



DENVER BRONCOS QUOTES

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HEAD COACH VANCE JOSEPH

On his initial feelings after the first practice

“It was obviously fun. The players were engaged. They’re happy to be here. It was a fast-paced practice. It was clean. So it was fun.”

On injured players and their participation levels

“[QB] Trevor [Siemian] was full go today. [RB] C.J. [Anderson] was also full go.”

On his message to the team for their first practice

“Simple. We can’t waste a day. Whether it’s full speed or it’s a walkthrough, we can’t waste a day. It’s only a nine-or 10-week offseason, so every rep counts. They practiced that way. It was intense, it was engaging. Everyone was into it today.”

On the timeline of introducing a new scheme to offensive line

“Absolutely, because when you’re a gap scheme versus an all-zone scheme, it is different. It’s different footwork, it’s different calls, it’s a different mentality. It starts Day One as far as making our offensive running game more of a gap downhill running style, more of a power football style.”

On the importance of running the football with a loaded box

“That’s huge for us. When you are playing a game, you can’t allow a defense to take you out of your plan. Obviously, numbers-wise, he can call whatever he wants to load the box on you. Loaded box or not, running the football is a must. You have to run the football. You can’t be primarily a passing football team when the box is loaded because now those rushers are going to get off on you. Running the football is a must versus a loaded box or soft box.”

On feelings as a head coach versus a coordinator or secondary coach

“It’s different. I was a little lost this morning (laughing). Last year going from a secondary coach to a coordinator, I was really bored during meetings. This year is even worse, so I have to find a home (laughing). I kind of naturally gravitate towards the defense. But, it’s different. My role is probably most suited outside of the practice village as far as the organization and pushing the team the right way.”

On involvement in this NFL draft week

“I’m very involved. Obviously [Executive Vice President of Football Operations/General Manager] John [Elway] and his guys, and [Director of Player Personnel] Matt Russell and his staff are leading the way. They see each guy for a two-or three-year period. I’ve seen them for a month now. It’s obviously John’s deal, but I’m very involved. I’m not bored this week at all. There is a lot of work to do.”

On initial thoughts on Stanford RB Christian McCaffrey after his visit

“He’s obviously going to be a great player for someone. He solved a lot of issues for an offense, even a football team. He’s a return guy. He has some slot ability as a receiver-type back. He is a first, second, and third down back from the back field. As far as the player, he is a great prospect in this draft. Whoever gets that kid is lucky to have him.”

On what he looks for from prospects during team visits

“We want our type of guy. We want hard working. We want guys who are accountable. We want good people and that’s important. Outside of the film, that’s a majority of the evaluation—what kind of person he is.”

On what he saw from both quarterbacks today in practice

“They both did a great job of communicating in the huddle. It was really sharp today. They threw the ball well today. Both guys did. Outside of that, it’s tough. It’s the first day, it’s the first install, but they were both very engaged. They threw the ball well, both guys did.”

On who played left tackle for most of practice

“I’ll check when I go inside but we have a three-man depth chart there.”

On the quarterback competition

“After one practice, it’s hard to tell. [QB] Paxton [Lynch] has been here the entire offseason, so he put the work in. So he’s focused on getting better in every aspect of his game. It’s hard to say. It’s going to be a long battle obviously, but both guys are in it. They are both working hard and they’re both here every day and that’s important.”

On his comfort level with the current players at left tackle

“Absolutely. We have NFL linemen on this football team. Again, if the game was tomorrow, absolutely. We’re going to coach who we have. Whoever can help our team get better through the draft and even after the draft, we’re obviously going to inquire about it, do our research and try to get better all the time.”

On working with Elway as draft approaches

“It wasn’t hard at all. Every draft is similar to me. It’s always based on the best player and need. A team is never not drafting for need. It’s always need, and also the best player. There is a value attached to every pick. You want to make sure you hit the value of your pick.”

On the importance of researching prospects after mistakes

“That’s the process. That’s why we do so much research on guys. You want to know what type of people they are. Young guys do make mistakes. You can’t kill them for one mistake. But everything that’s attached to the player for the draft—we want to know about it, so we can address it and we can attack it with that player.”

On prospects going into the draft with known injuries

“Our doctors and every team doctor and trainer evaluate every player in the draft. Obviously, if a guy has a major, major injury, that makes a difference. If he has something he’s been playing with for the last four or five years, obviously that’s noted, but not considered to be an issue. But with any major injury, it’s an issue for the player going into the draft.”