



DENVER BRONCOS QUOTES

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DENVER BRONCOS 2017 NFL DRAFT PRESS CONFERENCE QUOTES (4/27/17) **EXEC. V.P. OF FOOTBALL OPS./GM JOHN ELWAY & HEAD COACH VANCE JOSEPH**

On if there were any concerns regarding Garrett Bolles' age and background

JE: "As far as the age, no. And with the background, having a chance to get him in here, get to meet him and understanding his background, that was not a concern either. We just really thought that athletically, the way he plays the game, the mentality he brings to the game, he was in our mind the best left tackle in the draft. We were wondering how things were going to fall. Once the quarterbacks started jumping off the board early, that kind of increased our chances. He was our target, so we feel really good about getting him."

On how heavily Wisconsin OT Ryan Ramczyk (No. 32, New Orleans) was considered

VJ: "They're both very solid players. They're both different. Bolles is more of a leaner, an athletic tackle. Ramczyk was more of a powerful run-blocker, and in my opinion, a pass-protector secondly."

JE: "I think athletically, the ceiling is much higher on Bolles. We really like that ability and the explosiveness that he has. One of the key things too, not only to get that kind of athlete at tackle with that size, but also the mentality that he's going to bring. I think he brings a great mentality to that offensive line that needed a jolt. He's a perfect fit for what we've done in free agency and what we've brought in. If Garrett turns out to be what we think he is, he solves a big problem for us for a long time, and that's that left tackle. You know how valuable that is, any tackle for that matter. We really feel like we're fortunate that he was there."

On whether the team will be disappointed if Bolles is not the starting left tackle by the first game

VJ: "Not really. The best player should play. Obviously, he's a first-round pick and is going to come in and compete for that job, but he has to win that job and the best guy will play. He was drafted here for a reason."

JE: "I think it's going to be a great competition. I think what make players better is competition. That's one good thing that we have on our football team. We have a lot of competition at a lot of spots. We now have competition on the offensive line. As we talked about with the few players that we brought in, and the guys that were last year, I really believe they are all going to get better. As Vance said, he's going to play the best players, and the players that deserve to play."

On the comparison between DE Derek Wolfe and Bolles

JE: "We're thrilled with the progress that Derek has made. He has become a fantastic player. If Garrett follows those footsteps and becomes the player that Derek is, we'll be very, very happy with that. We were kind of giggling up there in the draft room. We'll see how many times those two go against each other. We're going to need a bell to stop them."

On discussions in the draft room as potential other targets were falling

JE: "We discussed it. Obviously, there were a lot of good players that got pushed down and they were jumping off the board. There was no question that we had discussions about the different options that we felt like we were going to have. We still felt Garrett was going to be that guy. When we looked at his ability and we look at our needs, we feel like he'll be a good fit. We still believe that he was the best guy on the board and the best guy for us. It was a good mix. We felt good about the opportunity for him to be here. Now, we did have some opportunities to go back, but we felt good about the guy that we were getting at No. 20. We didn't want to risk that."

On Bolles' visit with the team

JE: "We found out that he has a great sense of humor. I think that that's one thing that we did find out is his great sense of humor. We also found out how bad he wants to be good. Obviously with his background, with maturity, and with him having been to Colorado on his mission, with him being married and having a child now, that was awesome to see him bring his child down there tonight. I think that shows you a little bit about what he's about. He brings enthusiasm. That's what he was. He was enthusiastic and high energy. It was not only his athletic ability, but it was also what he brings when he walks in the door in the morning. You see how good he wants to be and how much of a competitor he is. I think it will make that whole offensive line much better."

On Bolles being flagged for a lot of penalties during college

JE: "I've already had that talk with him (laughing). We had that conversation when he was here last week. We talked about the fact that he has to understand that we love the passion that he plays with and how he plays with it, but he has to make sure that he stays within it. We can't afford to have personal fouls. He was the one of most penalized offensive lineman and he realizes that. Vance had that same talk with him, too. I think that he's aware of what that is in the end. He's a smart guy and he'll get somewhere with that."

VJ: "John said it; he's a smart guy. He understand that. Most of the penalties were him playing just hard football. I can live with some of that stuff. He's got good support now."