



DENVER BRONCOS QUOTES

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DENVER BRONCOS vs. SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

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BRONCOS HEAD COACH GARY KUBIAK

On making a decision on the starting quarterback position

“We made too many mistakes, obviously. They (QBs Trevor Siemian and Mark Sanchez) both did some good things. I think they were both 10-of-14. That’s throwing the ball for a good percentage, but you have to protect the football. Obviously we have to hang on to the good things and find a way to protect the ball for the team. That’s what we need to focus on right now more than anything.”

On OL Darrion Weems and ILB Corey Nelson’s injuries

“Weems has a concussion. Corey Nelson has a wrist, we think a sprained wrist. We’re evaluating that.”

On QB Paxton Lynch’s performance

“I’m going to play the guy that I think is best for our team. We have three guys out there battling. Obviously [Lynch] is a young kid. He did some really good stuff tonight. He made some mistakes, too. I think I’ve continued to tell you guys that he is behind the others from a knowledge standpoint as far as running the group. Obviously we need to keep coming, keep bringing him along. We’re going to keep working here, find the guy that we think is best for our football team and go from there.”

On Lynch’s potential

“He’s always been in the mix. I just told you guys that he’s behind the other two from a knowledge standpoint, but we’ve been out there competing every day. Everybody is in competition to play.”

On the timeline for the quarterback decision

“I foresee myself trying to find a way to fix some mistakes. I’m going to take it a day at a time. That’s where I’m going right now.”

On the defense’s performance

“I think our first group offensively went right down the field, defensively we had two stops. Offensively we’re moving the ball again and we had the turnovers. You love the start. You love what you’re doing, we did some good things. I think we got [OLB] Von [Miller] and [T Russell] Okung [out] pretty quick. I think we actually took [CB] Chris [Harris Jr.] out pretty quick, too. They did

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some good stuff. The second group defensively really struggled with some of the speed stuff. We had some struggles lining up. Obviously we're moving the heck out of the ball, but [we were] turning the ball over."

On ILB Zaire Anderson's performance

"Zaire's had a good camp. He's become a good player. He's got a good grasp of what we're doing. I have to go back and look at the game, but obviously he got some extensive time tonight against a tough scheme to work against. I'll go back and look, but he's been doing some good stuff."

On evaluating the quarterbacks

"We evaluate them just like we evaluate every other player. You go out and run plays. You've got schemes you're running, you've got progressions you're going through, you've got a job to do. That's every position. We'll evaluate them from that standpoint. At the end of the day, it's your job to protect the ball. That's the most important thing. That's something that coming out of tonight wasn't good enough."

On RB Ronnie Hillman's performance

"[RB Devontae Booker] 'Book' split with [RB] C.J. [Anderson] and then 'Book' split with Ronnie. Ronnie looked good. Early in the second half he had some nice runs. It looked like he picked up a couple of blitzes really well. Ronnie is a veteran player. I know he played on special teams for [Special Teams Coordinator] Joe [DeCamillis], so I have to go back and look at it. It's obviously a very competitive situation for our team."

On his impressions of Siemian and Sanchez

"They both have done some good things. Obviously we're coming out of this one game, so we're talking about some turnovers that we have to go get fixed. If you're not turning the ball over, and moving the ball the way we moved it, I'd be a lot happier right now and hopefully the result would have been better. We have to hang on to the good things they do, because they are both doing some really good things. We also have to find a way to protect the game and protect the ball. What is it now? Four turnovers in two weeks? We can't have that."

On his impressions of Lynch

"I thought he did great. I wish I called a better play, that's the way I look at it as a coach. Second-and-15, I put him in a situation and gave him a play, obviously not a very good football play. I look at myself. You try to keep your quarterback in the best position possible. That's the way I look at things first. We had a chance to come out of this game as well as he could, except for that one play when you think about it. We all take responsibility for it. We have to get better."

On TE Virgil Green's performance

"[TE] Jeff [Heurman] was nicked on us a couple of days ago and was missing some time with a hamstring. He's had a hard time staying healthy. Virgil's been a warrior. He's stayed in there. He's been battling. This is an opportunity in Virgil's career to become a starter. He's obviously taken advantage of it."

"I don't have my injury card. I think the two guys that we're concerned about are [OLB] DeMarcus [Ware] and [S Darian] Stewart. That's the two guys. Those are our concerns coming out of the game."

BRONCOS RUNNING BACK CJ ANDERSON

On what was working that led to his touchdown run

"I just think we handled everything well. [QB] Trevor [Siemian] came out throwing the ball and we got in a rhythm early. Then I got some carries and got a chance to feel the game and get into a rhythm. When we got into the red zone, we had to punch it in. I got an opportunity to make the most of it."

On how mixing up the offensive line impacts a running back

"You don't see it when it's happening, and then when you come back and talk about it on the sideline... We should be in synch and on the same page. We will get better at it. I like where we are at now compared to where we were last year for sure."

On offense inconsistencies

"I just think in the second drive we got called for being offsides, which puts us in second and long. We also just need to know the situation and know that we are trying to make a third-and-manageable; the defense knows that too, so they can sit on things. Maybe if we don't jump offsides and it is not second and fifteen, but its second and five, second and eight, we have a different play call. A bunch of things make a difference, that's the only thing that I think really happened."

On his thoughts of the quarterbacks' performances

"I think they all had their ups and downs tonight. We look at [QB] Trevor [Siemian], and we had a great first drive. Came out in the second drive, throws a pick-six, and then plays okay. [QB] Mark [Sanchez] gets in and is fine but the next thing you know he's getting stripped-sacks. It's a bunch of people who we have to do our job to make their job a lot easier and I just think that's what next week is. I don't think next week is so big on them, I think the pressure is more on the O-line, tight ends, running backs and receivers to do our job the way we know we can do it to make their job easier."

On how the rest of the running backs performed

"We have a tough backfield. [RB] Ronnie [Hillman] made some good cuts and [Devontae] Booker made some good plays today. We just have a backfield where everyone can play, so I guess that's what you want to see and what you want to do. I am just happy that I have the guys behind me. I have to give up some carries. I know that, so I am never going to be upset about that. It has always been that way since I got here. Like I always have said, no matter who's in the game we are not going to miss a beat."

On RB Devontae Booker

"He is just explosive. He has the balance and he can see things that are coming to him. We got better this week with the things we talked about that we want him to do. We are all just going to stay on him so he can keep improving."

BRONCOS INSIDE LINEBACKER ZAIRE ANDERSON

On what the difference was tonight

"I just play the same way every day. I just try to find the ball, make plays and give 100 percent effort."

On not being as dominant as last week

"I'm confident in the way we played. We made a few mistakes, just trying to get the calls in when they were moving fast. But that's about it. I don't think they did anything we couldn't stop."

On the importance of having a big game as a young player

"It's very important to me just because I want to show the organization and people upstairs that I can play, and I can be a guy to count on each year."

On always being around the ball

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“I just try to make plays and fly around, and be everywhere on the field.”

On ILB Corey Nelson leaving with an injury

“Actually, [ILB Dwayne] Norman stepped in, but it was kind of weird not having Corey out there because we’ve got [great] communication. We’ve got a bond, so it was kind of weird not having him out there because we’ve got a chemistry already.”

On having OLB Von Miller back on the field tonight

“It was exciting to see him play again because I haven’t seen him play since the Super Bowl, so it was exciting to see him out there again.”

BRONCOS LINEBACKER SHAQUIL BARRETT

On how he felt the defense played in their second preseason game

“We didn’t play as well as we played last game. The tempo was a little bit faster than the Bears’ tempo. That did not necessarily bother us, but not getting the play calls and stuff made it a little more difficult today. We’ve still got to be able to play under all circumstances though.”

On the 49ers’ play this week in practice versus tonight

“It’s smart not to show everything and put everything out on the table because they know they’re going to have to do some other stuff when they play us. That’s probably smart to do. We were prepared for everything, but I guess not everything because they did some stuff that worked out pretty well, and we like to pride ourselves on being a good run defense and a good pass defense. I think they were over 100 yards in both categories, so that’s something that we’re going to work on. We talked about it and said it wasn’t going to happen again.”

On OLB Von Miller saying that he would have a breakout season

“I like my role on the team. Being on this team has helped me a lot in my career, like my pass-rushing ability, pass coverage and run stop ability. If I wasn’t on this team, I don’t know what my role would be anywhere else. If it’s my time this year, I’m going to try and take advantage of the opportunity, but if not, I’m just going to keep my role and still take advantage of that opportunity.”

BRONCOS RUNNING BACK DEVONTAE BOOKER

On whether the increased number of carries helped him get in rhythm

“When you get that many carries in a row, you start to heat up a little bit more faster and just start going with the flow of the game.”

On whether he thinks he has earned more playing time

“I don’t know. I’m just going to leave it up to the coaches for now and see where we go from there. I’m going to just continue to go out, compete each day and help make this team better.”

On what he thought he did well tonight

“Pass protection. I did good this week in pass protection. We stress it a lot, being a running back. We’ve got to protect the quarterback. I felt like I did a real good job of that tonight.”

On playing his first game at Sports Authority Field at Mile High

“It was pretty cool. Everything I expected. We’re just playing home now. It was good.”

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On which quarterback he prefers

"It's up to the coaches. It doesn't really matter to me. Whichever quarterback is in, as long they can lead us, go out there and play well."

BRONCOS TIGHT END VIRGIL GREEN**On improving as a pass-catcher**

"It's always been me. I'm getting more opportunities now and I'm taking advantage of them. I just have to keep building on those things, get better and let things take their course."

On whether he feels he is in a good groove

"I do feel good. But for me, I do have high expectations. I definitely know what other guys have done in the league and what I would like to do. I've just got to get better and keep consistently doing things, catching the ball, running good routes and doing well in the run game. I think things will go well for me."

On having to step up with injuries to the tight ends on the roster

"I feel that way every day regardless of what the situation is. I've got to keep my body healthy and keep taking advantage of opportunities regardless of what's going down. I don't care how many tight ends we've got. If we've got two tight ends, one tight end, I don't care. I'm always going to try step my game up no matter what."

On the offense's turnovers

"In the preseason, we really don't gameplan for teams. Things could be done a little differently when you're game planning, you know what's coming, you see the film and you know everything that's happening. Up front, we could do a lot better job protecting the quarterback in situations like that. In a way, game-planning does help in that sense and when we do get to that situation, we'll do a lot better. But you're right, you don't want to turn the ball over."

On whether there is any frustration with the quarterbacks

"I don't see any frustration with the quarterbacks. When [QB] Trevor [Siemian] went out, [QB] Mark [Sanchez] came in. Both guys are poised in the huddle. They let everybody know what's going on and to me, I don't really get frustrated. I was telling people earlier that I've got my own things going on. I've got guys that I'm blocking that are very large men. I've got my own thing I'm trying to work out."

On if it matters when the starting quarterback is named

"I'm sure there are guys on the team that would like to know. But for me, it doesn't matter to me. Whoever it is, I'm going to roll with it. I'm going to go out there and do what I've got to do regardless of who the quarterback is, and hopefully win a lot of games."

BRONCOS QUARTERBACK PAXTON LYNCH**On his performance tonight**

"It felt good. Coming into the game, [Head Coach Gary Kubiak] told me how we were going to split up the reps so I knew that I was going to have to sit there for a while and watch. I got my opportunity to make the best of it and I think I did that."

On his mentality going into the game with a deficit

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"I knew that I was going to get my shot at the end of the game no matter what happened, whether we were up by 22 points like we were against Chicago or if we were down like we were when we came in. I was just focused on my guys and doing what I had to do to lead us down the field and score every time."

On keeping the ball from his first touchdown pass

"It was very exciting. I was actually talking to some of the rookies today. If I threw them a touchdown pass, it was kind of a big debacle on who was going to get the ball, but luckily I threw it to an older guy and he gave [the ball] right to me. I was really excited about that."

On competing for the starting job

"I always believed that I was, no matter what the situation was. Like I said from Day One, I'm confident that I have an opportunity to make the best of this opportunity and that's what I've been doing. Those guys have been playing well too in front of me so we're going to keep going and I'm going to keep doing what I've been doing."

On his running ability

"When I'm out there on the field, I'm trying to score every single time that I touch the ball. Every time that I have an opportunity to make a play, I try to. I just wanted to get the first down more than he wanted to tackle me."

On Denver's offensive scheme

"That's one thing that I was really excited about when I got into the offense. They like to move their quarterback around and give them opportunities outside of the pocket. I feel like that fits into my strong suit so whenever [Kubiak] calls plays like that, I just have to show that I can be trusted."

On if he had family members attend tonight

"My mom, my dad and my brother."

On if he's at his best on the run

"I just have done it so much. It's just how I played since I was in high school, getting out of the pocket and using my athletic ability to my advantage. It's definitely something that stuck with me so whenever I get the opportunity to do it; I'm not scared to do that."

On what he learns from watching QBs Mark Sanchez and Trevor Siemian

"Just their confidence and how calm, collected and cool they are out there on the field. They're in control of the game and can move their guys up and down the field. It's interesting to see those guys react to when they struggle. You just have to shrug it off and keep moving because you have to keep playing the game. That's one thing that I really pay attention to when I'm out there."

BRONCOS OUTSIDE LINEBACKER SHANE RAY

On making tackles

"It's really a mentality. We all share that mentality to get to the ball carrier and bring him down, and we work really hard on it, especially when it's game time. We've got to bring guys down, and I think just all around we all come in with the mentality that we're going to bring the ball carrier down."

On whether the Broncos have improved their run defense from last season

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“That just comes from great coaching and players stepping up. A lot of people thought that when we lost guys that we’d lose some pieces to our defense, but we’ve had guys step up and fill that gap. And playing disciplined football, that’s how we’ve been able to stop guys.”

On the Broncos’ offense turning the ball over

“We definitely want to see our offense do well. Whoever is at quarterback, the main thing is just protecting the ball. I think those guys understand what happened tonight. They’re going to go back to the drawing board, get ready for this next game and hopefully that’s something we can eliminate.”

On whether there was a letdown after competing against the 49ers in practice this week

“When we came out tonight, I think we made some mistakes. Of course, the turnovers. Their tempo caused a couple of problems as far as us getting our calls in. But those are things we’ve got to work on. When you’re going to play teams in this league that use that kind of attack against you, we have to get better.”

On playing alongside OLB Von Miller for the first time this year

“I love it. Looking to my left and seeing him out there, it makes me feel real good because I know he’s going to do his job and he has the same faith in me. We go out there, we attack guys and it’s great.”

BRONCOS QUARTERBACK MARK SANCHEZ

On his turnovers

“I just squandered a great opportunity to separate myself and I put the team in a bad situation. There’s no excuse for that, poor, poor quarterback play.”

On his chance to separate himself in the quarterback competition

“No doubt. I came in, we had a lot of energy and moved the team right down the field. [There were] two drives of 70-plus yards and we’re rolling. [Head] Coach [Gary Kubiak] understands the situation. In a real game maybe we just run it and take the points, but going in to my eighth year I know better. I know I have to get the ball out. I can’t put pressure on the O-Line like that. I know I’m in a tough spot there and coach wants to see what I do. There’s no excuse for that. You can’t do that. You can’t put the team in that situation, poor play.”

On the next steps in the quarterback competition

“I just let one go tonight. It’s really too bad.”

On holding on to the ball a little too long

“There’s no need. I just need to get rid of the ball and kick the field goal and go into halftime with the momentum, get a stop on defense, go down on offense and score. Now you’re really back in the game. Like I said, not very well.”

On the positives of his performance tonight

“I thought we moved the ball well. [TE] Virgil Green, [WR] Jordan Taylor and [WR] Jordan Norwood had huge third down conversions. We put some throws in some great spots. I know I can play this game and I know I’m better than I showed tonight. Its two really bad plays that took away from a great performance and potentially winning the job. It’s really too bad.”

On how to prevent fumbles in blindside sack situations

“The second one, I don’t know. Maybe get the ball out sooner? I have to look at it. Either way, we just fumbled the ball. Don’t do that again. That’s just stupid.”

On if he is looking forward to potentially playing with the starters for more than a quarter

“That’s up to coach. I have no idea.”

On the uncertainty of the quarterback position

“It’s difficult playing like crap on two plays and then ruining an opportunity. That’s difficult.”

BRONCOS QUARTERBACK TREVOR SIEMIAN

On his interception

“I can’t turn the ball over. I just made a bad decision—the guy played flat and I want that one back. There are some positives to take away just can’t turn the ball over.”

On how he felt with his first start

“It felt pretty good. Unfortunately, you can’t have those bad plays, you have to be pretty consistent. Did some good things, did some not so good things.”

On what he expects going forward

“Look at the tape and try to get better from it and I think we will. Like I said, we did some good things and did some bad things.”

On whether there was any separation made in the quarterback competition

“I don’t know. I will have to take a look at the tape. There are so many things I need to work on and get better at. I think we are all improving and getting better.”

On if Head Coach Gary Kubiak said if he is closer to naming a starter

“He did not.”

On what he will work on this coming week

“Protecting the ball obviously is the first thing that comes to mind.”

On getting closer to the season and wanting the starting job

“I’m not looking too far ahead. We have a big on coming up against the Rams in the third preseason game next week.”

On putting the turnover out of his mind on the next series

“There is a lot to think about but you have to be able to bounce back. I’m not the first guy to throw an interception and have to go out and play the next drive. You just have to be able to bounce back and have short-term memory.”

On the first drive of the game

“I thought it went well. We found a rhythm and guys made plays. The offensive line did a great job.”

On his sideline conversation with Kubiak

“He told me a few things. I told him I can’t put the team in a situation like that. Some things to work on and some positive things to take away.”

On TE Virgil Green becoming a pass-catching tight end

“Virgil did a great job. He has done a good job all camp. We’ve had a few guys get nicked and he has been a workhorse for us. He is one of the guys in the locker room that guys follow and look up to.”

On targeting different receivers

“We have no shortage of guys that can make plays. We have to get the ball to those guys and let them make plays.”

On when he needs to know who the starting quarterback is

“I’m not looking too far ahead right now. I am just trying to improve each and every day. I have plenty to work on and that has been my focus the whole time.”

BRONCOS WIDE RECEIVER JORDAN TAYLOR**On the offense trying to help the defense**

“In this league, obviously you saw last year, you win however you can – offensively, defensively, special teams; all three. But obviously, as an offense, we take pride in ourselves and we want to be a high-powered offense that can put up points and not have to rely on our defense every game. Obviously it’s a blessing to have the defense that we have, but we want to be able to help them out as much as we can.”

On joint practices with the 49ers this week

“I liked it a lot. Going against our defense day-in and day-out, it’ll wear on you, so it was good to get some new bodies in there, see some new faces, go against some new competition and then obviously get to come out and play them in the game. It was a good week.”

On expecting to elevate the offensive play next week against the Rams

“Like I said, we’re going to go back and watch this film. There are a lot of things, individually for me that I can correct and I know as a collective, as an offense, that we can fix. So we’re going to go back and fix that and try to do a better job next week.”

BRONCOS WIDE RECEIVER DEMARIUS THOMAS**On how he felt the quarterbacks played**

“For the most part, we did a lot of good things. I think the main thing and the reason we lost this game is turning the ball over. We had 30-plus first downs. We came out on the first drive and scored and the thing that got us was turnovers. If we didn’t have turnovers, it would have been a different game.”

On his approach in the third preseason game

“You approach it like any other game, like you’re working and got the job on the line. We’re going to go out and treat it like a regular game. Of course we’re going to play more. I guess the coaches will figure out after that game who’s going to be their guy. I think everybody has still got the potential to be the starter and we’ll see from there.”

BRONCOS NOSE TACKLE SYLVESTER WILLIAMS**On his impression of the defense**

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“I think we came out fast. I think we gave up one third down on third and short. Obviously, we thought we stopped them, but we didn’t. Overall, I think we came out to a very quick start and did pretty good.”

On if he can feel LB Von Miller’s presence on the defense

“Definitely. Like I said, when you look to the left or to the right and I see Von out there, you just get a different feeling know that he’s going to get to the quarterback and the quarterback is going to get the ball out fast because he knows Von is coming. Next week we get [OLB] Demarcus [Ware] back in practice and then we get [CB Aqib] Talib back in the game, hopefully. We should be back full-go by the first week. Week 1, that’s what we’re looking forward to.”

On how he sees next week’s game against the Los Angeles Rams

“I look at it as important as any other game. Obviously, I prepared for this game and last game like I was playing a full game and I’m going to do the same this week, just like we prepared the same way as our entire team. We want to go out there and we want to get ourselves ready for the season. We want to come out and start fast and treat it like we’re playing the whole game so we can be ready come Sept. 8.”

49ERS HEAD COACH CHIP KELLY

On practicing with the Broncos during the week

“I think that we practiced better on the second day than we did the first day. It’s obviously intimidating. Tonight is very difficult to gauge, one because you take your ones and then you’re playing a lot in the second half with your two’s and three’s. It’s really trying to get a little variation, so you’re not putting a whole heck of a lot in stock. There were some positive things. There were also some things that we can build on. There are some things that we can clean up.”

On QB Blaine Gabbert’s performance

“I thought Blaine did a nice job getting the ball where it needed to be. They brought a little bit of pressure and he got rid of it. He didn’t take the sack. I thought he put the ball where it needed to be. I think he did a good job on managing his snaps. We didn’t really have as many as we did last week, especially in the first half, but for the times he was lined up with the ones after that first drive. I know the first two drives were only six plays and then I thought we kind of got going. It’s the whole group. It’s not just the quarterbacks. I don’t think we executed as a group on those first two drives.”

On how comfortable Gabbert looked with the first-team offense

“He’s been with the ones since April 4th, so I don’t think that had anything to do with it. I think of all those guys, last week was the first game they played. They have a new coaching staff, players and everything. We’ve been together as a group, but there’s nothing like the game. It’s great. In practice, your quarterbacks don’t even get in the game. It’s really a different feel for those guys when you get in the game. I felt like they were a little bit level, relaxed and playing football.”

On big takeaways from the game

“Every snap [Gabbert] takes is an elation. I think he understands that and I think he relishes that. For that entire group, in every group, we need to build off of this. As I told them in the locker room, a lot of teachable moments in that football game, that didn’t come up in training sessions, that came up today. There were a lot of things that we need to work on. We talked about being really good in the takeaway category, and we started with the pick and the touchdown. We were doing a great job. We just have to get out of the hat. Then we try to call something safe to see if we can get a drive or we may be able to kick a field goal because we have a little bit of altitude. The field range is a little bit higher here. We just wanted to see if we could get something going, then we put the ball on the ground. We’re up, plus three in the first half. Obviously you felt pretty good about that. But

when you put the ball on the ground too much, that situation has to rectify. You're not going to win football games turning the ball over two, three times."

On improving ball security

"I think [Defensive Backs Coach] Jeff Hafley does a tremendous job with our backs, but a little responsibility goes to them. He talks about it all the time. We have to be able to know that when you're in the game, we can give you the ball, and you're going to come back to the huddle with it. Again, for those guys, those are teachable moments for them and learning experiences for them. We have to see how they perform when they have a chance to play Green Bay next week."

On injury updates

"I haven't talked to the trainers at all about it. Literally during the game they just tell me who's out. So when I get done here, I'll get that. I don't have any updates for you."

On QB Christian Ponder

"It was very limited. And the one that he threw the touchdown on, we just went over with him, he never ran it. He just did a heck of a job and recovers in enough time. He threw it up to [WR] Dres [Anderson] for the touchdown. He kind of has a little bit about him. We just have to put some things into terminology, but he had never run that play before. They just knew what they were doing, just trying to gang up on the run game, putting nine guys in the box so we have to have some force on the play action. I thought for Christian just getting here and taking snaps on Wednesday to perform like he did was kind of refreshing."

On Ponder to Anderson play being previously installed

"There is not a lot that has been installed to him, it's just been talk about it. He understands it. I know that he has never run that play before he called it in the game. That's how it should be more often."

On T Anthony Davis during training camp

"He's been unbelievable. 'A.D.', from the time he's showed up here, the biggest concern is putting him through the conditioning test. He killed it. He has just been one of the hardest working guys up front. He always wants to get better and he's always asking questions. From my set of eyes from July 31st to today, he's been outstanding."

On working Davis into right guard

"We just got to see where he's comfortable. In a practice situation we just threw him in there, but really it's a comfort level with him. We don't want to put him somewhere that he isn't comfortable in. That also speaks to 'A.D.', he'll play anywhere. He just wants to do what he can to contribute to this team. So for the next couple weeks, it'll be big for a lot of those guys. It's not etched in stone exactly where we are or where we'll have everybody with this competition. We'll see what it looks like this week. We'll give him a couple more snaps and see where he's comfortable."

On if he has a report on Colin Kaepernick

"I watched him throw, I didn't talk to those guys. I kind of looked at it myself and I think he's gotten better and better each day. The biggest thing is how does he respond in terms of residual effects when he wakes up tomorrow morning. I think he's progressing and we have a logical plan in place so we'll see where he is and we'll be excited to get him back."

On if he'll be back in the game when he's back at practice

"We hope, I can't predict the future. If I could I'd be at Saratoga and I'm not going to die 80."

On if he was encouraged by the pass rush

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“I think we have some guys that can get after the quarterback and I think they did a good job of getting after them. ‘Jimmy’ [Defensive Coordinator Jim O’Neil] does a good job of mixing those pressures and getting some rushes. Again, we did not have Armstead, Dorsey, Buckner or Lynch and those are four guys that we’re going to count on in the regular season. To see this other guys take advantage of their opportunities was good big.”

49ERS QUARTERBACK BLAINE GABBERT

On how the offense progressed through the week

“You can see through the course of the game the toll it takes on the defense with the tempo like staying on the ball, keeping their personnel in the game. It opens up lanes for the running backs and offensive line. The receivers do a tremendous job of keeping their wind and being able to run throughout the entire game. You saw at the end of the third and fourth quarters the game started to break.”

On running up-tempo in practice

“We were huddle-based working with them. There were a couple periods throughout those two practices where we did go up-tempo, but for the most part we huddled.”

On offense improving

“We improved on offense as a whole. We got the ball in the end zone. We could have started faster – get into the flow on offense. Playing more this week we see how things work. There are definitely things we can correct on film, but for the most part the offense as a whole throughout the entire game played pretty well. We’ve just got to protect the football.”

On getting more comfortable with the playbook

“Being in a new system, the more reps you can get against a different defense in the games the more comfortable you’re going to get. These preseason games right now are going to be crucial to our success in the regular season. Anytime there’s a ref on the field, and they’re going to keep score, so we’re out there to compete and win games. It feels good to get a win tonight.”

On reads clicking in-game

“It goes back to the repetitions. I try to take advantage – especially this week going against a great team in Denver – to make the most out of each opportunity I had out there. It definitely carried over into the game, speaking for the offense with that. Any time you can get a rep in a practice or a game, you’ve got to treat it like a piece of gold, because it’s so valuable in the NFL. Reps don’t come very often.”

On becoming more comfortable in the pocket

“As a quarterback, it’s so crucial to avoid sacks – whatever you can do to get the ball out. There was a play we had on third down, Carlos [Hyde] had a route to the left, and rather than taking a sack, you just got to get the ball out of your hands. Sacks are a big momentum builder for the other team, especially for a defense like Denver that feeds off of sacks and the pass rush. Anything you can do to neutralize that, get the ball out of your hands quick and get the ball into your receivers hands is going to help this offense run smoothly.”

On offensive line going against Denver pass rush

“They’re doing a tremendous job. Trent [Brown] had his hands full all week. The way he stacked up against arguably the best pass rusher in the game was tremendous. Those guys competed their tails off in the two practices and tonight. They did a tremendous job.”

49ERS SAFETY ERIC REID

On reading the play to make an interception

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“It’s a play I’ve practiced before. I trusted the read and took a chance and broke on the ball.”

On understanding a new defensive scheme

“I think we’re improving. Watching the game last week in the hospital with my wife, I saw some things we should have done better and I think this week we came out and did some better things. We still have room for improvement, but that’s what preseason’s for. I’ll watch the film and get back out there. We’ve got two weeks left and we’ll try to be perfect by the time we get to week one.”

On stopping Broncos offense after yielding a touchdown on the opening drive

“I’m not satisfied with that first drive because obviously they were able to move the ball pretty easily. We came back out and responded, made some plays and got the ball back for our offense.”

On watching younger players

“It’s exciting. [LB] Marcus Rush had three sacks and the DBs broke up some balls. I’m happy for them. A lot of those guys, this is their dream. I’m still living my dream, so I get nervous before every game. I know the feeling that those guys have coming out and playing their first couple NFL games. I’m excited for them.”

On mistakes he saw team make in last week’s game

“There were a couple plays, a couple bad reads. We call them ‘eye-violations.’ Your eyes are in the wrong spot and you’re not reading your keys. When you’re not reading your keys, you’re going to end up in a spot you’re not supposed to be in. It’s the little things that turn into big things. If you’re watching the wrong person, then the ball gets thrown deep. We came out and improved on that. We still had a couple more mistakes that we can do better with, but we’ll correct those too.”

On difference watching on TV versus on game film

“Certain calls I can tell from the camera angles just by the rush. If they send five, then it’s a fire-zone. If they send four, then it’s Cover Three. You can tell certain things.”

49ERS RIGHT TACKLE TRENT BROWN

On facing Von Miller tonight

“I knew coming in that I had to have my mind right. I was going against the best pass rusher in the league. I had to step up to his level of play and I think I did a pretty good job tonight.”

On how it was practicing against Von Miller during the week

“I think it went pretty well. He got me a few times but that just shows me what I need to work on coming into the game. I needed to be patient. He’s a faster guy so instead of trying to set him at an angle, I can come at more of a straight back angle.”

On his confidence following camp

“I feel like I’ve made a huge step. My confidence is as high as it’s been in a while. The coaching staff builds us up every day; they work with us every day. So I feel pretty good about myself right now.”

On teammate Anthony Davis

“He always helps me out. Just a year ago I was looking forward to learning from him. He was one of the best at the position before he took a year of leave, and that’s why he’s one of the highest paid at the position. I still listen to him, even though I’m in front of him right now, I still listen to him and take tips when I can.”

49ERS QUARTERBACK JEFF DRISKEL

On his overall play

“I got a lot of reps in practice this week. I felt like I really improved this week and I had a good week of practice and it translated to the game. It’s encouraging but I know I have a long way to go.”

On his long pass play to 49ers WR Devon Cajuste

“I saw man-to-man coverage and I saw the safety overplay the over route that was going to the right so I knew I had a one-on-one to Cajuste. I laid it up for him and he made a great play going up and getting it.”

On the joint practices with the Broncos and how he’s progressed

“Yeah, that’s important to keep improving. It’s something that I tell myself every day that I’m going to get better at one particular thing. I feel like after the last couple practices that I have been throwing it well and seeing it well so I just have to continue to do it.”

On his emotions after this week and what that did to his confidence

“I don’t think so, I was just happy to get out there and play. It was just a dream come true to get out there in an NFL game and it was awesome to get out there. I made some plays running the ball but I made some mistakes as well and that’s going to happen; but you learn from your mistakes and you learn to settle in and play the game you’ve been playing forever.”

49ERS LINEBACKER JASON FANAIIKA

On Utah alumni having a great game

“It was definitely a proud moment to see guys that I have bled with back in college to see us grind and see accomplishments come to us. It was a proud moment for sure.”

On the bond he has with his Utah football teammates

“It’s definitely very strong and you definitely root for each other even though you’re not on the same team. We’re all competitors, so we want to get the best of each other so it’s definitely good to see guys you see as your brothers get blessings and receive high accolades like that. It was good to see [Broncos RB Devontae Booker] have the most rushing yards for them and to see [49ers WR Dres Anderson] with that touchdown at the end.”

On what he said to Devontae Booker after the game

“I told him I was trying to hit him and I was trying to get him. He’s a competitor and I told him I was proud of him. He looked old with the ball head. He looked like an old man especially with those rolls behind his head.”

On having a chip on his shoulder being undrafted

“Tonight it was just a step in the right direction for the team. I definitely made my mistakes and I have to fix those things so that I don’t put our team in bad situations. I’m definitely not perfect but I am trying my hardest and working toward not only making this team, but making [the team] better anyway I can.”

49ERS OUTSIDE LINEBACKER MARCUS RUSH

On what allowed him to finish with three sacks

“There could be several things; I haven’t seen the film yet. I know I can say ‘thanks’ to the cornerbacks and the safeties for holding off the quarterback from throwing.”

On spending the previous season on the practice squad

“I was going against Joe Staley so it gave me a chance to just work moves. I watch a lot of guys on film, guys like Von Miller. I’m just working on perfecting my craft of pass rushing. I know I have the ability to, it’s just a matter of perfecting it and having those main moves you can use, and being confident when you get on the field to be able to use them.”

On being allowed to tackle the quarterback

“It feels great to sack the quarterback. You always get there and you have to pull off in practice, but to get there and be able to finally get him down, it’s that feeling that you always think about when you’re not playing.”

On which moves were effective tonight

“A lot of speed rush. I feel like I could get the edge on most of those tackles. They were throwing their hands pretty hard, so I was swiping their hands off me. That was the main move and then you can just work some moves off of that.