



DENVER BRONCOS QUOTES

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CORNERBACK CHRIS HARRIS JR.

On his feelings about the first two practices

“It feels good to be back getting out there to play football again. Just knocking the rust off, and trying to get our fundamentals on point.”

On Defensive Coordinator Joe Woods

“It’s been great. We improved today compared to the first day. We continued to put new defenses in. They’re challenging but I think we’re smart enough to be able to handle that and to come out here and get more turnovers.”

On having a healthy LB Brandon Marshall back

“It’s huge. We saw that last year we had a drop off in our [run defense], so we need B-Marshall in there to have a big year for us, especially with the run game and these running backs. The way they’re using these guys in the backfield or splitting them out wide as receivers—he has a lot of responsibility, especially at his position. We need him to play huge in order to stop these offenses.”

On the sense of urgency for the team

“I definitely feel the ‘juice’. You can feel everybody has a little pep in their step. Maybe it’s because of the new coaches. You have a clean slate and the opportunity to start over. It could be a lot of things. Last year, was a little bit lax on our part, just coming off that Super Bowl, but I think we got it back up.”

On Head Coach Vance Joseph on the field

“Especially on defense and him being a defensive backs coach in the past, it’s huge. Just getting that knowledge of technique. He’s always on our side or always talking to us to make sure that we’re on point. It just makes us more accountable because we have so many defensive coaches.”

On similarities from last year’s early practices compared to today

“It’s kind of similar as it was in the past with Kub (former Head Coach Gary Kubiak). It’s not too much different. Today we did a lot of different scenarios in the game that we’re going to have to face. Today was a big third down day. Just keeping those situations and going over those things to make sure that we’re really good at those situation coming into the season.”

On the music selection at practice

“We got a new coach, he’s a little hip (laughing). So we got music all through it. That’s just keeping us moving, Good music and a good atmosphere. That’s what you like. You want to have everybody loose and have them fun and enjoying their jobs.”

On who is in charge of the playlist

“Flip (Equipment Manager Chris Valenti). I think Flip just puts on Pandora (laughing).”

On playing with the same secondary for multiple years

“It’s huge. I don’t know too many secondaries that have been able to play with each other as long as we have other than Seattle. To have that chemistry right there and know what each other are doing—also learning this new defense—it makes it a lot easier.”

On former Broncos CB Champ Bailey being inducted into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame

“Champ was an unbelievable mentor for me. Just a good friend. That’s one thing, you don’t see a lot of the older guys like him becoming friends with the younger cats. Just to be able to have that relationship means a lot. It’s just one of many awards that he’s going to get. I’m pretty sure he’ll get every award that you can possibly have. The Hall of Fame is probably next, then the Ring of Fame. I love playing with Champ because he—I told one of the guys yesterday—he said he never missed a day of work as long as he played. That’s just something I kept in my head.”

On the lessons learned from Bailey

“Techniques. Just different techniques on-the-field-wise, fundamental-wise, how he played square—I’m like an old school corner with techniques. I play square through my fundamentals. It’s definitely something that I kept from Champ for sure. And just that mentality. I already had that mentality, but seeing Champ have that some mentality that I had. If you get beat, line up again. That’s something that he, even at year 15, he still had that. So that’s the mentality that I always want to keep.”

On playing with Champ Bailey

“When I played with Champ, he was at the end of his career. I didn’t get to see the prime, super prime Champ up close. At the time, he was just really focusing on making sure those fundamentals were tight. He could still run and do everything. He focused more on his fundamentals the older he got.”

On watching the upcoming NFL Draft

“I watch it. We definitely need some help. You’re definitely interested to see what guys they’ll add to our team to be able to help us get better. So now, at Year 7, you kind of look at it like, ‘We need some new guys. We need some new guys who will make plays, offensive and defensively, just playmakers.’”

On advice to prospects in the NFL Draft

“There’s going to be a lot of steals out there. There are going to be guys in the late rounds that people haven’t heard of. It just happens every year. Anybody that I know that has a chance of going ‘free agent,’ I just tell them to take the most of the opportunity that you have at camp. That’s a great opportunity to still show what you can do and still make the team or get on the practice squad. I just to give them motivation through my story.”