was worth the wait. I sat there for two days, but it was worth the wait. Getting the call from Mr. Elway and Coach Fox, it was amazing just knowing I get to play with the GOAT (Greatest of All Time) of quarterbacks, of all time you know. Just knowing we had a good offense, an up-tempo offense which I’m used to, and loaded up on defense. I was just happy I was put in a good place on a good team to help me grow as a player.”

Did you have any inkling of where you might be drafted?

“Everybody had their idea, thinking you’re going here, but you never know. I didn’t guess. You never know until draft day.”

You showed up at Dove Valley straight from the draft in a bright orange outfit. That was your senior prom outfit from high school?

“The orange one I wore here? I believe it was my senior prom, yeah. Just had it in the closet and happened to pack it before the draft just in case of day two, if I ended up being there, I never knew. But I ended up going casual to the draft and luckily had that. I’m picked by the Broncos, orange and blue, and it was like ‘Wow it worked out perfectly.’ It was like it was meant to be.”

What was it like meeting John Fox and John Elway for the first time and you’re wearing that outfit?

“It was good. First impressions are the best and they said it too, ‘It must be meant to be.’ I guess you know, first impressions are always good, and knowing I was in their colors. Like I said, it was meant to be.”

You and Bradley Roby both came from the Big Ten and have had some battles in camp. What’s that been like?

“It’s going good. He’s a great cornerback. He’s learning, I’m learning and we’re just

out here playing fast and just trying to make a name. Help this team the best way we can."

How does a play come together like your one-handed touchdown from Brock Osweiler in practice last week?

"QB and me, timing. It was great ball placement by Brock and he just put it where it needed to be and I just had to make a play on it. As a receiver, that's my job is to go make your quarterback look good."

Does that play stand out as far as plays you've made in practice?

"I mean I guess, but that's in the past you know. Every day is a new day so you have to consistently do that and make big plays."

What's been the biggest challenge for you so far in the transition to the NFL?

"Learning this offense. We have a complicated, crazy offense that has a lot of checks and different calls and things. So just catching on to the offense. I've been doing a good job of that lately, so it's allowed me to play faster but I've still got a lot of learning and growing to do."

Now that you've been able to get out on the field for an actual game-day experience, what was that first game like?

"It was great you know. Great fan base, great showing, due to the weather. Defense played great, offense did a good job. It was a stepping stone, my first game. Got all the rust out of the way and I'm ready to attack game two."

With all the weapons on this offense, where do you see yourself fitting in during the season?

"I mean wherever they put me. Like you said, we've got a lot of weapons. In our offense, we rotate guys, so whenever I get the call, I just have to come out and answer it. That's what I'm hoping, to go out there, play fast, play physical. When the ball comes my way, I've just got to make a play, big play. I've got to do something with it."

# Rookies Bradley Roby and Cody Latimer put college rivalry aside with Broncos

By Kalyn Kahler  
The Colorado Springs Gazette  
July 24, 2014

ENGLEWOOD - C-minus - That's how Broncos rookies Bradley Roby and Cody Latimer graded themselves after their first NFL training camp practice Thursday at Dove Valley. Maybe it's not a coincidence the two chose the same grade - besides sharing a common college conference, the Big Ten, the top two Broncos draft picks seem to be of the same hard-working mindset. Latimer stayed after practice concluded to catch a few more passes with the wide receivers, and Roby also hung back to huddle with veteran members of the secondary. The coordination between the two rookies started immediately after they were drafted.

"We talk all the time," Latimer said. "Before camp and OTAs, we said we are going to push each other everyday. I'm going to make him better and he's going to make me better."

The status as the top two draft picks in camp comes along with high expectations, and both players are competing in position groups with opportunities to battle for a roster spot. Denver's wide receiver picture is murky with the loss of Eric Decker to free agency, and Latimer could challenge for some of Decker's targets.

Roby saw reps with the first team Thursday and could earn a role in the improved, more physical secondary.

"Me and Cody, we definitely got together and said, 'We are going to do this as rookies,'" Roby said. "The team needs us rookies coming in to make plays."

But the two haven't always been so perfectly synced. During their college careers, Roby's Buckeyes and Latimer's Hoosiers met three times. Unsurprisingly, Big Ten powerhouse Ohio State beat conference doormat Indiana all three times, winning by 28 points last season.

"We killed him," said Roby, who blocked a punt in the game to set up the Buckeye's third touchdown. "It was bad. He knows it, I don't have to say nothing about it."

Although Latimer was never part of a winning season, Indiana improved each of his three seasons, finishing last year at 5-7. Joining the Broncos, a team that has had only five losing seasons in 30 years, is a huge transition.

"It gives me the feel of what a winner actually feels like," Latimer said. "We turned it around at Indiana but here it will be a good feeling to know what a winning program is like."

Latimer got his long overdue Hoosier revenge at the end of Thursday's practice, when he caught a long touchdown pass from Brock Osweiler, beating Roby down the middle.

Although Latimer claims their old college trash-talking days are done, "Now we are on the Broncos and teammates now, we are focused on winning here and that's in the past," he now finds a more subtle way to make a slight dig at his draft-mate.

"Every day is an interview," Latimer said. "You are interviewing for a job, so you have to bring it every day. Somebody is going to look bad, it's either you or the defender."

# Roby-Latimer Battles Helping Both Players

By David DeChant  
DenverBroncos.com  
July 25, 2014

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. -- They were picked just 25 spots apart in the 2014 NFL Draft and they're both from the Big Ten Conference.

Since joining the Broncos, cornerback Bradley Roby and wide receiver Cody Latimer have continued to be linked to each other, on and off the field.

"We talk all the time," Latimer said Thursday. "We talked before camp during OTAs, we said we're going to push each other every day."

The pair faced each other twice in college while Roby was at Ohio State and Latimer was at Indiana. Both players had their moments in those games. Latimer grabbed a combined 12 catches for 128 yards while Roby recorded three passes defended in each contest.

That constant back-and-forth battle continued on the practice field at Dove Valley during rookie camp and offseason practices.

"It's intense between us," Latimer said. "We know when we line up, we're not going to play around. We're going to go after it."

They didn't wait long on the first day of training camp to do just that. They matched up twice during one-on-one drills, with both players showing physicality off the line and out of their breaks. Latimer made a leaping catch both times, using his large frame to box out Roby, but the feisty corner was right there and kept the gains to a minimum.

While both players relish the chance to face each other, the competition represents a particularly important opportunity for Roby.

"[On] offense, you can run routes on air," Roby said. "But defense, you need that guy in front of you to work that muscle memory, that eye control. So it's good to get back out here."

Overall, Latimer had an impressive first practice -- he beat Roby deep for a touchdown during team drills -- and Roby made his share of plays, but both players gave themselves a C-minus for the day. The hope for both is to sharpen one another's skills as they develop at the highest level.

"We're going out here to compete to win a Super Bowl, to be rookies of the year," Latimer said. "We've got goals set for each other, so I'm like, 'I'm going to make you better, you're going to make me better and we're going to bring it.'"

# Rookie wide receiver Cody Latimer opening eyes already in Broncos camp

By Benjamin Hochman  
The Denver Post  
July 25, 2014

Man, Cody Latimer beat the Broncos' cornerback so badly, some found it surprising for to hear the cornerback wasn't Kavon Webster.

At Friday's training camp practice, the rookie receiver Latimer torched first-rounder Bradley Roby in a seven-on-seven drill, and Latimer was rewarded with a beautiful loft from Peyton Manning, who is one of the quarterbacks competing for the Broncos' starting job (so far, it looks good for him).

"He said it's a rivalry now," said Latimer, a second-rounder from Indiana, of Roby, a first-rounder from Big Ten foe Ohio State. "I'm going to make him better, he's going to make me better — we're going to push each other and challenge each other."

Two days into this thing, Latimer is looking like the first-rounder — Roby himself said, after Thursday's first practice, that he'd grade himself a C-minus. But let's not forget, we're just two days into this thing.

I'm loving Latimer though. He's got an Eric Decker body — he looks like a man, not a wide-eyed kid that is just happy to be here. Latimer is here to be somebody.

"I want to be one of the best," he said Friday.

My guy Cecil Lammey from ESPN Denver meticulously rates all the draft picks, and he had Latimer (6-foot-3, 216) graded out as a first-round talent. Lammy pointed out that Latimer only had one drop out of 119 targets at Indiana. The question, of course, is will he even play? Demaryius Thomas, Emmanuel Sanders and Wes Welker are obviously ahead of him, and our old friend Andre "Bubba" Caldwell is in the mix. But here's my guess — Latimer will have a bigger year than Bubba did last year as the "No. 4" receiver.

On Friday, Latimer spent about a half-hour after practice taking an extra curricular class. Manning, Sanders and the rook worked out some routes, but more importantly — and what a "Peyton" thing this is — hammering home signal calls and audibles, over and over.

"We want to take this team to another level, and in order for that, we need everyone to know their assignments," said Latimer, who talks as fast as that guy

from the old Micro Machines commercials. "I don't know everything, coming in as a rookie, there's a lot of pressure on me, so I just try to calm myself down by playing fast and when I make mistakes, we work with Peyton, work on signal calls, just getting on cue with the quarterback."

One drill Latimer has recently taken to involves a medicine ball — which he tries to catch with his fingertips. Also, Latimer sort of has a Broncos connection — he spent the spring working out with one of the better receivers in team history, Brandon Marshall.

"I was at his facility, training with him, learning a lot from him — I see myself as a big physical receiver, and that's what he is," said Latimer, who turns 22 on Oct. 10. "I tried to watch what he did, how he worked out to become one of the best receivers. I tried to add that to my game. The little things. I feel like I did a good job of that. There's still a long way to go."