

# Broncos' Ty Sambrailo ready to make position switch

By Troy Renck  
Denver Post  
May 26, 2016

The flow returned behind Ty Sambrailo's cap. His hair is growing — he hasn't cut it since rookie hazing cost him his locks last summer — and his role is changing. A promising rookie season ended prematurely when he tore his left rotator cuff Sept. 27 at Detroit. A few weeks of rest failed to heal the injury, leading to surgery and a recovery the former Colorado State star is working through.

Soon, possibly next week, Sambrailo will be cleared for all activity as he makes the transition to right guard. As it stands, he is going through walk-throughs and doing individual work, but no seven-on-seven repetitions.

"Obviously he's an athletic kid. He has great balance. That's what we saw when we drafted him. He's a smart kid," said Broncos offensive coordinator Rick Dennison on why Sambrailo is a candidate to move inside. "He comes from a stellar university ... my alma mater. It's a chance to get our best five guys out there. If he has the flexibility to go in and play, great."

Sambrailo has embraced the change. He said mobility and adjusting to the speed of the game remain critical, whether he's at tackle or guard.

"Anything to get on the field. After this last year being hurt, anywhere is good for me," Sambrailo said. "I just want to go play."

Sambrailo enjoyed a star-crossed season. He stood out early, but stood on the sidelines for months as the Broncos won Super Bowl 50. The experience, like that of injured Jeff Heurman, has made him even more motivated to help his team.

"It was tough. At the same time, the way I looked at it was fun being around. Let's say someone makes a pie and you get to smell it and you get to look at it, but you can't eat it. And you're hungry for it, and so you want it," Sambrailo said. "It kind of gave me that perspective of this is what we're working for and this is why we're here. I'm grateful for it. Things happen, and it happened. I just learn from it and move on."

Gotsis signs; Lynch closer: The Broncos agreed to a four-year contract with second-round pick Adam Gotsis on Tuesday and are moving closer to a deal with first-rounder Paxton Lynch. These contracts are slotted, so there's not much wrangling. Gotsis will make roughly \$3.9 million over four years. Lynch is pegged for around \$9.5 million over four years with a fifth-year option that accompanies first-round selections.

Footnote

Derek Wolfe sported a sleeve of tattoos on his right arm during Wednesday's media session. The defensive lineman isn't afraid to go to his left, but all his tattoos must "have purpose." Wolfe ruled out a Super Bowl 50 tattoo, believing it's played out since so many players have gotten that ink. ... Safety TJ

Ward was ranked 68th on the NFL's top 100, receiving recognition for his role as an enforcer on the league's top defense.

# Broncos Q&A: Ty Sambrailo talks offensive line, skiing, more

By Nicki Jhabvala  
Denver Post  
October 29, 2015

Before he was a Colorado State offensive lineman and long before he was an NFL offensive tackle, Ty Sambrailo was a youth skier out of California who regularly performed flips on the slopes and won United States Ski and Snowboard Association titles in the Far West Division in the slalom, giant slalom and super G.

But on May 1, when the Broncos selected him in the second round (No. 59) of the draft, his days of recreational skiing went out window. His new focus: manning the left tackle position left vacant by veteran Ryan Clady, whose season ended before it started because of a torn anterior cruciate ligament.

Although a shoulder injury in Week 3 derailed the first half of Sambrailo's rookie season, he hopes to return to the field Sunday when the unbeaten Broncos host the 6-0 Packers in primetime.

The 23-year-old recently spoke about his recovery, his transition to the pros, and his skiing days.

Q. What did you do to rehab your shoulder?

A. First off, I worked on stability. Then I worked on strength around the injury to take pressure off of it. I stayed here during the bye, just to keep working on it. It feels good.

Q. What were you able to glean in watching from the sideline the past three games?

A. Being in the game and understanding the speed of the game, from that perspective it gives you a better appreciation from standing on the sideline watching. There are a lot of things you see that you can recognize and relate to now since you've been in games and know the speed. It was good to get another perspective, but I'm ready to get back out there.

Q. What has been the most and least difficult transition for you this season?

A. Mentally, this is just a whole other step up from college. There are little things that have to be adjusted based off everything that's going on. Just getting that down and being able to play fast has been the biggest challenge. Just mentally knowing it well enough to play fast. Once I figured that out, it got a little easier and more comfortable.

As far as the easiest transition, nothing about this has been easy. It's been a pretty interesting transition, but it's been a lot a fun.

Q. Has your family attended many games?

A. They made it to two or three of them. They try to make it out to as many as they can. I think they'll be here this weekend.

Q. Do you miss skiing?

A. A little bit. It's kind of tough to think about when I was 12 years, "what could have been" and stuff, but I miss going out there and skiing once in a while. It was a lot of fun.

Q. But you do think about what could have been?

A. Once in a while, during ski season. My brother will send me a picture of him skiing. This is a much better career choice for me, though.

Q. When was the last time you were out there?

A. It's been about two years.

Q. Could you still do a flip?

A. I could if I needed to. But I'm staying away from that.

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Ty Sambrailo bio

Height: 6-foot-5

Weight: 315 pounds

Age: 23

College: Colorado State

2015 draft: 2nd round, No. 59

— Started 42 of 48 games at CSU; spent time at all five positions on O-line

— First-team All-Mountain West Conference selection as senior in 2014

— Named Broncos' starting LT when Ryan Clady injured knee in offseason

# Broncos' Ty Sambrailo continues to learn from Von Miller, DeMarcus Ware

By Jeff Legwold

ESPN.com

August 19, 2015

Those who know Gary Kubiak well will often talk of his even-keel public persona, the Texas drawl that rides along with the many matter-of-fact things he says on any given day.

But Tuesday, Kubiak may have dropped one of the spectacularly great understatement of whatever becomes of the Denver Broncos' upcoming season.

In some give-and-take following Tuesday's practice about a re-vamped offensive line and what it means to quarterback Peyton Manning, Kubiak said simply:

"Keeping him upright will be of the utmost importance for this team."

If Kubiak were the type to drop the mic, he could have right there. Because the main storyline of this Broncos training camp has been how a Super Bowl contender with five returning Pro Bowl players on defense, two returning 100-catch receivers and one 39-year-old future Hall of Famer returning at quarterback will get things sorted out in the offensive line in front of said quarterback.

And after one preseason game, it still remains a work in progress. The Broncos currently have two rookies in the offensive line -- left tackle Ty Sambrailo and left guard Max Garcia -- to go with center Matt Paradis, who spent his rookie season in 2014 on the Broncos' practice squad.

Of the three it just might be Sambrailo who finds himself in the hottest of zones, given he was tabbed to replace a Pro Bowl tackle in Ryan Clady as Manning's blind-side protector as soon as Clady suffered a season-ending knee injury in May. Sambrailo, a second-round pick in this year's draft, also is being introduced to the NFL on a daily basis against outside linebackers Von Miller and DeMarcus Ware, who have made football life fairly miserable for tackles much more experienced than Sambrailo.

And there have been times in training camp, Tuesday's practice included, when Miller and/or Ware have done a buzz-the-tower fly by on Manning before he throws because they beat the blockers in front of them. On one snap, the two Pro Bowl rushers converged on Manning well before he threw and had they been allowed to tackle the quarterback as they would in a game, it would have potentially been the kind of hit that gives coaches ulcers and sends quarterbacks to the trainer.

"As a coach that's personal, because you know what you have and you have to do things schematically to protect him as much as you possibly can," Kubiak said. "At the same time you've got to let guys practice, you've got to see what you've got, see what they can handle."

Sambrailo has played with confidence since his injury-related promotion. He has said he arrived to the Broncos with the mindset he wanted to compete "for as much playing time as possible."

But certainly Miller off the edge is a long way from any player Sambraillo saw in his games at Colorado State.

"I think you saw [Tuesday] it's challenge," Kubiak said. " ... I watch Ty [Tuesday], Ty has some rough snaps that I can recall in practice. If you go against guys like that every day you walk on that field expected to go against great players, that's a tough thing and he's got to continue to push through it."

"Ty is a young guy," Miller said. "We're all out there to get better and he's working like we're working. Me and DeMarcus, though, we'll go over and let him know after the play what happened if we get in there. ... He's a good player and we're just out here working."

Kubiak has said the Broncos have made the decision to play the young players in the offensive front because those players have earned "the right" to start, but the Broncos also want to build an offensive line they can keep together for multiple seasons.

"I want Ty to be a Pro Bowler and a six-year player today, but I also understand the process he's going through, he, and Max [Garcia] and Matt [Paradis]," Kubiak said. "And watching them as coaches we've got to have some patience when we see some of those things and make sure we're correcting them and trying to help them."

Miller and Ware have regularly been seen talking to the young linemen in practice -- Sambraillo in particular -- after some team periods. They have had discussions after one-on-one pass-rush drills between the offensive linemen and the defensive lineman as well.

"The thing I'm really impressed with," Kubiak said, "is watching DeMarcus or Von grab them after that series, 'Come here, let me tell you why that just happened, I was watching your stance, I knew this, I knew that,' so that's encouraging."

# Sambrailo, O-line have been at work for weeks

By Andrew Mason  
DenverBroncos.com  
July 27, 2015

No position group on the Denver Broncos' roster will be under more scrutiny this summer than the offensive line. No group needs the repetitions of training camp more in order to create the necessary cohesion.

And that's why the offensive line was at Dove Valley throughout the last few weeks.

"Summer vacation -- it wasn't really a vacation for me," said rookie tackle Ty Sambrailo on Monday as the team's rookies officially reported to training camp.

Although the work cannot be organized by the team or supervised by coaches, players are welcome to organize their own work whenever they see fit. Sambrailo said a group of offensive linemen that included himself, left guard Ben Garland, center Gino Gradkowski, right guard Louis Vasquez and right tackle Ryan Harris were among the regulars at the team facility.

"There's been a lot of offensive linemen here with me, guys working together," Sambrailo said.

The collective development of the unit will be a focal point of training camp. At least three starters up front will be players who did not start for the Broncos last year, and the first-team group at the start of training camp will include two players who have never started in the NFL: Sambrailo and Garland.

But the spotlight will be on Sambrailo as he gets accustomed to his role at left tackle, where he will protect Peyton Manning's blind side.

Sambrailo's task is clear in wording but complex in execution: keep Manning upright against a series of elite pass rushers that begins with Elvis Dumervil and Justin Houston in a 100-hour span of September. It's possible that the Broncos' entire season could ride on Sambrailo's development.

## Ty Sambrailo and the OL

"I don't think I can look ahead right now and say, 'This is going to be the best season anyone's ever seen,' or anything like that," Sambrailo said. "I'm just going to take it one step at a time, and I'm always going to try to be the greatest I can be."

Sambrailo's transition is helped by the similarities between the Broncos' zone-blocking based scheme and the one used at Colorado State in recent years. This is the one scheme at which he would be best prepared to become the immediate, effective starter the Broncos need him to be.

"It's a lot of the same scheme; it's just different verbiage," Sambrailo said. "It's been an easy, quick transition ... it's just making sure that when I hear something, I think of it in Denver Broncos terms instead of CSU Rams terms."

There is also the adjustment to Manning.

"He's been good. He's a good guy to talk to. You obviously don't want to upset him at all," Sambrailo said. "You just try to do everything right all the time."

Manning's perfectionism and attention to detail are well-documented. But Sambrailo said the quarterback has not yelled at him so far.

"He's been good at kind of helping me, asking me on protections what I was doing and what I was looking at," Sambrailo said.

# Ty Sambrailo's NFL education started early, will only get harder

By Nicki Jhabvala  
DenverPost.com  
July 27, 2015

You could say the NFL education of Ty Sambrailo started in December when his Colorado State Rams were trounced by the No. 22 Utah Utes in the Royal Purple Las Vegas Bowl.

The 45-10 final score said plenty, but not all. Pro scouts had their eyes fixated on the matchup between two potential first-round picks in Sambrailo, the Rams' starting left tackle, and Nate Orchard, Utah's highly touted defensive end who had averaged a nation-leading 1.46 sacks per game.

The duel wasn't as lopsided as the final score, but the victor was clear. Orchard found ways to disrupt CSU's offense, often forcing Sambrailo off balance and picking up sack No. 18.5 on the season. He won the battle and was later drafted eight spots ahead of Sambrailo, at No. 51.

But he gave the Broncos' newest left tackle and projected starter a jump on his transition to the pros.

Von Miller and DeMarcus Ware have taken over where Orchard left off. The Broncos' pass-rushing duo refused to go easy on Sambrailo during mini camp and offseason training activities. They knew the loss of Ryan Clady, the longest-tenured Bronco and the staple of the team's offensive line, would put the onus on the rookie.

As a starting NFL left tackle, a position he played in CSU's pro-style offense for much of his past two seasons, his responsibilities will be greater and his mistakes felt more.

Learning curve? Rookie transition? Please. No time for that.

Miller, who graded out as the best 4-3 outside linebacker by Pro Football Focus last season and made 14 sacks, gave the newcomer a few tough lessons early. When he beat him in drills, he told him why. He showed him where he erred, and how to correct it.

"They've helped me kind of correct some mistakes and kind of go through their thought process on why they do what they do, when they key stuff or they see areas and try to take advantage — just stuff I can work on like that," Sambrailo said. "It helps to talk to a couple good guys like that."

The teaching also came from Peyton Manning, who hasn't been shy about grilling Sambrailo on protections.

"You don't want to upset him at all," Sambrailo said. "I'm just trying to do everything right all the time, and he's been helping me, asking me on protections what I was doing and what I was looking at."

Sambrailo and his fellow rookies reported for training camp Monday, beginning the next phase of his education. Soon the pads will be on. The hits will come. And soon, so will a handful of the NFL's top pass-rushers.

Within the first four games of the regular season, he'll face three top-10 pass-rushers in Baltimore's Elvis Dumervil (17 sacks in 2014), Kansas City's Justin Houston (22) and Minnesota's Everson Griffen (12).

Sambrailo's course-load will be heavy and the expectations will be high.

"It's just a different level when you get here to the league, and you need education about everything," Miller said. "You can tell in practice he has a whole lot of talent, and he's going to be great for us."

Ty Sambrailo file

A closer look at Broncos left tackle Ty Sambrailo:

Height: 6-foot-5

Weight: 315 pounds

Age: 23

College: Colorado State

Draft: No. 59, second round

Started 42 of 48 games in career at CSU

Played four positions along the offensive line, all except center

Recorded more than 60 knockdown blocks in his career

Voted first-team All-Mountain West Conference in 2014

# Ty Sambrailo key as Broncos rookies start camp Monday

By Mike Klis  
9 News Sport  
July 26, 2015

Kids don't know.

They don't know how fast the NFL game is played. They may think they know. They may believe they can keep up.

But they don't know.

Kids may think they know how to work hard after they came from college where they balanced the classroom with football practice, meetings and weightlifting.

They don't know. In the NFL, football is no longer a game. It's a job. Never mind showing up on time for meetings. The expectation is to show up early. It's also no longer enough to wing it on talent.

The Denver Broncos have Peyton Manning in their locker room. The kids better pay attention in meetings and know the playbook.

They'll learn. After hearing head coach Gary Kubiak talk about his draft picks, a common denominator within the Broncos' rookie class of 2015 is they're all smart. Quick studies.

What the rookies do know is they are to report along with injured players to the Broncos' Dove Valley headquarters for the start of training camp Monday. Rookies and injured players will report Monday and practice Tuesday and Wednesday before Manning and the veterans report Thursday.

That way, the kids will know a little more by the time the Broncos hold their first full-squad training camp practice Friday. The first camp practice begins at 10 a.m. and unlike last year's camp practices, will be open to the public. Parking and admission are free.

For the rookies, the key is second-round draft pick Ty Sambrailo. He was terrific at Colorado State but now Sambrailo will be the Broncos' starting left tackle. Most likely, Sambrailo would have eventually become the Broncos' starting right tackle this season.

But after Pro Bowler Ryan Clady suffered his second season-ending injury in three years, Sambrailo was shifted to left tackle. Peyton Manning's blind side.

Shane Ray was the Broncos' first-round draft pick, but the plan is to ease the pass rushing outside linebacker into action this season. Ray will begin by backing up DeMarcus Ware and Von Miller.

Ware enters his 11th season ranked 14th on the NFL's all-time list with 127.0 career sacks (12.7 per year). A 10-sack season in 2015 would move him inside the top 10. A 15-sack season would move him inside the top 5 – and first-ballot Hall of Fame consideration.

Ware, who will celebrate his 33rd birthday by going through the Broncos' first camp practice Friday (some birthday celebrations are better than others) will not surrender playing time easily.

Miller has 49.0 sacks through his first four seasons (12.25 per year) and is now in the final year of his rookie contract. If all goes well this year, Miller's next contract will be worth \$15 million to \$18 million a year.

He will not surrender playing time easily.

Ray knows how to produce, though, as the third man in a two-man bookend passing system. As a sophomore at Missouri, he played behind Michael Sam and Kony Ealy, who had 21 sacks combined, and added 4.5 sacks with a Cotton Bowl-clinching 73-yard touchdown off a fumble return.

The Broncos' other key rookies: Fullback/tight end Joe Don Duncan, offensive lineman Max Garcia, cornerback Lorenzo Doss, defensive tackle Darius Kilgo, quarterback Trevor Siemian, cornerback Taurean Nixon, safety Josh Furman, offensive lineman Dillon Day and receiver Jordan Taylor.

Broncos' third round tight end Jeff Heurman won't participate as he rehabs from a torn ACL in his left knee.

It won't be easy for any rookie other than Sambrailo and Ray to find playing time this year. The Broncos are legit Super Bowl consideration for a fourth consecutive season. It's not a coincidence that Manning is going on his fourth season in Denver.

Manning is 39 years old, so he doesn't have too many more tomorrows. If the kids don't know, they better.

# DeMarcus Ware: Rookie Ty Sambrailo 'is doing a great job'

By Andrew Mason  
DenverBroncos.com  
June 16, 2015

With the exception of Head Coach Gary Kubiak and his offensive staff, perhaps no one with the Broncos has a better perspective on rookie Ty Sambrailo's development at left tackle than outside linebacker DeMarcus Ware.

From the moment that Ryan Clady's torn anterior cruciate ligament pushed Sambrailo onto the first unit at the offensive line's most vital position, the Colorado State product has dealt with one of the league's best pass rushers in his face, play after play.

A rookie against an eight-time Pro Bowler and four-time All-Pro. Few members of the 2015 draft class must endure as rigorous a daily examination as the one Sambrailo faced.

And the improvement that Ware has seen offers tangible hope that Sambrailo will be up to the task of protecting Peyton Manning's blind side when practices turn into games and the no-contact-on-quarterbacks edict is tossed aside.

"The first day I went against him, you know, a rookie's going to be a rookie," Ware said. "But he's getting a really good comfort level in his play ...

"For him to pick up the offense and know what's going on, but also be able to be effective and have the confidence that he's had, I really compliment him on that."

Further, Sambrailo has displayed feistiness and tenacity against Ware that should serve him well.

"We actually had a little scuffle in practice," Ware said. "He's waking up. His aggressiveness is coming out. That's what it's about. When you're playing that left tackle, you've got to let guys know that you're that cornerstone of the offense. That's what he's doing.

"He's doing a great job."

Tight end Virgil Green is optimistic that the new-look line can be up to speed.

"I think we have a lot of smart guys that are buying in. They're studying," Green said. "Rico [Offensive Coordinator Rick Dennison] comes in and asks them questions. Guys are getting the questions right. So that means that they're truly studying, because as long as you're prepared in that aspect, we'll be able to get the job done."

# Von Miller, DeMarcus Ware ready to help Ty Sambrailo learn at left tackle

By Jeff Legwold

ESPN.com

June 3, 2015

The education of Denver Broncos rookie left tackle Ty Sambrailo includes many folks these days, since the team has basically thrown their second-round pick into the deep end of the football pool.

Ryan Clady's season-ending knee injury last week resulted in the Broncos' decision to see if Sambrailo was up for the job as Clady's replacement. Sambrailo has been getting the usual crash course from his coaches and his veteran teammates in the offensive line. But he's also getting some advice from two guys who know a thing or three about making a left tackle's life fairly miserable -- outside linebackers DeMarcus Ware and Von Miller.

"Oh yeah, when I beat him, I would tell him why," Miller said Wednesday. "It's not a secret ... the more he knows the better it is for us and you can tell he's going to do a lot of good things ... so me and DeMarcus, we're going to do whatever we can to help."

Sambrailo has worked with the first-team offense since Clady suffered his injury in an OTA practice a week ago. Sambrailo had largely worked against Ware, the Broncos usual right outside linebacker, but in Tuesday's OTA practice the Broncos coaches flipped Ware and Miller so Sambrailo got his first significant look at Miller's work as well.

Miller finished the 2014 season with 14 sacks -- sixth in the league -- while Ware, who is a member of 100-sack club in his career, was tied for 15th in the league with 10 sacks in '14. The two have been willing to offer Sambrailo the quality intel about what a pass-rusher is thinking in certain situations and what Sambrailo, as a blocker, can do about it.

"I'll tell him, even before the play, if his stance is giving things away, if I know what they're going to run, just by how he's lined up," Ware said. "I'll just say it, right then, before the play even starts. And after things I'll tell him why I put my hand there, why I used that move in a certain situation. If we do that now, it's only going to help him later."

Sambrailo, who started 42 games at left tackle in his career at Colorado State, has the athleticism the Broncos want at the position and the football intellect to pick up the offense quickly. The questions surrounding Sambrailo will be whether he can play with enough power to keep the job and whether can he keep his composure during the inevitable rough spots protecting Peyton Manning's blind side.

Broncos coach Gary Kubiak also likes having Sambrailo play against upper-tier pass-rushers -- a pair that includes not just one, but two, Pro Bowl players.

"He's smart, so that's not a problem," Kubiak said earlier this week. "He's kind of going through a process, I sat Von and DeMarcus one day out of the three and I think he feels pretty good about himself that day then all of a sudden here they come, well that's the real deal. But that's what I told him not many guys get to work against two Pro Bowl players on a daily basis and you will."

The Broncos knew Sambrailo could immediately compete for the open job at right tackle when they drafted him. The thinking was that he had the athleticism where he could eventually succeed Clady on the left side of offensive line. Clady's injury simply accelerated the timetable.

For his part Sambrailo has projected a quiet confidence about the situation and has said he's more than ready to learn from the sometimes difficult teachers.

"There are expectations no matter what is going on," Sambrailo said. "I think coming in and playing right or left, it didn't really make a difference, I was expecting to come in and compete ... I think I was drafted to play. I think the coaching staff didn't really have a choice either. They kind of decided to throw me in there, give me a shot and see what I can do."

"This is what this time is for," Ware said. "This is when you can work through the playbook, specific situations and take a young guy and work with him. It doesn't do us any good to keep all of the information, you want to give back and help us win. If something he sees from either me or Von helps him during the season because he knows why we did it, then that helps us win."

# Ty Sambrailo working through his 'growing pains' on Broncos' line

By Jeff Legwold

ESPN.com

June 1, 2015

Pick your analogy, but when it comes to evaluating young players, Denver Broncos coach Gary Kubiak prefers the toss-into-the-deep-end, throw-from-the-nest approach.

"I do think it's important, I like to almost over-load them, I like to see what they retain, how they practice when they're uncomfortable, what it looks like when stuff is going 100 miles per hour," Kubiak said. "That's when you learn what they're about."

Well, Ty Sambrailo this is your life.

Because the Broncos have certainly, and intentionally, chucked Sambrailo, their second-round pick in this year's draft, into the lineup at left tackle. In the wake of Ryan Clady's season-ending knee injury last week, the Broncos coaches met and decided it was best to find out now if Sambrailo would be the solution.

So, no slow wind-up there. Sambrailo has worked with the starters since as the left tackle -- one of the most difficult positions for an NFL rookie to flourish.

"I had high expectations coming in for myself," Sambrailo said. "I expected to compete for a spot and hopefully get on the field early."

Asked if he believed the Broncos did simply toss him into the lineup to see how he would fare, Sambrailo took a confident, yet pragmatic view of the situation.

"I think I was drafted to play," Sambrailo said. "I think the coaching staff didn't really have a choice either. They kind of decided to throw me in there, give me a shot and see what I can do."

The Broncos liked Sambrailo's intellect and his potential to quickly grasp an NFL offense. Also, physically, they liked his flexibility, especially in his hips -- Sambrailo was a former competitive freestyle skier -- and saw him as a potential starter at right tackle this season with the possibility of being a left tackle down the road.

Clady's injury, suffered last Wednesday, simply accelerated that clock. And left tackle became one of four positions in the offensive line where the Broncos are trying to find starters.

"Not like we're young at a spot, we're young as a group," Kubiak said. "Guys are getting a ton of reps ... obviously those guys have to grow up quick."

On Sambrailo's progression since being placed with the starters, Kubiak added:

"He's smart, so that's not a problem. He's kind of going through a process, I sat Von (Miller) and DeMarcus (Ware) one day out of the three and I think he feels pretty good about himself that day then all of a sudden here they come, well that's the real deal. But that's what I told him not many guys get to work against two Pro Bowl players on a daily basis and you will. He's a worker and I think players respect how he's going about his business."

"It was good, I saw a lot of DeMarcus ... obviously a future Hall of Famer," Sambraillo said. "I couldn't have asked for a better situation to be thrown into in terms of learning as a young player going against a guy like that. I'm going to have my growing pains, but I think ultimately it will make me a better player."

If things eventually shake out the way the Broncos have lined up now -- with second-year guard Ben Garland among the starters and Sambraillo at left tackle -- they will have a youthful look up front. They will even get younger if Michael Schofield -- Kubiak said Monday he was "impressed" with the way Schofield had practiced thus far -- can earn the right tackle spot.

Chris Clark is currently working the most at right tackle with the starters.

"Young guys have to step up, I think we'll be all right," Sambraillo said. "Things are getting a little bit smoother, a little bit quicker -- less thinking and more playing. I'm just kind of excited about growing as a player."

# Ty Sambrailo's competition moves from Mountain West to Von Miller, DeMarcus Ware

By Mike Klis  
Channel 9 Sports  
May 2, 2015

Ty Sambrailo might have been all that while playing left tackle at Colorado State and dominating the edge rushers within the Mountain West.

But in his first live practice for the Broncos, Sambrailo at right tackle will be taking on the likes of Von Miller, DeMarcus Ware and first-round draft pick Shane Ray.

"I've always believed iron sharpens iron," Sambrailo said. "It's a great opportunity to go out and hone my skills against some of the best. I wouldn't be here today if I didn't want to be challenged more and play the best. I'm excited for the opportunity and hopefully playing them all week makes game day a little easier. I'm looking forward to it."

Iron sharpens iron. The biblical phrase has become the Broncos' offseason slogan as its etched on the Broncos' practice T-shirts. Sambrailo will fit in well.

It was no secret the Broncos' primary need coming into the draft was along their offensive line, specifically at right tackle. Sambrailo became their second-round pick in part because coach Gary Kubiak called him a "quick study." Rookies have to pick up the offense quickly if they are to play.

Sambrailo earned his finance degree at Colorado State. He's a player who believes in work ethic on the field and study habits in the meeting room. His first mental test as a pro is the Broncos' playbook.

"I've looked over it a little bit," he said. "It's pretty thick. I'm excited to get into that and get to work. That's my job. That's why I'm here."

But Sambrailo isn't here on brains alone. He also has the physical tools to eventually compete against the likes of Ware and Miller in practice, and hopefully Elvis Dumervil, Justin Houston and Clay Matthews during games. Sambrailo is so athletic at 6-foot-6, 311 pounds, his former skiing days allows him to pull off some difficult gymnastics.

"I can still do a backflip," he said. "I won't. But I still could if you really wanted me to."

# CSU's Sambrailo, Grayson picked on Day 2 of NFL draft

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Former CSU tackle Ty Sambrailo was selected by the Denver Broncos on Friday night in the second round of the NFL draft, and quarterback Garrett Grayson went to the New Orleans Saints in the third round.

Sambrailo, a 6-foot-6, 315-pounder, was selected by the Broncos with the No. 27 pick of the second round, No. 59 overall. He was the seventh offensive tackle selected in this year's draft.

"It couldn't have worked out any better. I'm excited," said Sambrailo, who watched the draft at home in Watsonville, California, with his family and some close friends. "The opportunity to play on a team like the Broncos and be under Peyton Manning is just exciting. It's nice to stay in Colorado and have a lot of the same fans that were cheering me on for the last four years."

Grayson, a 6-2, 213-pounder, was taken by the Saints with the 11th pick in the third round, No. 75 overall. He was the third quarterback taken overall -- behind Nos. 1 and 2 overall picks Jameis Winston of Florida State and Marcus Mariota of Oregon-- and the only one selected on the second day of the three-day draft.

Grayson watched the draft at home with his family and close friends in Vancouver, Washington, and couldn't be reached for comment. In a conference call with reporters who cover the Saints, he said playing for the Saints "really is a dream come true for me."

It's the second year in a row that two Colorado State University players have been selected in the first three rounds of the draft. Center Weston Richburg went to the New York Giants in the second round of the 2014 draft, and tight end Crockett Gillmore was selected in the third round by the Baltimore Ravens.

Sambrailo was a three-year starter for the Rams and first-team All-Mountain West selection in 2015, when he graded out at better than 90 percent in the 11 games he played for the 10-3 Rams. The former competitive freestyle skier was a second-team All-MW selection as a junior.

"Sambrailo is a guy that we're really excited to get, a guy that can come in and compete at the right tackle position right away," Broncos general manager John Elway said at a news conference. "He is versatile and can play all of the spots. ...

"He plays with a chip on his shoulder, and he's tough. ... He's our kind of guy."

Sambrailo played every spot but center on CSU's offensive line as a sophomore in 2012. He was the starting left tackle the past two seasons.

"Versatility is one of the big things that I brought to the table in the draft," he said. "That's the reason they ended up picking me. I'm excited to get out there and compete and help the team win."

Sambrailo, a former competitive freestyle skier, showed off his athleticism at the NFL Scouting Combine in February, turning in one of the top times among offensive linemen in the three-cone drill. Concerns

about his upper body strength diminished some when he bench-pressed 225 pounds 23 times at the combine, matching the performance of Iowa's Brandon Scherff, the No. 5 overall pick and first offensive lineman selected in this year's draft.

Elway said Sambrailo's versatility and athleticism made him stand out ahead of the other offensive linemen who worked out for the Broncos leading up to the draft. New coach Gary Kubiak also was impressed with his knowledge.

"We think he's a quick study, too," Kubiak said. "... We don't see a big transition for him from a mental standpoint from what he's been doing in college and what we're going to ask him to do for us. We think this kid will be in position to compete really, really quickly. That was a big advantage."

Sambrailo received a call from the Broncos notifying him of his selection while NFL commissioner Roger Goodell was announcing the Pittsburgh Steelers selection on the ESPN2 television broadcast. Sambrailo said he was walking back in the living room to share the news with his family about the same time the selection was announced on TV.

Sambrailo said he'll return to Colorado on Saturday and meet with the media at a news conference at the Broncos' headquarters in Englewood. He's supposed to report Thursday for a minicamp.

"This is awesome, absolutely awesome!" said his father, Mark.

Ty Sambrailo's mother, Karen, is a graduate of the University of Denver and his father and an older sibling both graduated from the University of Colorado.

Grayson rewrote Colorado State University's passing records over the past three seasons while throwing for 9,190 yards and 64 touchdowns. He was the Mountain West Offensive Player of the Year in 2015, when he threw for 4,006 yards and 32 touchdowns while guiding the Rams to a 10-3 record and second consecutive bowl appearance.

Grayson had a private workout at CSU on Monday with the Saints and coach Sean Payton and said he's looking forward to learning from Saints quarterback Drew Brees, the 36-year-old who led the NFL in passing yards the past two seasons.

"He's an NFL Hall of Famer in my book," Grayson said on the conference call. "I'm just extremely excited to get behind him and learn as much as I can. I'm going to come down there and compete like I'm a starter, I think as any position should. I'm just extremely excited to learn from him. I hope to learn as much as I can to prepare me for the next couple of years."

Draft analysts consistently moved him up in their quarterback rankings over the past four months after seeing him in action during the Senior Bowl in January, at a pro day in March at CSU and working with former NFL coach Jon Gruden last month while filming a segment for the ESPN commentator's "Jon Gruden QB Camp" television show. The only quarterbacks selected ahead of him this year were Winston, the 2014 Heisman Trophy winner, and Mariota, the 2015 Heisman winner.

Sambrailo is the fourth former CSU player on the Broncos roster, joining guard Shelley Smith, linebacker Shaquil Barrett and running back Kapri Bibbs. Barrett and Bibbs were rookies last year who spent most

of the season on the practice squad, while Smith signed with Denver in the offseason after spending the 2014 season with the Miami Dolphins.

Kubiak's two oldest sons, Klint and Klay, played for CSU, and several former Rams played for his teams during his eight years as the head coach of the Houston Texans.

Ninety-nine players out of CSU have been selected in the NFL draft dating back to the 1943 selections of halfback Chet Maeda by the Detroit Lions and back Lou Dent by the Brooklyn Dodgers. Two others were selected in the former American Football League's draft and one player -- tackle Dick Evers in 1964 -- was drafted by both leagues.

Other players off last year's CSU team hoping to be selected Saturday in the final four rounds of this year's draft include linebacker Aaron Davis, running back Dee Hart and cornerback Bernard Blake.

