

'Very calm' Trevor Siemian steadies offense, gives it momentum heading into regular season

By Andrew Mason
DenverBroncos.com
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Being able to "shake it off" isn't just for Taylor Swift.

Saturday night, it was for the offense, led by Trevor Siemian. And after a deep attempt up the right sideline for Cody Latimer was ruled an interception, it was absolutely necessary to extract some momentum from what will be the starters' final work of the preseason.

"I thought it was huge. I thought it was really huge," said running back C.J. Anderson, who galloped through some wide holes for 35 yards on three consecutive carries that pushed the Broncos to the 1-yard line, setting up Siemian's 1-yard play-action touchdown pass to Virgil Green en route to a 17-9 win.

What set up the series was Siemian's unruffled demeanor. He didn't mope. He didn't panic. He simply stepped into the huddle and oozed confidence. The offense responded from there.

"He came back and said, 'Hey, man, it's going to be a long drive. Let's just do what we do,'" Anderson said. "And we did that."

Gary Kubiak sensed that from the sideline.

"I think he's very calm," the head coach said. "I can tell by the way he handles the team in the huddle. He has control of what's going on."

And never was he in more control than on the Broncos' first scoring drive of the night.

Prior to the possession, the Broncos had just three first downs on 17 plays. They matched that total in four snaps, as Siemian hit Emmanuel Sanders for 17 yards, Virgil Green in the right flat for five yards and Demaryius Thomas for seven yards.

Even though the Broncos never faced a third down on their seven-play, 67-yard sprint to the end zone, it wasn't perfect.

"Me and Trevor have got to work on some things, because I stepped on his foot twice, and I ended up stumbling on two of those long runs," Anderson said. "But it was just good to get momentum and get going."

"We threw some passes. We had some big runs. We came back with the play-action for the touchdown. You can see how the offense is working if we're in sync and continue to do that every drive we get."

What you want to see is resilience and a short memory that ensures past miscues don't become a cluster of mistakes.

Siemian -- and the offense along with him -- showed that Saturday.

"He gets a bad break on the go ball, but comes right back and goes right down the field," Kubiak said.

"What I see is a guy getting better."

Paul Klee: Trevor Siemian one wild story for Denver Broncos

By Paul Klee
Colorado Springs Gazette
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Siemian's football career got its start, for real, in a ninth-grade English class in Orlando, Fla.

He had played before — flag football, at least. Flag football at the local YMCA with 4- and 5-year-olds often devolves into one big broken play, and li'l Trevor, a tailback-turned-quarterback, would take the pitch on an end-around and run all over the place until he scored a touchdown.

"He was like a little Archie Manning in disguise," his father, Walter Siemian, said from the family home in central Florida.

In those days Siemian was the first kid chosen, a no-brainer pick, an obvious selection as the quarterback. That eventually would change, as you may have noticed.

Baseball was Trevor's first love. He was a stud, really, the kid who was better than everybody else, assigned to play shortstop when he wasn't pitching. When Trevor was 13 he traveled with the Orlando Reds, a club program, to a tournament at nearby Disney World. The opponent was a select team from Puerto Rico, and Trevor played shortstop for the six-inning game. It was 6-6 at the end of six, and their coach called Trevor to the mound in relief. This was in Orlando, remember, in the heat of summer.

"And we're going into the 12th inning," his father recalled.

With Puerto Rico leading by a run in the bottom half of the inning, Trevor came to bat. The Orlando Reds had a runner on first and two outs. Here, let Dad finish the story.

"It was a 1-2 pitch, high and outside. He made contact and it seemed like a high fly ball that would fall inside the park. I saw the center fielder backing up and backing up and the next thing you know it's flying over the fence. We won. They named Trevor MVP."

Golf was inevitably an option. One of his teaching professionals, a man who had worked with Ernie Els, told Trevor he had a natural swing and easy demeanor that portended big things on the golf course. Football didn't truly come into the picture until later.

Then that English class happened and everything changed — for Trevor Siemian, his family and, now, for the Broncos. The English teacher doubled as the junior varsity coach and asked Trevor if he had interest going out for the football team. They needed a quarterback.

Sure, he said. Why not?

Monday morning at their Dove Valley headquarters in Englewood, the Broncos introduced Siemian as the 24-year-old from Northwestern who will succeed a quarterbacking legend, Peyton Manning, and help to lead the Super Bowl champions into the 2016 season.

Sure. Why not?

The scene Monday on the Broncos' practice fields can be best described as weird. Or unorthodox. Or unexpected.

But let's just go with weird.

Under thundering clouds that soon would summon tornado sirens, the Broncos trotted out the usual suspects at quarterback: Mark Sanchez, a former first-round pick and veteran of two AFC championship games; Paxton Lynch, another first-round pick and, at 6-foot-7, 245 pounds, a video-game prototype; and Siemian, a seventh-round pick who, at the start of training camp, had the worst odds in Las Vegas (plus-245) to win the starting job for the Broncos.

And Siemian had won the starting job for the Broncos.

"I believe in this kid," coach Gary Kubiak said.

On Sept. 8, in an NFL Kickoff game that last year drew 27.4 million viewers, Siemian and the Broncos will host Cam Newton and the Carolina Panthers in a Super Bowl 50 rematch. One quarterback has one NFL MVP, the other has one NFL snap. The Broncos will be the first Super Bowl champs to open the next season with a starting quarterback who never has thrown an NFL pass.

How's that for a sports story?

"I'm not trying to be Peyton," Siemian said Monday. "Those shoes are way too big to fill."

Siemian celebrated the big news by texting his mom and dad. He has described himself as a "boring" interview. He rented a sweet apartment in Cherry Creek for his first year in Denver, then moved to Denver Tech Center to be closer to the practice facility. Hollywood, he's not.

The NFL has certain unwritten rules by which things are supposed to operate. One is that you need an elite quarterback play to win a Super Bowl. Denver's defense countered that a quarterback can't win if he can't stand up. Another is that pedigree (Sanchez, of USC and those title games) and promise (Lynch, by his draft status and striking raw talent) supersede almost everything else.

Ol' Kubes countered with an old-school, utterly American approach to Denver's quarterback dilemma: May the best man win. The best man, in this training camp, won.

"Is it a lot to ask of a young kid? Yes, it is," Kubiak said. "But it's not a lot to ask of our team, and I believe in our team."

Trevor Siemian's first time in Colorado was a family vacation in Steamboat Springs.

Along with parents, Walter and Colleen, and older brother, Todd, 5-year-old Trevor donned a cowboy hat and set out to conquer a dude ranch aboard his trusty steed, "Wharf." When "Wharf" stopped to munch a bite of grass, Trevor told the horse that was "bad manners" and their journey should continue. Another time, 3-year-old Trevor asked his mom why a parking lot was being built in a park: "Mom, those were God's trees." Another time a second-grade teacher commended him for standing up to a classmate who was bullying one of his friends.

"I could always reason with Trevor. Even in his terrible 2s, I could always say, 'Trevor, why did you do that?' and he would give me a respectable answer," Colleen said. "It didn't matter what it was. Trevor always figured things out along the way."

Walter and Colleen met in 1983 at a hospital in Buffalo, N.Y. Dad was a surgeon, mom was an ICU nurse. They moved to Orlando, where Trevor was born and raised, switching between 7-irons, batting gloves, football helmets and roller hockey pads. With two quarterbacks from Florida — Lynch is from Deltona — the Broncos play two games in Florida, at Jacksonville and Tampa Bay. Mom and Dad flew out for Saturday's preseason game against the Rams.

"He loved that dude ranch so much, I always reckoned he would end up out west," Walter Siemian said.

Harvard and Northwestern were options for Siemian out of high school, and he chose the Big Ten. His initial plan, his parents said, was to play both football and baseball, but the duties of a quarterback, combined with the school's strenuous academic program, left him all-in on football.

His favorite athlete as a kid was Yankees great Derek Jeter, his dad said.

"He liked the way Jeter handled himself on the field and how he always stayed out of trouble and competed with dignity," Walter said. "Then he saw Peyton Manning and told us what a class act Peyton was. Peyton left an indelible mark on him."

It appeared everything would change, again, when Siemian sustained a serious knee injury during his final season at Northwestern. Not long afterward, in the family car with his mom and brother, Trevor said to no one in particular: "I wonder if I'll ever play football again."

Looks like he will.

For Siemian, his chosen sport looked like it would be baseball. Then it was football. It looked like football until the injury. Then it looked like he might go into commercial real estate. And for the Broncos at quarterback, it looked like it would be Brock Osweiler, then Sanchez or Lynch.

Now the starting quarterback of the Broncos is Trevor Siemian, and isn't that something?

"It's one thing we always taught him," his father said. "We always have a Plan B."

How Trevor Siemian, the Broncos' most unknown QB, made the leap

By Nicki Jhabvala
Denver Post
August 14, 2016

Trevor Siemian isn't supposed to be here. He isn't supposed to be a potential heir to Peyton Manning only a year into his pro career. He wasn't even supposed to be drafted last summer, when he was recovering from a knee injury and had given considerable thought to a career in real estate.

He isn't big, he isn't flashy and he certainly isn't boisterous. He also hasn't contributed more than a single snap — a kneel-down — in a regular-season NFL game.

But the Broncos' open quarterback competition has been just that — open — since March, when Manning retired, Brock Osweiler bolted and Mark Sanchez, a seventh-year vet, arrived to fill the void. It stayed open when the Broncos traded up to select their future in Paxton Lynch. And it still is open after the Broncos' preseason victory at Chicago, where Sanchez and Siemian each played a quarter.

Siemian, the most experienced quarterback in Gary Kubiak's system, also is the most unknown, in part because the 24-year-old from Northwestern doesn't fit the narrative playing in the minds of many fans and media, who are searching as intently as Kubiak to find the Broncos' next starter. And now he has a chance — a legitimate chance — to be the Broncos' next starting quarterback.

But if anything is clear in the muddled competition at Dove Valley it's this: What is believed rarely matches what is real.

Behind the Facemask

There's a brief pause on the other end of the line as Dr. Walter Siemian carefully ponders the question.

Does Trevor ever get nervous? Or is his calm, if confounding, demeanor unwavering?

"He's been like that his whole life," says Walter, Trevor's father. "He's just so icy cool and calm it's as if he's been doing it his whole life. And you know he hasn't. His personality is that nothing's too big for him. To tell you that I've seen him overwhelmed with anything, never. But like all of us, he'll have his moments and he'll get upset if things don't go exactly his way, because he's what you would call a perfectionist."

At Broncos practices, Siemian's typically one of the last to leave the field, using the extra minutes to take additional repetitions. At Thursday's exhibition opener in Chicago, he was among the first on the field — three hours before kickoff.

For him, pressure spurs action, not panic.

Kubiak labels him a quiet guy, but one whose confidence is unmistakable and unshakeable.

“He’s probably in the best command in all honesty because Mark continues to learn our offense, and he’s doing a great job, but Trevor has been on for a year and a half,” Kubiak said after Thursday’s game in Chicago. “Trevor is in command of what we do, how we do it, what we want to get done. He just needs to play.”

Pat Fitzgerald, who coached Siemian at Northwestern, describes him as genuine.

“There’s just no false bravado with Trevor,” Fitzgerald says. “There’s no show, no drawing attention to me. It’s going to be hard-hat, lunch pail, ‘Let’s go to work. We’re here to get better.’ That’s how he was in our program every day. Is he going to get up and pound his chest in front of the squad? I can think of a handful of times when his blood was boiling because we weren’t doing well or we were kicking butt and he was fired up. ... What you see is what you get.”

And his teammates say he’s a prankster.

“Oh yeah. He’s funny as hell,” Fitzgerald says. “There’s no doubt. He’s just a normal guy. Typically the O-linemen are pretty good pranksters, and he’s right there with them.”

But after a year of watching from the sideline and listening in the Broncos’ meeting rooms, Siemian took his development further to become more than a quiet leader.

The Student

The call came as Jake Plummer wove his way through Wyoming en route to his annual vacation spot in Idaho. Siemian, on his way to Washington, D.C., for the Broncos’ honorary trip to the White House in June, phoned the former quarterback and Kubiak disciple, hoping he would lend some advice on the Broncos’ system and on the challenge that awaited him in Year 2.

For about 40 minutes they spoke, their connection dipping in and out as Plummer winded his way through the mountains.

Plummer told Siemian a bit about his history with the Broncos. He told him that opportunities, like the one Siemian received Thursday in Chicago, cannot be squandered. He told him that, to win over the team’s leaders, such as DeMarcus Ware and Von Miller, he would have to prove himself on the field in the big moments. He told him that the process is never-ending, too, that every year requires more practice and more studying.

“I told him, ‘Fans aren’t going to want to see Trevor Siemian. They want to see Paxton Lynch, the guy they screamed and yelled about when they picked him in the first round,’” Plummer says. “I think Trevor’s highly capable of playing — he’s got the skillset and the talent — but he’s just in a spot where he could do well and still not be the guy, with a first-round QB behind him. It’s a tough spot to be in, but I told him don’t worry about that. ‘Go do your job, go do your thing and people will ultimately respect you even more for that.’”

Throughout his first year as a pro, Siemian was a sponge. He watched Manning — the way he spent hours studying the playbook, the way he took rep after rep until it was as close to perfect as possible. He watched Osweiler follow suit.

“That got me pretty well prepared for coming into camp this year and going into preseason,” he says. “For me, it was the expectation of this is what it takes if you want to be pretty good at your job. I got to see that every day and it’s definitely something I’ve taken with me.”

He turned to Plummer, then he returned to Chicago for a few weeks in the offseason to practice with his former coach and teammates at Northwestern.

“He and I talked about how things are going, there’s no question he’s locked in,” Fitzgerald says. “He had laser focus when we start talking about where he was at and what he needed to do. It was very clear in his mind the steps he needed to take when he got to camp. But that’s how he was when he was here, too.”

That’s how he was when the Broncos took notice his senior season, when he endured both the greatest high and lowest low of his collegiate career in the span of a week. On Nov. 15, 2014, Siemian completed 30-of-48 passes for 284 yards in an overtime upset of Notre Dame. Seven days later, he was helped off the field after tearing his anterior cruciate ligament against Purdue. His season was over. His college career was over. His NFL hopes were in doubt.

As he awaited surgery, he looked ahead — to commercial real estate. He lined up a job in Chicago, but refused to give up on football. As Siemian rehabbed, Fitzgerald received a call from Broncos general manager John Elway, passing-game coordinator Greg Knapp and Kubiak. They wanted to know more about the quarterback who gained their notice earlier that season and stood out on tape. They also wanted to bring him to Dove Valley for a visit and meet with him days later for a workout in Chicago, only four months removed from surgery.

Siemian had the Broncos’ attention.

He still does.

“I just think people don’t know much about him,” says Plummer. “I didn’t know much about him. But Kubiak has a keen eye for talent and he’s a great evaluator. I think he wouldn’t be saying this kid has a chance to start if he didn’t believe it.”

Trevor Siemian: By the numbers

6,144: Passing yards in three seasons at Olympia (Orlando, Fla.) High, an Orange County record.

5,931: Career passing yards at Northwestern University. Ranked fourth all-time.

250: Draft pick by the Broncos in 2015.

81.2: Passer rating in one quarter of play in Broncos’ preseason victory at Chicago on Thursday.

2nd: NFL season. Was active for six games as rookie in 2015.

1: NFL regular-season snap — a kneel-down at the end of the second quarter at Pittsburgh on Dec. 20, 2014.

Trevor Siemian "antsy" for opportunity to prove himself with Broncos

By Nicki Jhabvala
DenverPost.com
May 4, 2016

Trevor Siemian's NFL debut was also his 2015 finale, and it lasted only two seconds and resulted in a loss of 1 yard.

In the waning of the Broncos' loss at Pittsburgh last December, Siemian trotted onto the field in place of Brock Osweiler to take a kneel-down and preserve his team's lead before the halftime break.

"That's a heck of a knee that he took," Broncos quarterback Mark Sanchez said Monday, laughing. "We talked about it this morning actually. It was pretty cool."

It was short and insignificant, and for the fans who headed to the concession stands early before halftime, it was never seen.

But throughout his first pro season, Siemian made a habit out of working when fans weren't watching and cameras weren't rolling.

Hours before kickoffs on game days, Siemian would own the field for intense, but brief workouts with quarterbacks coach Greg Knapp at his side. From right to left, he would spray passes in the end zone, running through his progressions and honing his footwork as Broncos assistants and trainers volunteered as his receivers.

Those moments and those repetitions were all his, and the few watching mattered more than thousands who weren't.

But in year two, he's in the mix for added exposure — in practices and possibly beyond.

After a rookie season spent recovering from a knee injury and learning behind Peyton Manning and Osweiler, Siemian enters 2016 as the most knowledgeable quarterback in Gary Kubiak's system.

Sanchez arrived in Denver with experience in the West Coast offense, but not Kubiak's specifically. So when the veteran quarterback gathered some of his receivers and tight ends for an informal throwing camp in California in April, Siemian joined, taking his reps but also helping Sanchez with his.

"For a young guy going into his second year and not playing as much, he's got a good grip on the system and really helped out in California," Sanchez said. "He was almost like a player-coach kind of thing in helping me out with reads and footwork and things like that. A lot of the plays I had heard before, but some of the stuff was new to me. He was instrumental in picking that stuff up."

This time around, Siemian is preparing for a season fully healthy. The injury that prematurely ended his senior season at Northwestern is no longer an issue.

And the timing couldn't be better.

Thursday night, the Broncos traded up in the first round to draft Paxton Lynch, a 6-foot-7, 245-pound dual-threat quarterback whose arrival ended months of speculation about the team's plans at the position. The addition of a young, but promising player solidified the Broncos' faith in Sanchez, but opened the door for competition — for Siemian especially.

Adding a fourth veteran quarterback could happen before training camp opens, but Broncos general manager John Elway said the priority now is development, ensuring the Broncos' young quarterbacks receive all the reps they can get.

For Siemian, that means a chance to no longer be the guy behind the scenes.

"It was a great opportunity for me last year to learn a lot obviously from Brock and Peyton," he said. "At this point, I'm kind of getting antsy to apply some of those things I picked up from those guys. It's a great opportunity for me and I'm ready to get to it."

The Siemian file

A closer look at broncos backup quarterback Trevor Siemian:

Height: 6-foot-3

Weight: 215 pounds

Age: 24

Hometown: Windermere, Fla.

— Played 44 games (14 starts) in four years (2011-14) at Northwestern

— College stats: 550-of-934 passing, 5,931 yards, 27 passing touchdowns, 24 interceptions

— Drafted by the Broncos in the seventh round (No. 250) in 2015

— Played in one regular-season game, on Dec. 20 at Pittsburgh

Notes: Top-ranked Broncos defense has helped Trevor Siemian adjust

By Andrew Mason
DenverBroncos.com
November 16, 2015

Just as Brock Osweiler has been for the last three and a half seasons, Trevor Siemian now stands one play away from taking the snaps for the Broncos.

The seventh-round pick's preparation to this point has involved running the scout team. But that puts him against the league's No. 1 defense in yardage allowed per game and per play on a daily basis.

For every rookie, the biggest adjustment to the NFL involves getting accustomed to the speed of the game. If he can handle the speed of the Broncos' defense -- which is perhaps the fastest in the league -- he should be ready for game action.

"I'm lucky I get to go against the best defense in the league every week," he said. "I think it's given me an opportunity to go against obviously a really fast defense and get myself ready that way."

Although Peyton Manning's absence will cause a shift in the distribution of repetitions, Siemian expects that his practice workload won't look that different.

"Not a whole lot is going to change for me. I might get a couple of more reps [in practice]," Siemian said.

The biggest change will come Sunday, when he suits up for the first time in the regular season after being inactive for the last nine games. He'll be in familiar territory for the occasion; Siemian played his college football at Northwestern, just a 12-mile ride north on the Purple Line of the 'L' train from downtown Chicago.

"I really haven't thought about it too much, to be honest with you," he said. "We're just trying to get win No. 8."

Trevor Siemian stuck because he 'just continued to make plays'

By Andrew Mason
DenverBroncos.com
September 6, 2015

It should come as no surprise that Gary Kubiak kept three quarterbacks on the 53-man roster. He carried three passers into the regular season for his last five seasons as the Houston Texans' head coach.

But when training camp began, few pundits projected the Broncos to carry three quarterbacks. And fewer knew that seventh-round pick Trevor Siemian would not only come all the way back from a torn anterior cruciate ligament suffered last November at Northwestern -- but would thrive.

"That was a concern -- how far could we go?" Head Coach Gary Kubiak said Saturday. "He worked really hard throughout the course of the summer off with the players, and when he came back, he was ready to go, and he just continued to make plays."

Siemian's inclusion on the post-preseason 53-man roster set at the 2 p.m. MDT roster deadline Saturday marked a significant accomplishment for the seventh-round pick, even though he is likely to spend the coming months biding his time on the scout team behind perennial Pro Bowler Peyton Manning and four-year veteran backup Brock Osweiler.

Barring a calamitous set of circumstances, Siemian won't see any action this season. But he needs to continue his progress -- both in his passing and his leadership -- on the practice field.

"He's a very confident kid. There's not a throw he can't make," Kubiak said. "I think the question was how much he can handle mentally, and from what he did, how much could he progress? And he's handled that very, very well. Guys gravitate to him. You never know about leadership until a guy walks in the door, and he has shown that. Hopefully we'll continue with that."

Siemian's arm strength was evident on his Northwestern film, and once his knee healed and he incorporated Quarterbacks Coach/Passing Game Coordinator Greg Knapp's teachings into his footwork, his accuracy began to improve along with it.

"We saw the arm. There was no doubt about the arm," Kubiak said. "When you watch him throw the ball at Northwestern, in some of the wind, the trees are blowing sideways, and he's out there making throws all over the field. You knew that he had that ability."

"Now everything else, you've got to see."

And that's what the Broncos began witnessing this summer, first on the practice field, and then in the fourth quarter of the preseason opener in Seattle, where he completed five of his six passes and stabilized an offense that flailed during a fruitless third quarter.

That was Siemian's first opportunity to relay play calls in NFL nomenclature, and he wasn't fazed by it.

"He's adapted very well to the calling system, making long calls in the huddle, things that he's never been a part of," Kubiak said. It's really part of his progress, but the physical skills, we knew they were there. With the knee coming along, [it was a] project situation. We didn't know. "

Kubiak has a better idea now.

"Every time we went on the field, he found a way to make plays," Kubiak said. "He's a leader -- a very confident young man. So we feel very good about the opportunity here, and having the ability to get him that late in the draft and to have a player with that type of ability."

Nine months after ACL surgery, Trevor Siemian makes Broncos roster

By Jeff Legwold

ESPN.com

September 5, 2015

Six players from the Denver Broncos' nine-man draft class made the initial 53-man roster, but it's a guy the team hopes doesn't play a down this year that has the team very excited.

Yes, the Broncos are more than excited about the potential of some of their other 2015 draft picks like linebacker Shane Ray, tackle Ty Sambrailo, Lorenzo Doss and Jeff Heuerman, who is on injured reserve. But when the Broncos grabbed quarterback Trevor Siemian in the seventh round earlier this year, he was recovering from ACL surgery and had only been Northwestern's unquestioned starter for one season. That's not the usual recipe for tossing confetti at a quarterback prospect.

But Siemian simply forced the Broncos to keep him as their No. 3 quarterback and he did it with a live arm and level-headed play less than a year after surgery to repair his ACL.

"We saw the arm," said Broncos coach Gary Kubiak Saturday. "There was no doubt about the arm. When you watch him throw the ball at Northwestern, some of the wind and trees are going sideways and he's out there making throws all over the field. You knew that he had that ability. Now, everything else, you've got to see, but he really came in and he's adapted very well ... With the knee coming along, would this be a long project situation? We didn't know. He's the one that made up the ground."

The Broncos held Siemian out of most of their offseason work, but he was cleared in time to participate in training camp and in the preseason. He moved from the No. 4 quarterback to No. 3 on the depth chart when he led the Broncos to a come-from-behind win in Houston in the Broncos' second preseason game.

The Broncos released Zac Dysert, a seventh-round pick in 2013, in the first round of roster cuts. Then the question became whether to A) keep him on the roster as the No. 3 quarterback, or B) risk exposing Siemian to waivers, where any team could claim him. By the end of the preseason, Siemian threw for 283 yards behind sometimes spotty protection as the Broncos worked a variety of combinations in the offensive line, with two touchdowns and an interception.

"He came in and obviously he was not healthy, there was a concern how long could we go, but he was the one that did it," Kubiak said. "He worked really hard throughout the course of the summer ... Every time he went on the field, he found a way to make plays. He's a leader and a very confident young man."

Siemian also scored with the coaching staff with his occasional work against the Broncos' starting defense as the scout team quarterback in practices. While that has been a tall order for all of the Broncos' quarterbacks -- Peyton Manning has called it "hard work" -- including Siemian, the Broncos liked the way he bounced back from mistakes and handled himself along the way.

"He's a very confident kid," Kubiak said. "There is not a throw he can't make. I think the question was how much could he handle mentally and from what he did in college, how much could he progress. He's

handled that very, very well. Guys gravitate to him. You never know ... leadership skills until a guy walks into the door. He has shown that.”

Following the Broncos’ preseason finale, Siemian said the decision about making the roster was “over my paygrade” and called himself “lucky” to be in a meeting room with Manning and Brock Osweiler.

“I’m feeling good,” he said this past week. “I mean, there’s definitely stuff I need to work on for sure, and I’m still learning, like I said, so just learn something new every day and get a little better each day. And I think I’ve done that.”

Peyton Manning on Trevor Siemian and his former coaches with Arizona

By Christine Williamson

DenverBroncos.com

September 2, 2015

Peyton Manning thinks that rookie quarterback Trevor Siemian has improved since he got to Denver in May. The seventh-round pick will be expected to play during the second half against the Cardinals on Thursday.

Manning told KOA's Dave Logan that although the rookie has put up some impressive numbers, he still has a couple of off-the-field things to improve on.

"Trevor has had a really good camp. He's a bright guy; he's improved. He wasn't healthy when he got here because he was coming off a knee injury. So he wasn't able to do a lot in his first month, but as he got healthy and was able to get out on the field and get the reps it really paid dividends for him. He got more comfortable and just played well throughout camp.

"I don't know if you noticed, but all of the rookies got their heads shaved by our 'senior committee.' It's kind of a defensive thing—that's the one time they're allowed to cross over the ball. Ty [Sambrailo] had long hair when he got here and they cut our left tackles hair. But, for three years in a row now I have spared the QB's. I spared Brock [Osweiler], I spared [Zac] Dysert and I spared Trevor. But I told Trevor, 'Just because I spared you from getting your head shaved doesn't mean... you still need a haircut.' He's got a bad haircut. It's borderline mullet at this point.

"So I said, 'Don't take advantage of my generosity...get a haircut. Represent the QB's. Look sharp.' He hasn't done it yet.

"The other thing is he still has his college email address. I do not feel secure on that. Some student could be reading all of our emails at Northwestern. I told him, 'Get an AOL, get a Gmail... do something.' I do not want to send an email to Northwestern dot org or whatever.

"When you get to pro ball, you can't wear your bowl gear from the Peach Bowl. You can't wear your combine sweatshirt, (which reads) 'QB 10,' and you cannot have your college email. You stick to those three things and everything else is cream cheese."

The veteran quarterback won't see any action in the matchup against the Cardinals, but Manning has a few ties to the Cardinals in Head Coach Bruce Arians and Assistant Head Coach and Offensive Coordinator Tom Moore.

"Bruce Arians was my quarterbacks coach for my first three years in Indianapolis. You really knew back then that he was bound to be an NFL head coach at some point. He had it in his blood; it was just a matter of getting the right situation. He's a high-energy coach and a fun coach to play for. Tom Moore was my offensive coordinator there for 14 years in Indianapolis. I think Tom is in his 40 40th season in the NFL.

"You talk about somebody that's seen it all. He's a quarterbacks dream to play for because he's just as loyal as they come. He always had your back. He used to tell me, 'Hey, if you change the play and it works well, that was your idea. If it doesn't work, it was my idea.'

"He's just an old-school guy. Tough. You talk about wearing out a referee... he would wear out a referee. I remember one time I wasn't playing and he was absolutely just giving this referee the business like you couldn't believe.

"He had his headphones on and the referee turned around and said, 'Hey, you can't talk to me like that!' And he said, 'I'm not talking to you; I'm talking to the guy up in the press box!' [It's] just things like that, that were funny and truly old school."

Kubiak likes potential of 7th round quarterback Trevor Siemian

By Mike Klis
Channel 9 Sports
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It was the tape, not the stat page, where Northwestern quarterback Trevor Siemian impressed Broncos coach Gary Kubiak.

On the stat page, Siemian threw 18 touchdowns against 20 interceptions in his junior and senior seasons at Northwestern. On tape, Kubiak saw a 6-foot-3, 215-pound quarterback with potential.

"I think I saw something I want to work with," Kubiak said.

The Broncos drafted Siemian with the first of their three consecutive compensatory picks in the seventh round Saturday.

"When you look at the film you see pro characteristics," Kubiak said. "He can make the throws, he's very bright. He went to a school where they had a running quarterback (former Cherry Creek star Kane Colter) and him. They played two guys. When he was playing I really liked what I saw. He played in a tough environment – played in Chicago where the wind is blowing everywhere.

"I loved his feet. He's way ahead of the curve."

The first phase of Siemian's pro development will be in the meeting room. He suffered a torn ACL in the Wildcats' late-November win against Purdue, the second-to-last game of his senior season. He underwent surgery and the Broncos expect him to start practicing some time in June and be ready to take live reps in training camp.

With the Broncos, Siemian will be a project who will compete with Zac Dysert, a Broncos' seventh-round draft pick in 2013, for the No. 3 quarterback spot. Peyton Manning and Brock Osweiler are the Broncos' top two quarterbacks.

Siemian was a highly regarded quarterback prospect coming out of Olympia High School in Central Florida and started getting some playing time ahead of Colter in his redshirt freshman season. But after an encouraging start with Northwestern, Siemian's upperclassmen years fell short of expectations.

"I think the name of the game at quarterback is consistency," he said in a conference call with the Denver media Saturday. "I would say I've done a better job at that at certain points of my career. I would definitely not contribute that to a lack of preparation or anything like that. I think I would put myself in the position to go into games and get the job done. One thing I would say I want to improve on is doing better when I have to move around and make decisions in crunch time, and by crunch time I mean when the pocket is collapsing. I could do a better job in that regard, I would say."

How He Fits: Seventh-round QB Trevor Siemian

Andrew Mason
DenverBroncos.com
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Trevor Siemian is the second quarterback drafted in the last three seventh rounds by the Broncos, and as with most passers picked in that round, the Northwestern product will be a project, who could battle with Zac Dysert for the No. 3 position.

A three-year starter for the Wildcats, Siemian threw 27 touchdown passes during his college career -- but also tossed 24 interceptions. He threw seven touchdowns against 11 interceptions last year before he tore his anterior cruciate ligament last November.

"Obviously, if his numbers were a lot better, we wouldn't have had the opportunity to get him there (in the seventh round)," Executive Vice President/General Manager John Elway said.

Siemian is expected to begin practicing by June. At that point, the Broncos will begin learning what they have in their skilled, but raw, passer.

"He's definitely got the traits and the ability," Head Coach Gary Kubiak said. "We'll see."

To his credit, Siemian knows where he must improve: consistency and in on-the-fly decision-making.

"One thing I would say I want to improve on is doing better when I have to move around and make decisions in crunch time, and by 'crunch time' I mean when the pocket is collapsing. I could do a better job in that regard, I would say," he added later.

With good size and arm strength, Siemian has the attributes of a pro-style quarterback.

"He plays well in his feet and his technique and everything that he can do is pretty darn good," Elway said.

"Obviously, we took into account playing in Chicago in the wintertime. We really thought that he had some upside, because of where he was and where he starts and his ability to understand the game of football."

Quarterbacks Coach/Passing Game Coordinator Greg Knapp worked Siemian out at Northwestern, giving the Broncos a chance to get to know him.

"One day I went down to Knapper's office," Kubiak recalled, "and he said, 'Did you look at this young man?' I like what he did. I like his feet; I think he's way ahead of the curve, because he did play under center recently."