



## **DENVER BRONCOS QUOTES**

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## **DENVER BRONCOS 2017 NFL DRAFT CONFERENCE CALL QUOTES**

### **TACKLE GARETT BOLLES (4/27/17)**

#### **TACKLE GARETT BOLLES (Rd. 1, No. 20, University of Utah)**

##### **On whether he expected to be drafted by Denver**

"I had a feeling but I knew at the same time there were so many things going on the last couple weeks. I'm beyond grateful. [Executive Vice President of Football Operations/GM] Mr. [John] Elway is such a great man and I'm so honored that I get to represent this team and this community. Not only that, but [Owner] Mr. [Pat] Bowlen, the owner of our organization, I know he's been struggling with Alzheimer's disease, so I hope I get to meet with him and show him love and show him that I am thankful to be a part of this team that he owns. This is a dream come true. I love Colorado and I love Denver. It's very near to my heart because that's where I served my mission and I'm just excited to get to work with such a great organization."

##### **On why Colorado holds such a special place for him**

"That is where my heart's at. The people that I served there on my mission; I have people there that I love and that I still talk to so now when I say I'm coming home, I really am coming home to the people that I love dearly. Now that I'm here and now that I'm a Bronco, it's just a surreal moment and I'm so grateful and honored. I'm grateful to show everyone there that I love them all and I can't wait for them welcome me soon."

##### **On how soon does he think he can compete at the NFL level**

"I'm excited to be there and learn as much as I can and I'm excited to work with guys like [OLB] Von Miller, him being a defensive end and pass rusher. He's so powerful and we have some amazing pass rushers. I'm just excited to work with him, learn from him and just have him help me in all aspects of my game so that when game time comes, I'm ready to help us win."

##### **On his nastiness on the field and his upbringing**

"My coach always told me to finish and that's what I bring to the game. My dad always told me that if you show your numbers, you're a dead man. Football is such an amazing game that God has made and I get to play it with a bunch of men. I love football, and when I'm off the field I love you all. You're all my family, but when you're in a different color jersey, I'm coming after you to help my team win. I'm just grateful. This is such a surreal moment. I'm grateful for all of you and I'm glad to meet you all tomorrow. I know you guys are getting an awesome kid that's humble, hungry and ready to play football and help us win another Super Bowl."

##### **On what he wanted to show the Broncos during his most recent pre-draft visit**

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“That I can recall information and that I can play football. My film speaks for itself, so they just wanted to see the type of person that I am. Everyone here knows my story, and they just want to see the kind of person I am. They knew the kind of person I am when I came there and showed them that I’m a family man. Faith, family and football is what I stand by and what I will continue to stand by for the rest of my life. That’s what means the most to me, my faith and my family. Football is third on my list. I’m just very grateful because without those two major things in my life I wouldn’t be able to play football. Mr. Elway told me he was going to see me on Thursday when I visited him last week, and he’s a man of his word. I’m just so honored and grateful to be a part of this organization.”

**On if he expects to be a starter to open the season**

“I plan to start as soon as possible. That is my goal. They drafted me with a high draft pick, so they have a lot of expected of me and they expect me to come in and work hard. That’s what I’m going to do. I don’t know what’s going to happen, but you can count on me to come in and work my butt off. I’m going to earn that spot. I don’t want them to give it to me, I want to earn it. That’s what happened at Utah. They told me I could come in and play if I earned it, and that’s what I did. I’m going to come in to rookie mini camp and I’m going to earn my spot. You can count on that. I’m going to come in and work my butt off, get the job done and try to help out our guys up front.”

**On what he thinks the hardest challenge will be as he transitions into the NFL**

“I don’t think it’s going to be a challenge. You make it as hard as you want. You can either make it easy on yourself or hard. You’re doing the same thing over and over again. You’re taking care of your body, working out and getting strong, doing extra work after practice. You’ve got to learn from the best, in guys like Von Miller, and guys that have been here for a very long time to make yourself a better player. Staying out there and watching film, it’s stuff like that is going to make me a better player. Every guy here is good. There is not just a couple guys on your team, like in college, that are top-of-the-line guys. You can kind of tell who’s good and who’s not, but now that you’re in the NFL, every single player that plays every single down is good. That means you’re good too, and I’ve just got to believe in myself that I know what it takes to be an NFL offensive lineman. That’s what I plan on doing. I’m grateful to meet you all tomorrow.”

**On the impact that the Freeman family had on his life**

“I’ve always believed in myself that I could get here. I just didn’t know how to and the Freeman’s believed in me and they picked me up off the streets. I love my mom, Emily and Kingston, I love them dearly. They mean the world to me. But my dad had to do what he did to. Like I always say, he had to do what he had to do to keep me out of that house because I wouldn’t have gotten here without that moment that happened. I have an awesome family that believes in God, and the God that we believe in gives second chances and that’s what they gave me. They already showed me love and they guided me. They showed me God. I brought them to Colorado Springs and now God is bringing me back to Denver and the wonderful state of Colorado. I’m just honored and grateful to be a part of this wonderful thing with such an amazing community with the people that live there, and love football, that love the Broncos. Now you guys get another kid that has his heart there and a passion to play for this team. I’m just beyond grateful that you drafted me to be a part of this organization.”