

A teary-eyed Terrell Davis receives his gold jacket. "I'm a Hall of Famer now."

By Nicki Jhabvala
Denver Post
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Stamped inside Terrell Davis' newest piece of clothing is a patch that reads:

Terrell Davis
Class of 2017
305

Davis, the Broncos' all-time leading rusher and 21st member of their Ring of Fame, is officially a member of a new class. Friday evening, Davis and the rest of the Pro Football Hall of Fame's Class of 2017 received their signature gold jackets in a ceremony attended by many members of years past.

For 15 years since he retired and 11 since he became eligible for the Hall, Davis awaited this moment. Each passing year and all 10 rejections before made acceptance into the Hall that much sweeter.

"This is what you look forward to, you get the jacket on," Davis said. "I just tried to have a clear mind about it and not think about anything but the moment."

@NickiJhabvala
.@Terrell_Davis finally gets his gold jacket.

After his name was called during introductions, tears filled Davis' eyes as he glanced over at his wife and children. Then he gave three Mile High Salutes and slowly made his way through "the gauntlet," a catwalk lined by fellow Hall of Famers. Hand after hand he shook before making his way to the small stage in the middle of the auditorium inside the Canton Civic Center.

"I always get emotional when I think about my family. That was it," Davis said. "I was pretty good going down the gauntlet, but then when I got to the end I saw them and I was like, whoa. It's a happy time. We're blessed. It was just great to have them there and to see this moment and to share this with them."

Moments later, Davis was called back to the stage as a short highlight reel of his seven-year career played for the audience. His agent Neil Schwartz stood alongside him, gold jacket in hand. On cue, Schwartz pulled off Davis' gray suit jacket and slid the mustard-gold jacket over his shoulders.

"You saw when my jacket came off I was pretty excited to get this jacket on," Davis said with a wide grin. "When you put it on, it makes it official. I'm a Hall of Famer now."

@NickiJhabvala
Terrell Davis: Hall of Famer No. 305.

Broncos could use more big plays in the passing game. How rookie Carlos Henderson could help.

By Nick Kosmider
Denver Post
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Broncos training camp had entered its second week and Carlos Henderson had yet to make his move.

Footballs thrown toward the rookie wide receiver during the early days of camp often hit his hands before falling to the grass. The drops stung because they hampered the big-play ability that helped him average 18.7 yards per catch at Louisiana Tech last season.

“He’s trying a little too hard right now,” Broncos coach Vance Joseph said after the team’s third practice a week ago. “But he’ll be fine. It’s early.”

If Henderson was flying under the radar at the start of camp, he grabbed the spotlight Thursday. He made at least a half-dozen impressive grabs during full-team and 7-on-7 sessions, displaying the separating speed and elusiveness that caused defenders to miss 48 tackles on him last season, according to Pro Football Focus.

As he flew down the left sideline and hauled in a deep throw from Paxton Lynch, landing just in front of the base of the orange-and-blue-dotted hill, fans had their best look yet at the explosiveness the Broncos are eager to see out of the 5-foot-11, 199-pound receiver.

“I’m starting to get more comfortable every day with the playbook,” Henderson said. “I’ve still got a lot to learn, but I’m learning more than I knew when I first came in here. I’m just continuing to learn and learn.”

Part of the learning process for Henderson has been discovering how conditioned he has to be to successfully compete in the NFL. Joseph said Henderson wasn’t in the proper shape during workouts in the spring or at the beginning of training camp.

Joseph credited Henderson’s breakout day Thursday with the rookie reaching the proper level of conditioning.

“You have to do what the coaches ask, so if they want you to be in shape you have to be in shape,” Henderson said. “You’ve got to be in football shape to play the game. That’s important so that you don’t get tired, physically or mentally. It’s always important to be moving fast and playing fast. It’s being consistent.”

Still, Henderson said his biggest growth during camp has come from a better understanding of offensive coordinator Mike McCoy’s scheme. Joseph said Friday that all of the team’s wide receivers competing for spots alongside veterans Demaryius Thomas and Emmanuel Sanders have to master the intricacies of all three receiving positions.

It's like on-the-job training for three complicated jobs at once.

"You've got to know what everybody's got to do," Henderson said. "You have to know all the concepts. I'm learning, taking it one practice and one day at a time, and getting better as the days go on."

Cody Latimer, the fourth-year receiver who is one of several players vying for the No. 3 receiving spot alongside Thomas and Sanders, sees some parallels in the start Henderson had to training camp to his own as a second-round pick out of Indiana in 2014.

"He came in and kind of reminds me of me," Latimer said. "I came in like a deer in the headlight my rookie year. Eventually, you start getting it, man. He's getting it and now he's starting to play his game."

The Broncos have one of the best wide receiver duos in the NFL in Thomas and Sanders. But finding consistent production elsewhere at wide receiver was a problem for the Broncos last season. No player on the current training camp roster outside of Thomas and Sanders had more than 16 catches.

That has created opportunity among the group — including Henderson, Latimer, Jordan Taylor, Marlon Brown and rookie Isaiah McKenzie — battling for not only a spot on the roster, but for a chance to make plays when the regular season begins Sept. 11.

"We've got a lot of guys that are competing for that third spot," Joseph said Friday. "Not just a slot position, but the third receiver because Mike's vision is to have (Sanders) in the slot and (Thomas) in the slot. He's looking for the best guy to be the third receiver to play all three spots."

Broncos shed full pads, continue to make offensive progress

By Nick Kosmider

Denver Post

August 5, 2017

Isaiah McKenzie had nothing but green grass in front of him Thursday during an 11-on-11 drill at Broncos practice.

But he didn't look the short pass into his hands before he turned up the field. The result was a disheartening third-down drop.

The rookie wide receiver wasted little time atoning for his mistake Friday. On his first play from scrimmage with the second unit, McKenzie burned into the secondary, cut hard toward the pylon at the front right corner of the end zone and hauled in the on-target 30-yard touchdown pass from Trevor Siemian.

McKenzie was an equal-opportunity target in a practice that featured a number of impressive connections in the passing game and a late pushback by the defense.

McKenzie caught a pass from Paxton Lynch in the backfield on a well-designed play call and sprinted to the corner of the end zone.

The quarterbacks traded blows during red-zone work. Siemian lofted a fade pass for Cody Latimer, who elevated over a defensive back and hauled in the touchdown grab.

Not to be outdone, Lynch connected a sharp slant pass to Hunter Sharp, who absorbed contact to complete the grab right at the goal line.

Lynch, who avoided throwing an interception during team drills Thursday, was intercepted late in practice Friday by Lorenzo Doss, who continues to make big plays in training camp for the second straight year.

Kasim Edebali provided pressure on Lynch, and his hurried throw was tipped by linebacker Danny Mason. Doss did the rest, intercepting the pass and heading down the sideline.

Lynch also was intercepted by Bradley Roby during 7-on-7 drills. Siemian avoided any turnovers. The defense recovered a fumble late in practice after Lynch and rookie De'Angelo Henderson couldn't connect on a handoff.

The Broncos practiced in helmets, shoulder pads and shorts, ending a stretch of four straight practices in pads.

The Broncos rested a handful of veterans for the second straight practice, including Von Miller, Emmanuel Sanders, Darian Stewart, Jamaal Charles, Brandon Marshall, Derek Wolfe and Chris Harris.

Running back Bernard Pierce missed practice as he recovers from a hamstring injury. Defensive end Adam Gotsis, who had his knee scoped in June, was also held out.

Broncos safety T.J. Ward injures hamstring; “Huge” scrimmage on tap; more

By Nick Kosmider
Denver Post
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Broncos safety T.J. Ward suffered a hamstring injury during training camp practice Friday, coach Vance Joseph said.

Ward left the field gingerly following a play during an 11-on-11 session and did not return to practice.

“We’re not sure how serious or how mild,” Joseph said. “He’s being checked out by the doctor right now.”

Ward had returned to practice after receiving a rest day Thursday.

Inside linebacker Todd Davis also missed practice Friday. Joseph said Davis is dealing with a strained shoulder and is considered day-to-day.

Defensive end Adam Gotsis missed practice with “a light thigh bruise,” Joseph said. Gotsis, who is still working his way back from a knee injury he had scoped in June, is expected to participate in the team’s scrimmage Saturday.

“Huge” scrimmage

The Broncos will have a scrimmage of up to 40 plays Saturday. Joseph isn’t downplaying the event’s importance.

“It’s going to be huge,” the coach said. “When you say scrimmage, when you say game, that’s a huge evaluation. Guys react differently when there are more stakes on the line. I want to see guys go out there and put their best foot forward when the lights are on.”

As to which quarterback will start the scrimmage?

“I’m not sure yet,” Joseph said. “Whoever starts, you’ll know.”

Among the players unlikely to play in the scrimmage, according to Joseph: Center Matt Paradis, offensive guard Ron Leary and running back Jamaal Charles.

Difference of opinion

Defensive end Derek Wolfe said he recently heard talk on the radio that the Broncos’ defense wasn’t effectively slowing the run during training camp.

Wolfe took exception.

“The run game, we’re doing a good job of shutting that down,” Wolfe said. “There was a radio station that said we weren’t but we can prove them wrong. That’s what we do.”

Asked his opinion as to whether the defense was in fact winning the battle in the run game, running back C.J. Anderson paused and smiled.

“They are doing a really good job,” Anderson allowed of the defense. “Their linebackers are playing the run completely different than what they did last year. But we’re running the ball effectively. We’re finding the right spots and picking the right spots.”

Kubiak visits

Former Broncos coach Gary Kubiak, now a senior personnel adviser with the team, visited with the team at practice Friday.

“It was great to see him,” Wolfe said. “He looks healthy and happy. It’s going to be nice to have him around.”

Footnote.

The Broncos set an attendance record with an announced 6,567 fans attending Friday’s training camp practice at the UCHealth Training Center.

Top quotes and 3 Broncos who stood out at Day 8 of training camp

By Nick Kosmider
Denver Post
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QUOTABLES

Best lines from Broncos players and coaches:

Darian Stewart, S, on sitting out practice during a veteran rest day Friday: "It's beautiful. Today's my birthday so I can't ask for anything better than this. I'm excited that it happened today."

Derek Wolfe, DE, on adding weight in the offseason: "I feel great. I've put 20 pounds on. I was, like, 285 last year, and it was a little too light holding the point — that 285 wasn't as easy as it should have been. I put on a little bit of weight, I'm getting my speed back and I'm feeling good."

C.J. Anderson, RB, on what makes coach Vance Joseph a strong motivator: "He's a player's coach. He understands what's going on. He understands certain parts of things that are going on in practice, what we need to be at the right time. It's good to have someone out there like that."

NOTABLES

Players who stood out, for better or worse:

Isaiah McKenzie: The rookie WR had two touchdown catches, one each from Trevor Siemian and Paxton Lynch, and made a number of impressive catches throughout practice. "He's a home run threat," Anderson said of McKenzie. "If we put him in the right position to make those plays, his talent will flourish."

Kasim Edebali: The outside linebacker, who has seen extensive action in training camp with the absences of Shane Ray and Shaquil Barrett, rushed the passer well. His pressure on Lynch late in practice helped lead to an interception by Lorenzo Doss.

Brandon McManus: The kicker nailed a 73-yard field goal during a special-teams portion of practice. "That's a true weapon," Joseph said. "That's amazing."

Motion to quash John Bowlen's Arapahoe County arrest warrant denied

By Kieran Nicholson
Denver Post
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A motion to quash an arrest warrant out of Arapahoe County for John Bowlen, son of Denver Broncos owner Pat Bowlen, has been denied.

Arapahoe County Court Judge Darren Louis Vahle denied on Friday a motion by Bowlen's attorney to "set aside (an) order issuing a bench warrant."

The arrest warrant was issued Tuesday for Bowlen after he was arrested Sunday in California on suspicion of DUI and driving over 100 mph.

Bowlen was convicted in April 2016 in a domestic violence case in Arapahoe County and was placed on probation for a 24-month period.

His arrest Sunday violated probation in five ways, according to court documents:

- Bowlen did not report his arrest in California.
- Bowlen has not reported to his probation officer since March 27.
- Bowlen has not reported to community service.
- Bowlen has not enrolled in court-ordered domestic violence and drug and alcohol treatment programs.
- Bowlen did not report that he'd gone to California.

Bowlen bailed out of jail in California on Monday. Bail in his Arapahoe County probation revocation has been set at \$1,287.50.

Emotional Terrell Davis officially a Hall of Famer with Gold Jacket

By Mike Klis

9 News

August 5, 2017

Terrell Davis doesn't need to sweat out his speech Saturday evening to make it to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

He's in.

The bronze bust he will receive Saturday will be a nice prize. But the official symbol for entrance into the hallowed halls of Canton is the Gold Jacket No. 305 he received. (The seven new members from the class of 2017 increase the total number of Hall of Famers to 310.)

"I just tried to have a clear mind about it and think about nothing but the moment," Davis said about the ceremony where his presenter and agent Neil Schwartz, took off his suit coat and helped slip on his new Gold Jacket Friday night at the Canton Memorial Civic Center. "You could see when my jacket came off I was pretty excited to get the Gold Jacket on. When you put it on, it makes it official: You're a Hall of Famer."

The former Denver Broncos' running back was a little emotional as he was on the stage with Hall of Fame president Dave Baker, commissioner Roger Goodell and Schwartz.

"Well, I looked at my wife and when I looked at her she kind of got me a little teary eyed," he said.

After he exchanged man hugs, Davis walked around the stage and delivered his trademark Mile High Salute.

Unlike the other modern-era candidates – LaDainian Tomlinson, Kurt Warner, Jason Taylor and Morten Anderson – Davis had to wait until his 11th year of eligibility to get elected. He made it to the semifinal round of 25 candidates each of his first eight years before he became a three-time 15-candidate finalist.

In the end, waiting and enduring the occasional bouts of frustration no doubt helped him appreciate the honor more than others.

"Absolutely. And that's part of it," he said. "And then to hear people say that, for a while, I wasn't even mentioned as a guy that would be here. Yeah, at one point I thought I was never going to make it. And now you're here, it just makes it that much sweeter."

Dad's tough, frightening displays of affection influenced Terrell Davis

By Mike Klis

9 News

August 5, 2017

Joe Davis stumbled into his San Diego home intent on teaching his four youngest boys a lesson.

The boys were sleeping, two to a bed, in the same room, but still, Joe thought this was a good time for a lesson.

It was evident he had too much to drink. He turned on the lights, woke up his four boys and made them sit up. He was talking about how the boys were only worth six cents. Apparently, that's how much a bullet was worth.

And he proceeded to fire shots over each boys' head. Bam. Bam. Bam. Bam.

Jump ahead to Friday. It was hours before former Denver Broncos running back Terrell Davis was to receive his Gold Jacket, the distinguished garment bestowed upon members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

He was sitting with 9NEWS, recalling his father, who passed away before Terrell was 13 years old from complications of Lupus.

"He was tough but he was firm, but he was fair," Terrell said. "But he made us the way we are, my brothers and I and he understood the world is not going to be easy on you. So he felt like he had to be harder on us than what we would be in the real world. And he prepared us all.

"I can say this: I have five brothers, six now with an adopted brother and sister. And we're all alive. Growing up as six black boys in San Diego he thought it was necessary to bring the mentality of 'I've got to be hard on you guys because nobody is going to be easy on us.' And I thank him for that. I really do."

Yes, but firing bullets over his boys' heads to get his point across?

"It was unique," Terrell said. "It was unique. But let me tell you this, when he did, though, none of my brothers felt fear. No one felt like we were in danger. It was our normal. That's what we saw from him. He was just a guy who had a unique way of teaching us lessons. He did that and it was like OK, and he left the room and we all turned the light off and went to bed. And that was it."

Goodness.

Since he arrived here for his Pro Football Hall of Fame induction ceremonies, Terrell has felt like pinching himself for joining a club reserved for the best of the best football players.

Few, if any of the other Hall of Fame players, though, had more to overcome in receiving their Gold Jackets than he did. There was his poor San Diego upbringing, his temperamental father, the early death of his dad that hit him into a two-year emotional funk where he quit football.

His first college coach, George Allen, died, and then the football program was dropped. He suffered two broken ankles at Long Beach State, then struggled so mightily with hamstring injuries at Georgia he fell to the sixth round of the 1995 NFL Draft.

Which of the obstacles was the toughest to overcome on his way to Canton?

“That’s a tough one,” Terrell said. “You can throw in those migraine headaches, too. Because remember I’ve been dealing with these since I was a child. I was actually told by the doctor I shouldn’t play football. Because they didn’t know what was happening.”

Yes, but he sure played a heckuva Super Bowl XXXIII game with migraines. He was the Super Bowl MVP after rushing for 157 yards and three touchdowns.

“Yeah, but I had those migraines when I was 7 years old,” he said. “I was dealing with those for a few years before they knew what was happening. So dealing with that as a kid not knowing what’s happening, when they would come, how long they would last. The effects of those things – they were very debilitating headaches.

“So that, death of my dad, dropping the program. I look back on it and, it’s not funny, but it’s you couldn’t make this up.”

Starting at the beginning. Joe Davis and his wife Kateree were raising six boys in a tough San Diego neighborhood but they were separated. Mom took the two oldest boys. Dad took the youngest four. Terrell Davis was the youngest.

There were other incidents with dad. Joe Davis once shot his best friend. Cops came that night and started screaming at the boys to stand outside at 3 in the morning.

Terrell has often wondered if his late father would be proud of him for making the Hall of Fame.

“I hope I did, I don’t know,” Terrell said. “He never told me that. I hope he is. I think about him a lot. I miss him and I wish he was here to see me play. I wish he was here to see this.”

C.J. Anderson says he would love to join TD in the Pro Football Hall of Fame one day

By Rod Mackey

9 News

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CJ Anderson never played with Terrell Davis, but the two have that Broncos bond that Anderson says makes him extra proud of TD going into the Pro Football Hall of Fame on Saturday.

"It's huge and it's the pride to keep the running back tradition going," said Anderson.

Floyd Little is already a Hall of Famer, and TD will officially go in Saturday night. But, C.J. says why not three, why not me?

"I think 12 years is a hall of fame career. You just got to stay consistent, you got to keep your head down and having the accolades behind you will make it easy," smiled Anderson after practice today.

Anderson would like to call Canton, OH home but CJ Admitted there are certainly others on the field that have a lead on him right now. What current Broncos may one day be deserving of wearing that mustard yellow jacket?

"We got plenty of them: 58, 21, 25, 88, and 10," said Anderson and then added "22" would be nice too.

Still for now, CJ, like the rest of the Broncos, is excited for the TD.

Montee Ball one year sober, at peace with never playing pro football again

By Allison Sylte

9 News

August 5, 2017

Former Denver Broncos running back and second-round draft pick Montee Ball is at peace with the fact that he'll never play professional football again.

He's one year sober and back in school, 30 credits short of a sociology degree at the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

"You know, ever since everything kind of went south for me, I kind of hit the reset button," Ball told 9NEWS' Kyle Clark.

Playing for the Badgers, Ball was one of the best college football players in the country, and had high hopes for a professional football career in Denver – something that was derailed by alcoholism, injuries and a domestic violence conviction in Wisconsin.

Ball was waived by the Broncos in September 2015, and was signed to the New England Patriots practice squad in Dec. 2015. They waived Ball on Feb. 9, 2016 after his legal troubles came to light.

"... I made the decision to stop playing," Ball said, "and I'm pretty content with my career. My career in the NFL didn't go as planned. I was hoping that I'd be more of a successful player, but I accomplished my dream, which was to play for the Broncos."

He says his alcoholism was directly linked to his struggles in the NFL.

Ball says when he read about his struggles in the media and from fans, he would self-medicate with alcohol. But, the drinking pre-dated his NFL career.

"How bad was it? You know, it's funny because when people ask me that, they would never guess that I was struggling with addiction while playing in college," Ball said. "Because that's where it started."

"I would say how bad it was ... when I started going to practice drunk in college. And you know, at times, you know I started to lose myself, and you know I just carried that into the NFL and, you know, I believe that proof is in the pudding. Proof is in that pudding. You see what it did to me, you know, after New England, and I would just tell people to pay attention to the habits it's creating."

Ball says in Denver, fellow running back CJ Anderson told him he needed to stop drinking, that it wasn't going to end well. His running back coach Eric Studesville told him the same thing.

The 26-year-old now knows he should have listened sooner. But he's been able to come to grips with it thanks to his son, Maverick.

"I look at ... football as a sport. It's a sport," Ball said. "Right now, I'm battling with my life. There's many more years to come with my son and with my girlfriend and with myself, and I'm just looking forward to, kind of, putting football to rest and kind of moving on with my life. So honestly, I'm going to church. Kind of giving it all to God, just trusting in him, for him to guide me down this path."

After he graduates, Ball says he wants to become an advocate for other people suffering from addiction. He's also working on a book and is open to a career either coaching or helping other NFL players suffering from substance abuse.

He says he's "kind of in the infant stage" of where he's taking his life after football. One thing Ball admits is that, despite everything that's happened, he's at peace with it.

"I am a happy guy," he said. "I'm not just saying that for the camera. I really am because I've had the opportunity to, kind of, explore other things in my life that I never got to the opportunity to do while playing."

Judge refuse to cancel arrest warrant for John Bowlen

By Kevin Vaughan and Mike Klis

9 News

August 5, 2017

A judge on Friday afternoon refused to cancel an arrest warrant for John Bowlen – the son of Denver Broncos owner Pat Bowlen – who faces allegations he violated the terms of his probation in a 2015 domestic violence case, 9Wants to Know has learned.

Arapahoe County Judge Darren Louis Vahle issued a two-sentence denial of the motion from Bowlen's attorney, Harvey Steinberg, who asserted that the Broncos owner's son was never formally notified that his probation had started when the Colorado Supreme Court declined to hear his appeal on March 27.

Steinberg did not respond to a message left Friday afternoon by a 9NEWS reporter.

John Bowlen's whereabouts were not known Friday. He was arrested Sunday in California on suspicion of drunken driving but was released after posting bail.

Two days later, Judge Vahle signed an arrest warrant for Bowlen after concluding there was "probable cause to believe the conditions of probation have been violated."

In all, Vahle found evidence that Bowlen had violated his probation multiple ways – failing to abide by all laws; failing to contact his probation officer; failing to perform community service; failing to pay fines in the domestic violence case; failing to undergo domestic violence, drug and alcohol, and mental health evaluations and treatment; and failing to obtain permission to travel outside Colorado.

In the domestic violence case, John Bowlen was convicted of shoving his girlfriend against a bathroom wall as she was trying to dial 9-1-1. At his sentencing April 14, 2016, Judge Vahle placed Bowlen on probation for two years. The judge ordered that the probation not actually start until Bowlen exhausted his appeal – which, according to the petition to revoke his probation, occurred March 27 when the Colorado Supreme Court declined to hear the case.

Not so, Steinberg argued in his motion.

He cited a statement made by Judge Vahle during Bowlen's sentencing hearing: "Since there is not a jail sentence, the court will not require further bond in this case, but the sentence is stayed until the time for the appeal runs, or until the appeal is filed, and then we'll have to figure out how to proceed from there."

Steinberg argued that Bowlen still has appeal rights; that "to the best of the defendant's knowledge the appeal stay that was granted by this court on April 14, 2016, is still in effect"; that the judge never ordered him to report to probation; and that he "never signed any understanding of the terms and conditions of probation."

Just after 3:30 p.m. Friday, Judge Vahle denied the motion.

“The court,” he wrote, has reviewed the motion of the defendant and the exhibits attached thereto and the motion is denied.”

Since Pat Bowlen announced in July 2014 he has Alzheimer’s disease, ownership of the Broncos has been placed in the Pat Bowlen Trust, with trustee and team chief executive officer Joe Ellis having full authority to run the franchise.

The trust states that Pat Bowlen’s desire is for one of his seven children to earn the right to become the Broncos’ controlling owner.

John Bowlen has legal troubles going back more than a decade – which could come into play when it’s time to decide who will ultimately control the Broncos.

Terrell Davis' Hall of Fame enshrinement is 'all so real now'

By Jeff Legwold

ESPN

August 5, 2017

- OK, he can say it now. Terrell Davis owns it, but in a rather substantial bout of emotional self-preservation, he may have told a fib.

He may have spun a fable. He may have just lied, to most everyone and perhaps even a little to himself.

"I did," Davis said. "I was trying to protect myself, I think, and people around me."

What Davis said -- a lot -- was he would be at peace with his football career whether or not he was ever enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. That he would be fine, that he could move on to the next phase of his life, that he could accept knee troubles ended his seven-year career and embrace the future.

But on Saturday night when he stands in Canton, Ohio, trying to hold back tears in front of his family, as a member of the Hall of Fame's Class of 2017, Davis can safely say how much it means to him and how much he hoped it would happen.

"That's what you say to protect yourself from the disappointment if you don't make it, and I said it -- a lot," Davis said. "But then you are lucky enough to hear your name, they make your bust, they send you the jacket, you talk to guys you played with and played against, and you feel what it really means to people. Of course you want that, of course you dream it, but you almost can't let yourself do it until it happens. It's all so real now."

That it is, as Davis will be the fifth Denver Broncos player to be enshrined in the Hall. He is the third player to be enshrined who played on both of the Broncos' back-to-back Super Bowl winners to close out the 1997 and 1998 seasons -- joining John Elway and Shannon Sharpe.

But to many of his teammates and former coaches, including Mike Shanahan, Davis was the engine of those title-winning teams. The key discovery as a sixth-round pick who simply became one of the franchise's greatest players.

"A guy that, back in those years, when they're winning those Super Bowls and had those great football teams, he was the main reason why," Elway said. "While he was playing, there was nobody better. I'm thrilled for T.D."

Davis won the league's MVP award, the Super Bowl MVP, rushed for 2,000 yards in a season and is one of two running backs in league history to have averaged more than 100 yards rushing per game in his career, regular season and postseason combined. And talk about the company you keep -- Jim Brown is the other back to achieve that feat.

Davis' 142.5 rushing yards per postseason game is the most all time (minimum of five games), and Davis topped 100 yards rushing in seven of his eight career playoff games, including two Super Bowls.

That was his resume when a knee injury he suffered in 1999 ended his career in 2002. And any player who waits to see if he will be tabbed for enshrinement in the Hall of Fame must always wrestle with the idea that they cannot add to their career numbers.

"That's the one thing you know, you've done all you can do," Davis said. "I did have peace with that, that I had done all I could do."

For Davis, it has been a whirlwind since he was notified in February that he was officially a Hall of Famer.

There were the sittings with the sculptor to make the bust that will be unveiled Saturday night.

And there was the gold jacket, Davis said, that made it all so real.

"When I saw the package, I was like, what is this?" Davis said. "Then I saw 'Haggar' on there and I was like, uh-oh. I gave the dude my phone and I was like, 'Hey, you have to record this.' The guy at UPS, when he did that, I opened it up and I saw it. I was like, man, this is special. That was a good moment."

Davis has joked that he'll wear the distinctive jacket "every day." Saturday night, he'll try to sum up all that got him to where he is. He'll try to thank as many of his friends and family as possible. And, he promised this past week, he'll try to enjoy it as much as possible.

"My heart might start pounding -- they say that's what happens," Davis said. "We try to be cool and you try to stay calm. I think when I get up there -- this is what they say -- once you get there, you think you know what it feels like. Until you see it, and it hits you at once, that's when you say, 'Man.'"

"You become aware that you're standing in front of not only hundreds and thousands of people who are here, but millions of people who are watching this, and they're here to honor you and your six classmates into the Hall of Fame. I hope I can keep it together, that's it. I'm just trying to be cool, so I hope I can be cool."

Trevor Siemian starting to take control of Broncos QB competition over Paxton Lynch

By Jeff Legwold

ESPN

August 5, 2017

Every day, every practice, every throw is part of the Denver Broncos' competition at quarterback between Trevor Siemian and Paxton Lynch. Here's a closer look at their day:

Trevor Siemian

Siemian opened with the second-team offense Friday, and in the practice's early periods, he looked as poised as he has thus far in training camp. He remained steady throughout the day and coach Vance Joseph said: "I saw Trevor being consistent, making his reads, making his throws where the reads told him to make the throws. He did a good job [Friday]." That included Siemian making some adjustments at the line of scrimmage to get the Broncos in a better play, including a quarterback sneak in team drills that would have picked up a first down.

Wow moment: Siemian opened it up early with a nice toss to rookie wide receiver Isaiah McKenzie for what would have been a scoring pass. Later, he had another scoring toss to wide receiver Marlon Brown off play-action. He made another well-timed throw to tight end Virgil Green, hitting Green over the middle. Green then found room to run up the left sideline.

Whoa moment: He had a pass batted down at one point, but overall, Siemian avoided the major mistakes.

Paxton Lynch

Lynch opened with the starters and had a rough start to the day as the tempo overall in the practice was a little quicker than it has been previously during the week. He settled in a little better as the workout went on, but his days have gone better in camp when he's had a quick start.

Wow moment: Lynch showed quality footwork on a screen play to McKenzie that would have been a big gain in a game situation. And later in the day, Lynch moved to his right with some patience and kept a play alive before he found Demaryius Thomas in team drills.

Whoa moment: Lynch missed an open Thomas in a 7-on-7 drill, and instead, he tried to squeeze the ball into double coverage and Bradley Roby snared an interception. Later in the day, he didn't see linebacker Danny Mason drop into coverage, and Mason tipped the ball that was then intercepted by Lorenzo Doss.

Scrimmage will be first look at where position battles stand

By Jeff Legwold

ESPN

August 5, 2017

There is no question Denver Broncos coach Vance Joseph likes good practice players. He likes guys who know their assignments, who prepare and who find a way to give a quality effort each day.

He'd like to find guys who are good in games too.

To that end, the Broncos will have the most game-like conditions of training camp Saturday morning in a scrimmage that is expected to consist of 36 to 40 plays. Joseph said he's going to have offensive coordinator Mike McCoy and defensive coordinator Joe Woods call things as they would in a game.

"It definitely matters, especially for those young guys trying to make the team and trying to help us with games," Broncos safety Darian Stewart said. "It definitely matters, so those guys just have to go out with the mindset like it's a game and just compete."

Added Joseph: "It will be game-like with officials, call it, get what you earn, first down, second down -- whatever you earn, you'll get."

The Broncos will split what is expected to be roughly 12 plays for the starting offense between quarterbacks Trevor Siemian and Paxton Lynch. Joseph would not say after Friday's practice who would open the scrimmage behind center, but Siemian and Lynch are expected to get as close to the same number of plays as possible with the first- and second-team offenses.

The offensive line will open with rookie Garrett Bolles at left tackle, Max Garcia at left guard, Connor McGovern at center, Billy Turner at right guard and Menelik Watson at right tackle. McGovern is playing in place of Matt Paradis, who is working back from offseason surgery on both hips and will be held out. Turner will be in for Ron Leary, who has dealt with a groin injury in recent days.

Defensively, it's unclear if safety T.J. Ward, who left Friday's practice with a hamstring injury, or linebacker Todd Davis, who missed two days of practice with a shoulder sprain, will participate in the scrimmage. Joseph said linebacker Von Miller would get at least some work.

"It's a chance to go out there and do unscripted football, which is rare to get during camp," defensive end Derek Wolfe said. "You don't really get that until you play in a preseason game. When you're out there, the offense is trying to scheme up against you. It's playing football instead of them actually knowing the plays and us knowing the plays that they're running. It's actually playing football. I'm looking forward to it."

The Broncos' preseason opener is Thursday night against the Chicago Bears. Joseph has said the four preseason games and two joint practices with the San Francisco 49ers later this month will be a big part of the evaluation of Siemian, Lynch and others.

Joseph said Saturday's scrimmage also would offer a glimpse of where players are on the learning curve.

"When you say scrimmage, when you say game, that's a huge evaluation," Joseph said. "Guys react differently when there are more stakes on the line. I want to see guys go out there and put their best foot forward when the lights are on. This is a controlled environment. Some guys can shine here and not be as good on game day. The games are huge in the evaluation process."

Hall of Fame inductee Terrell Davis on CTE: 'We're all scared'

By Staff

ESPN

August 5, 2017

Former Denver Broncos running back Terrell Davis says the prospect of living with CTE symptoms is something that worries him.

But Davis, speaking Friday on the eve of his Hall of Fame induction in Canton, Ohio, said he has hope for the future of football because of the "great lengths" the game has gone to change.

"I can't lie, we're all scared," Davis said, according to The Denver Post. "We're concerned because we don't know what the future holds. When I'm at home and I do something, if I forget something I have to stop to think, 'Is this because I'm getting older or I'm just not using my brain, or is this an effect of playing football?' I don't know that."

Davis is among five modern-era players who will be inducted in the Pro Football Hall of Fame on Saturday.

"Yeah, I'm scared, so I try to stay as active as possible, keep my mind as sharp as possible," Davis said, according to The Post. "But I also know the game has gone through great lengths to change, from Pop Warner to college."

A study published last month revealed that 110 of 111 brains examined from the bodies of deceased NFL players were found to have CTE, a degenerative disease associated with head trauma. Wider research on 91 other former football players found evidence of the brain disease in nearly all of them, from college and even high school athletes.

"People ask me the question, 'Would you let your kids play?' Yeah, I would," Davis said. "Now, 10 years ago I may have said something different. But now, the way they're teaching kids to tackle, the fact that they identify concussions a lot faster, they sit you out a couple plays, you're not going to practice as long. All that stuff is helping the game of football. But yes, I'm concerned."

Davis cited an example from the Broncos' first Super Bowl win in January 1998 that weighs on his mind, according to the Denver newspaper. Davis, the MVP of that game, said he played through it with a migraine, rushing for 157 yards.

Broncos' Joseph sees scrimmage as key step in QB evaluation

By Troy Renck
KMGH
August 5, 2017

Even fake games can create real impressions.

Vance Joseph dismissed idea he has decided on a starting quarterback, pointing to Saturday's scrimmage as the next key step in the evaluation. Trevor Siemian played well Thursday, exhibiting sharpness lacking in some of the previous seven days. Paxton Lynch showed flashes, but made mistakes. For those keeping score at home -- you know who you are -- my tablet reads: Siemian 3 wins, Lynch 2, and two draws. The lack of separation places more emphasis on the scrimmage and, perhaps most importantly, the first two preseason games at Chicago, a week from today, and at San Francisco.

"It's training camp," Joseph said. "There are going to be ups and downs. Nobody has been told they're the starter."

The quarterbacks experienced less of a mixed bag Thursday, making better decisions with the ball. Neither quarterback threw an interception during team period. Siemian connected on a touchdown pass, while Lynch did not.

Joseph offered a glimpse into his decision-making process when discussing both quarterbacks Thursday.

"I think Trevor has been solid. He hasn't done a lot of huge error stuff I should say. He's been Trevor," Joseph said of Siemian, who went 8-6 last season as a first-year starter. "He's been consistent."

Joseph told me Siemian need not change his who he is. The external narrative developing is that he needs to be more outgoing, bold.

"It's not based on his personality. He's making the reads and and the ball goes there. I never talked to him about his personality," Joseph said. "He is playing the position, calling the plays, making the reads and (knowing) where the ball should go and that's where it goes."

Lynch continues to display striking athleticism. He has a big arm, and gains yards with his feet. Consistency, however, has been elusive over the first week of camp. Joseph stressed he has no problem with Lynch pulling the ball down and taking off, even in 7-on-7 drills.

"We want Paxton to have as many natural reps as possible, so when he takes off and runs I like it," Joseph said. "I don't want him to sit back there and make a bad decision. His deal right now is to put good plays together back-to-back. That's what we want from Paxton right now. You can see his playmaking ability. He can scramble. We want more plays being made back-to-back."

The plan for Saturday's scrimmage calls for Siemian and Lynch to split 24 total reps between the first and second-teams. Thus six plays apiece with starters and six plays each with the twos.

At a fan forum Thursday, president of football operations John Elway said Joseph will make the choice on the quarterback. Elway, however, believes the offensive line, in particular, has improved which will help the offense regardless of who is under center.

"The thing I have been happy with about camp is our offensive line play. It's gotten a lot better and a lot more physical," Elway said. "If you compete up front it's going to make it a lot easier for those guys. And we still have a lot of time left. Until we get into games we don't know what kind of steps we've made and what we have.

Broncos' Trevor Siemian takes lead in QB derby

By Troy Renck
KMGH
August 5, 2017

The expected arrived Friday.

After failing to secure the starting job with a shrugged-shoulders offseason, Trevor Siemian is beginning to regain his groove. Siemian posted back-to-back strong days at Broncos training camp, creating slight separation in the quarterback derby with an important evaluation looming in Saturday's scrimmage.

Siemian simmered Thursday and caught fire early Friday. He connected on scoring strikes to rookie slot receiver Isaiah McKenzie, who rebounded in a big way, and veteran Cody Latimer on a fade route. It wasn't just the results that stood out. It was the fashion in which they were accomplished. Siemian looked like the veteran -- even if he only has 14 career starts -- in the competition against former first-round pick Paxton Lynch. Siemian appeared composed, poised, relaxed and reliable.

It is not sexy, but it might be enough to win the job given Joseph's emphasis on decision-making and taking care of the football.

"I saw Trevor just being consistent, making his reads and making the throws where the reads told him to make the throws," Joseph said. "He did a good job today."

Lynch continues to experience a roller-coaster ride. He made a strong play on a bootleg scoring pass to receiver Demaryius Thomas, but missed a wide-open Thomas in the end zone, and threw picks to cornerbacks Bradley Roby and Lorenzo Doss. Nobody expects perfection in practice. But as Siemian limits mistakes, Lynch is repeating those seen earlier in camp.

Safety Darian Stewart provided what I believe is an accurate synopsis of camp when asked about the quarterbacks Friday.

"Paxton can run. He's athletic enough to get outside the pocket. Anytime you're dealing with a dual-threat quarterback, that's the toughest task," Stewart said. "But Trevor, he's smart, he's savvy and he's doing some great things and making the right plays."

Broncos starters T.J. Ward, Todd Davis deal with injuries

By Troy Renck
KMGH
August 5, 2017

Those critics who believe there should be one preseason game before heading into the regular season continue to gain fodder.

The Broncos will stage their first controlled scrimmage Saturday, and it will likely occur without at least two defensive starters. Safety T.J. Ward left Friday's practice with a right hamstring injury, and inside linebacker Todd Davis sat for a second straight day with a sprained shoulder.

Reached Friday afternoon, Ward told Denver7 the injury scared him, but that he "will be OK. Ward walked off the field slowly with a trainer early in practice, but was not in visible pain and barely showed any signs of a limp. Davis, according to coach Vance Joseph, is day-to-day. It's hard to overstate Ward's importance. Beyond his toughness and hard hits, he functions as a coach on the field.

"We know what type of player T.J. is and what he means to this defense," free safety Darian Stewart said.

Keeping players healthy remains part skill, part luck this time of year. Sometimes non-contact drills gobble up stars as witnessed in Miami with quarterback Ryan Tannehill, who is facing potential season-ending knee surgery. The Broncos lost running back Devontae Booker before camp with a fractured wrist and outside linebacker Shane Ray with a torn ligament in his wrist a week ago. Booker, Ray, and Shaquil Barrett (hip) are expected to be ready roughly Sept. 23, though a mapped out plan will be easier to follow as more healing occurs. '

Joseph said Von Miller will play in the scrimmage. It makes sense since it's a controlled environment. It's unclear if Miller will play in the preseason.

As for the quarterbacks, Joseph did not name a starter for the game. Trevor Siemian, who enjoyed arguably his best day, and Paxton Lynch, who showed flashes but struggled with consistency, will split reps between the first and second-teams. Siemian has taken a slight lead in the competition with back-to-back strong outings.

Line Dance

Joseph revealed the starting offensive line for Saturday's scrimmage. Word of caution: it might not look anything like this for the regular season. The No. 1s: rookie left tackle Garrett Bolles, left guard Max Garcia, center Connor McGovern, right guard Billy Turner and right tackle Menelik Watson. Bolles has moved ahead in the race for the left tackle spot. However, Allen Barbre remains in the mix for the starting left guard position. McGovern is filling in for Matt Paradis, whose schedule is mapped out to keep him healthy for the season opener following offseason hip surgeries. Ronald Leary has dealt with a groin issue, leaving Turner to take over at right guard.

Footnotes

Receiver Isaiah McKenzie showed his versatility Friday in a variety of offensive sets. In an ideal world, McKenzie would give the Broncos even a version of Kansas City's Tyreek Hill. Most impressive about McKenzie? He rebounded after a brutal drop in Thursday's practice. The coaches have been stressing the importance of the "next play" during drills. McKenzie responded with a great performance on the next day. ... Former coach Gary Kubiak, now a scout for the Broncos, attended practice and received a warm welcome from his former players. Kubiak watched part of practice with John Elway. . . . Rookie DeMarcus Walker remains impressive in his time at outside linebacker. He won his matchup multiple times in 1-on-1 drills. ... Running back Jamaal Charles came out of Thursday's workload with no problems with his knee. However, he will not play in the scrimmage, slated to return Monday.

Coors Field and Broncos' stadium get breastfeeding-friendly

By Monica Mendoza
Denver Business Journal
August 5, 2017

Colorado professional sports venues just got breastfeeding-friendly.

Nursing moms will have a quiet space to breastfeed or pump at Colorado Rockies and Denver Broncos games, which could make Denver the first city to offer the nursing suites in all of its downtown professional sports venues.

The new suites, unveiled today at Coors Field, were built through a partnership with UHealth, the Colorado Rockies and the Denver Broncos.

"Coors Field has always been a family friendly ballpark, and we are glad to be able to provide this benefit to the many young families who attend Rockies games," said Kevin Kahn, vice president/chief customer officer, ballpark operations.

The Mamava suites, which are enclosed, air-conditioned nursing stations, are being installed in the main concourses at Coors Field and Sports Authority Field at Mile High. Mamava is a Vermont-based company that designs the mobile pods, which include benches, fold-down tables and outlets for plugging in a breast pump.

UHealth also purchased and installed the lactation suite — which are 4-feet-by-8-feet — in the concourse at Pepsi Center, home to the Colorado Avalanche and Denver Nuggets.

"Our investment in nursing suites with our partners at all of Denver's downtown professional sports venues makes it easier for nursing moms attending events — from games to concerts — to live extraordinary lives doing what they love," said Manny Rodriguez, UHealth chief marketing and experience officer.

The UHealth Nursing Suite at Sports Authority Field at Mile High will be located in the main concourse inside Gate 6 and will be ready for the Denver home preseason opener Aug. 26.

The UHealth Nursing Suites are among several women's health initiatives launched by UHealth through a partnerships with the Colorado Rockies, Denver Broncos and Kroenke Sports & Entertainment.

Broncos Training Camp Quick Hits: Day 8

By Andrew Mason
DenverBroncos.com
August 5, 2017

Injuries are starting to accumulate for Denver's defense.

ILB Todd Davis did not practice Friday because of a sprained shoulder, and by the end of practice, safety T.J. Ward had joined him out of action because of a hamstring injury that was being evaluated.

"We're not sure or how serious or how mild [Ward's injury is]," Head Coach Vance Joseph said after practice.

Davis is considered "day-to-day" with his injury. He received a veteran's rest day Thursday, but was sidelined Friday.

... With ILB Brandon Marshall, DE Derek Wolfe, safety Darian Stewart, OLB Von Miller and CB Chris Harris Jr. all receiving an off-day Friday and starting OLB Shane Ray out for another five to seven weeks because of torn wrist ligaments, the No. 1 defense looked dramatically different than its intended form for Friday's practice, which took place in shells (shoulder pads and shorts).

... Denver's pass defense was effective even without so many key members of the "No-Fly Zone," breaking up a handful of passes, especially early in practice as the cornerbacks quickly got their hands in to prevent receivers from completing catches.

The cornerbacks also picked off three passes. First, Bradley Roby intercepted Paxton Lynch in the end zone during a red-zone seven-on-seven period, stepping in front of a pass to prevent a touchdown. Later, during a five-play span of a team period, Lorenzo Doss and Brendan Langley each intercepted passes. Doss intercepted a Lynch pass that was tipped by OLB Danny Mason, while Langley intercepted a Kyle Slotter pass on a play that went askew from the start after an errant snap.

... RB C.J. Anderson continues to make plays in the passing game as well as on the ground. He broke outside in a seven-on-seven period and caught a Lynch pass near the right sideline despite tight coverage from ILB Corey Nelson.

... QB Trevor Siemian looked steady from the start. He opened the day with a well-placed pass to WR Isaiah McKenzie, hitting the rookie in the back right corner of the end zone for a touchdown, and he remained consistent from there. He was the only one of the Broncos' three quarterbacks who did not throw an interception Friday.

"I saw Trevor being consistent, making his reads and making the throws where the reads told him to make the throws," Joseph said. "He did a good job today."

... QB Paxton Lynch eventually settled down, overcoming an early stretch of six consecutive incompletions in team and seven-on-seven periods.

During a subsequent team goal-to-go period, he completed three consecutive passes, including two for touchdowns, one of which saw him roll right, look to the middle, then spot RB Stevan Ridley out of the corner of his eye near the right pylon.

Lynch then fired a strike to the recently-acquired Ridley for the score. One play later, Lynch had another touchdown pass, hitting WR Hunter Sharp.

"We scored two or three touchdowns [in the red zone], and that's critical to our success," Joseph said. "You get in that scoring area, you have to score touchdowns."

Lynch sustained the momentum in a seven-on-seven red-zone period that immediately followed the goal-to-go snaps. He completed five of his six passes, and bounced back from his lone incomplection (the Roby interception) with a touchdown strike to WR Demaryius Thomas in the back right corner of the end zone.

... Both Lynch and Siemian moved the offense from midfield into field-goal range during their move-the-ball periods. Lynch got the offense moving with a third-down pass to Anderson, overcoming a Thomas drop on second down after hitting the Pro Bowl wide receiver on a first-down slant. He then got what would have been another first down in game conditions on third-and-7 when he scrambled out of a collapsing pocket.

Siemian got the offense down to the 20-yard line via a 20-yard strike to Isaiah McKenzie after a Ridley 7-yard run opened the drive.

... K Brandon McManus drilled a 73-yard field goal during a special-teams period.

"That's a true weapon," Joseph said. "That's special."

PARTICIPATION REPORT:

... On the offensive side, WR Emmanuel Sanders and RB Jamaal Charles each received off-days.

... RG Ron Leary saw a handful of team-period repetitions as he eases his way back to first-team work following a groin injury.

... DE Adam Gotsis was held out of practice for precautionary reasons after banging his thigh on the knee of OT Donald Stephenson on Thursday, Joseph said. Gotsis is expected to practice Saturday.

... Ty Sambrailo rotated in for Menelik Watson at right tackle during practice Friday. Watson was not injured; the change "was a rotation thing," Joseph said. "It's a rep count for those guys."

... RB Bernard Pierce continues to be sidelined because of a hamstring injury.

WEATHER REPORT: The clouds parted, and the Broncos practiced under clear skies with temperatures that rose from 69°F to 80°F during the two-hour practice.

ATTENDANCE: 6,567.

Broncos Training Camp Day 8 Takeaways: The race for the No. 3 receiver

By Andrew Mason
DenverBroncos.com
August 5, 2017

The race to be the No. 3 receiver is not the race to be the slot receiver. That is a crucial distinction in the Broncos' receiver competition.

Bennie Fowler III, Jordan Taylor, Cody Latimer, Carlos Henderson and Isaiah McKenzie are the five players Head Coach Vance Joseph mentioned when asked about the position Friday. But Head Coach Vance Joseph is looking for the player who can line up in all three receiver spots, not simply in the slot.

A versatile No. 3 receiver is what Offensive Coordinator Mike McCoy wants.

"Mike's vision is to have No. 10 [Emmanuel Sanders] in the slot and No. 88 [WR Demaryius Thomas] in the slot. He's looking for the best guy to be the third receiver to play all three spots," Head Coach Vance Joseph said. "Knowing all three spots, with Mike's vision, it's really important not just having a slot guy."

That makes the job description different, but not more difficult -- not even for a rookie like Henderson, who has to learn three spots instead of one.

"It doesn't make it tougher. It's just a job you have to do," Henderson said. "I'm getting better at that job. Every day I'm learning my playbook and learning my plays and doing the right things and making the right reads in coverages and things like that."

After a slow start to camp, Henderson has thrust himself into the competition by steadily becoming more involved in the offense while mostly eliminating dropped passes.

"It's most definitely getting a little slower for me," Henderson said. "It's getting easier. I just have to continue to stay in my playbook and learn all my plays and all the concepts, and I'll be just fine."

"Fine" should get him a place on the game-day active roster. But it might not be enough to be the third receiver in a crowded competition.

1. SATURDAY SCRIMMAGE WILL BE UNSCRIPTED

That will allow McCoy and Defensive Coordinator Joe Woods to make their calls entirely based on the flow of the scrimmage, rather than a pre-set script.

"We're going to play ball," Joseph said. "It will be game-like with officials, call it, get what you earn, first-down, second-down — whatever you earn, you'll get tomorrow. It's going to be a full football scrimmage."

There is one one exception -- the first and second teams will not tackle to the ground. The third teamers, however, may have a full-scale, tackle-to-the-ground period.

While the scope of the scrimmage is different than other practices, the decision to have coaches make calls based on the flow of the moment mimics a majority of practice periods.

"My belief as a coach is [that] it's a reaction game for the coaches and players. I want it to be as real [as possible] every day," Joseph said. "And for a first-time coordinator in Joe Woods, having a chance to call the defenses every day without having it scripted, that's big for Joe."

2. CHARLES WON'T BE IN THE SCRIMMAGE, BUT HE'S MAKING PROGRESS

In the wake of his most extensive team-period work since he joined the Broncos, RB Jamaal Charles received a rest day Friday and will sit out the Saturday scrimmage as the Broncos monitor his workload.

But after a day in which he had several runs that saw heavy contact and a long gain down the right side of the field after catching a pass on a wheel route from Lynch, Joseph was pleased with how the 10-year veteran came through the work.

"He came out and he wasn't sore," Joseph said. "Again, [we're] just being smart with Jamaal, get him to Monday and see where we are."

Joseph added that Charles' Thursday workload was the highest of any of the running backs for that practice.

3. HOW THE LINE WILL LOOK AT THE SCRIMMAGE

Joseph said that the starting offensive line for the scrimmage would include rookie Garrett Bolles at left tackle. Bolles has split repetitions with Donald Stephenson since Wednesday. Joseph added that center Matt Paradis and right guard Ron Leary will likely be held out from the scrimmage as they recover from their injuries, leaving the work to Connor McGovern and Billy Turner.

Max Garcia and Menelik Watson are expected to work on the first team at left guard and right tackle, respectively.

On the other side of the line of scrimmage, OLB Von Miller will play, Joseph said, citing the fact that the work will be a "controlled scrimmage."

4. BUT WHO WILL BE THE FIRST QUARTERBACK UP ON SATURDAY?

If Joseph sticks to his pattern of alternating Trevor Siemian and Paxton Lynch for the first repetition of the first team period, Siemian would be up first. However, he didn't reveal which would take the first snap with the No. 1 offense, although he has indicated that both will see first-team work.

"I'm not sure yet. Whoever starts, you'll know," he said, smiling.

5. THE RETURN OF GARY KUBIAK

An extra set of eyes watched practice from above the field Friday: those of Senior Personnel Advisor Gary Kubiak, who flew in from his Houston home to watch the session with President of Football Operations/General Manager John Elway.

"He looks healthy and happy," DE Derek Wolfe said. "It's going to be nice to have him around."

"It was good seeing my guy," said safety Darian Stewart, who arrived with Kubiak in 2015. "He looks good and I was happy he came out here today."

Eleven-year wait ends as Terrell Davis earns gold jacket

By Aric DiLalla

DenverBroncos.com

August 5, 2017

The Broncos' fifth Hall of Famer seemed comfortable.

His gold jacket fit him well, and he proudly showed off the No. 305 embroidered inside.

305.

It's Terrell Davis' place in the Pro Football Hall of Fame, now and for endless years forward.

In the future, he'll join the other members of the exclusive 310-member fraternity at future Gold Jacket Dinners as they're introduced one by one. On Friday night, there were nearly 100 of them, and the names of those in attendance ranged from Roger Staubach to Franco Harris to Jim Brown.

There were Broncos, too, of course. Not many, but that hardly mattered to the mass of Denver fans in attendance.

Floyd Little and Gary Zimmerman were some of the select few greeted by roars, rather than polite applause.

But Friday was about Davis and his long, 11-year wait to stride between the corridor of Hall of Famers onto a stage in the middle.

This night was about the grey suit jacket he slipped off and replaced with the gold one that will surely find a prominent place in his home.

This night was about looking to his wife, Tamiko, and finding tears in his eyes.

After 11 years, who could blame him? Better yet, who would want to?

"That [wait is] part of it," Davis said. "And then ... for a while I wasn't even mentioned in terms of being a guy that would be here. So yeah, at one point I thought I was never going to make it. And now, you're here, it just makes it that much more sweet."

There were Mile High Salutes on this evening. Of course there were Mile High Salutes.

These may have been the best ones yet.

Davis said he isn't sure how he'll keep his emotions in check during Saturday's enshrinement ceremony, but he would like to clear something up about the emotion he showed Friday night at the Canton Civic Center:

LaDanian Tomlinson teared up first.

“L.T. was the first one to go, so I’m good now,” Davis said.

The rush of emotion likely will not stop for Davis. He and his brothers are all together for the first time in nearly two decades, the last time being at one of Davis’ two Super Bowl appearances.

Other important people in his life will join for the enshrinement ceremony Saturday.

President of Football Operations/General Manager John Elway is flying in. Davis knows him as a teammate with whom he won two Lombardi Trophies.

Little and Zimmerman and Gary Kubiak and Shannon Sharpe and Steve Atwater and Mike Shanahan and Bobby Turner and Ed McCaffrey -- they’ll all be there too.

“It means a lot,” Davis said earlier Friday. “To me, more so than anything, the relationships you built in this sport and the respect that people have for you and the love they show you, that’s what it’s all about for me. If you talk to most players and you ask them, you can have all the reporters write all the reports they want to about a person, but when they get a compliment from a teammate or an opponent or a coach, it carries a lot of weight. So to have my friends and coaches come back to see me in this moment, it means the world to me.”

Davis joins Elway, Sharpe, Little and Zimmerman in that exclusive Broncos club. And while he’s had discussions about what this Gold Jacket Dinner would feel like, no one could quite capture the essence.

The Hall of Famers warned him any emotion he expected would increase by tenfold.

As he stood on a platform and turned toward the different sides of the crowd, that sentiment didn’t quite do the moment justice.

“There’s nothing you can do that’s going to prepare you for what you’re about to experience,” Davis said. “Once you go through it, then you understand what they’re talking about.”

So maybe that’s why Davis said he had no plans to shed the gold jacket until he’s explicitly told.

“I keep it on,” said Davis when asked about the night’s plans for the jacket, “until they take it off. I think they take it off, and then they give it back tomorrow so you don’t get it dirty. I think that’s the plan. And then after that, you take it.”

He’s waited 11 years. What’s one more day?

Perhaps it means a lot, when you hear what that moment on stage meant.

Eleven years of patience, frustration, doubt and elation reached a crescendo in that moment.

“You saw when I took my [original] jacket off,” Davis said. “I was pretty excited to get this jacket on.

“When he put it on, it makes it official. I’m a Hall of Famer now.”

Terrell Davis: 'I'd run through a brick wall for [Owner Pat Bowlen]'

By Aric DiLalla
DenverBroncos.com
August 5, 2017

Even at his own Hall of Fame press availability, Terrell Davis was thinking of others.

Asked about the dearth of Broncos in the Hall of Fame, he rattled off a list of names he hoped to see enshrined: Steve Atwater, John Lynch, Rod Smith, Jason Elam.

And then he turned to a man who has done far more for Davis and Denver than craft a team that wins football games.

"Hopefully [Owner] Pat Bowlen gets in now," said Davis on Friday afternoon ahead of the Enshrinees' Gold Jacket Dinner. "[We'll] try to get him in as soon as he can."

Davis' appreciation for Bowlen stems beyond the on-field accomplishments — more Super Bowl appearances (7) than losing seasons (5), 300-plus wins, 13 division titles — and off-field contributions.

Rather, Davis spent Friday talking less about the Broncos' owner's credentials for the Hall of Fame and more about Bowlen as a man.

During the course of several minutes, Davis made clear Bowlen supported him during both the highs and lows of his career.

Ahead of a 1997 exhibition game in Mexico City, Davis flew down with Bowlen for a press conference before the Broncos played the Dolphins.

"I had a chance to fly down there with him on his airplane," Davis said. "We ... had a press conference before the game and man, it was just a chance to sit and talk with Pat. I'd talked to him before, but not like that, and it just gives you a greater sense of who he is as a man. He's got a huge heart. Pat was not about the bottom line. He wasn't about, 'Let's see if we can make billions of dollars.' Pat was trying to build the best team.

"He was going to do whatever it took to make sure he gave you what you needed to be successful, and he was about relationships. And he didn't want any credit for it."

Two Super Bowls victories later, as Davis looked to lead the Broncos following John Elway's retirement, an injury cut his season short.

In the ensuing days, neither his teammates nor the training staff were the first to call to check in on him.

“When I tore my ACL, Pat called me,” Davis said. “And I didn’t expect the owner to call me after I tore my ACL. That’s kind of like, you expect the trainers, maybe a teammate, maybe your position coach to call you. He was the first one to call me. That little gesture that he did, it meant the world to me. I’d run through a brick wall for that man. And he was always that.

“Whether I needed extra Super Bowl [XXXII] tickets in San Diego. I was like, ‘Pat, I’ve got a lot of family.’ He was like, ‘Don’t worry about it. I got you.’ And I was able to take a lot of people to the game. He was just a man that if you needed anything, he’d always check up on you. Just very personable.”

And because of Bowlen’s generosity and genuine interest in his players, Davis never wondered what a playing career outside of Denver would entail.

“I heard some horror stories who went to other places and then came back and were like, ‘Uh, the grass is not greener on the other side,’” Davis said. “Here’s a good testament to Pat Bowlen. Most guys, when you’re on a team, you kind of wonder, ‘What does it feel like to play for the 49ers? What does it feel like to play for the Dallas Cowboys?’ I never once had a thought of what [it would] feel like to play for another team.

“That, to me, sums it up. Because everything I needed was there. Everything I ever wanted was there. The idea of an owner, of a team that was run like a first-class organization was right where I was. So I didn’t have the need to think about some other team and how they function and how they went about doing things.”

Bowlen’s way was more than good enough – and on the eve of Davis' Hall of Fame induction, he made sure everybody knew it.

Broncos and official health care partner UHealth bring nursing suite to stadium

By Staff

DenverBroncos.com

August 5, 2017

The Denver Broncos and official health care partner UHealth announced today they are bringing a new nursing suite to Sports Authority Field at Mile High ahead of Denver's home preseason opener on Aug. 26. The Mamava lactation suite is located in the main concourse inside Gate 6.

UHealth also purchased and installed nursing suites in the concourses at Pepsi Center and Coors Field, making Denver the first city in the United States with lactation suites at all downtown professional sports venues. Recognizing the need to support nursing moms visiting the venues, the sports teams collaborated with UHealth to provide the clean and comfortable spaces for pumping or nursing in private.

"UHealth's commitment to improving lives extends beyond the doors of our hospitals and clinics," Manny Rodriguez, UHealth chief marketing and experience officer said. "Our investment in nursing suites with our partners at all of Denver's downtown professional sports venues makes it easier for nursing moms attending events—from games to concerts—to live extraordinary lives doing what they love, with their loved ones."

Mamava designs solutions for nursing moms on the go. The nursing suite is a self-contained, mobile pod, with comfortable benches, a fold-down table, an electrical outlet for plugging in a breast pump and a door that can be locked for privacy. The 4-foot by 8-foot pod is intended for individual use, but has plenty of room for mothers with diaper bags, babies and other children in tow.

David Ramsey: Terrell Davis' future was only close to limitless, but he still ran to the Hall of Fame

By David Ramsey
Colorado Springs Gazette
August 5, 2017

Terrell Davis is the ultimate what-if in Denver Broncos history.

His Saturday induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame removes some of the sting from the sad 1999 afternoon when he shredded his knee, traveling from glittering superstar to hobbled has-been in a violent instant.

Remember, the induction removes some of the sting, not all of it.

Davis collected 6,413 regular-season yards and 61 touchdowns, plus 1,140 playoff yards and 12 touchdowns, in a staggering four-season run from 1995-98. He carried the Broncos to consecutive Super Bowl titles. He possessed a rare combination of vision, desire, power and speed.

His future wasn't limitless. It was only close to limitless.

On Oct. 3, 1999, a sad day, his future collapsed, along with the Broncos. Quarterback Brian Griese floated a pass into the hands of Jets safety Victor Green, and Davis took up the chase. At the sideline, Davis collided with Green and Bronco teammate Matt Lepsis. The trio went down in a heap. Green and Lepsis quickly got to their feet.

Davis stayed down after suffering a torn anterior cruciate ligament and medial collateral ligament in his right knee. He was never even close to the same.

When Davis fell, he was 26 and thousands upon thousands of yards seemed on the horizon. LaDainian Tomlinson, who joins Davis as a 2017 HOF inductee, gained 6,323 after he turned 27. Emmitt Smith, the NFL's all-time leading rusher, gained 9,399 after 27.

Davis, his knee shredded, gained only 983 after 27, and every one of those yards was a testament to his will.

For a far-too-brief time, Davis ranked among the NFL's all-time uplifting stories. He came from nowhere, a sixth-round pick who looked on his way to, at best, an NFL life of special teams and a couple of dozen carries a season. He had never quite become a college star, largely because of an acrimonious relationship with Georgia coach Ray Goff.

He instantly became a star with the Broncos, becoming the lowest-round pick to ever rush for 1,000 yards as a rookie.

The Davis game that sticks in my mind came early in the 1998 season. The Broncos were mighty, one of the top two or three teams of the Super Bowl era. On Sept. 13, the Cowboys' defense sought to slow down Davis.

Let's just say the Cowboys failed. Davis scored 63- and 59-yard touchdowns, and that was just the first quarter. He finished with 191 yards on only 23 carries. He was dominating, entertaining and inspiring. So much seemed ahead.

Less than 13 months later, he tumbled to the turf against the Jets and never truly stood up again.

But that's the sad part. On Saturday night in Canton, Ohio, Davis will be honored for his astonishing four seasons. He was a comet who did not enjoy the blessing of an enduring career. Corey Dillon, who is not in the hall, rushed for 3,634 more yards than Davis, but Dillon was never the NFL's best running back.

For a two spectacular seasons, Davis was the best. That's why he's being honored.

The Broncos had long been on the edge of NFL supremacy, but John Elway lacked the required sidekick. With Davis, the Broncos twice ruled the NFL.

"He changed things," Elway said of Davis.

He sure did.

Ramsey blog: Broncos' Derek Wolfe warns media he's watching - and watching closely

By David Ramsey
Colorado Springs Gazette
August 5, 2017

Most NFL coaches and players say they don't pay attention to media reports. They don't – or at least they say they don't – read newspaper reports or watch TV reports or cruise the internet seeking reports.

Derek Wolfe, the 305-pound anchor of the Broncos defensive line, is not typical. He complained Friday about a radio report that questioned the might of the Bronco defense. He said he planned to prove the report wrong.

Yes, Wolfe said, he pays attention – close attention - to media reports.

“You know why?” he asked, before answering his own question. “Because I'm going to hold you guys accountable just like you hold me accountable. You guys are going to say something, it's going to be true and you're going to hear it from us and not from somebody else.

“If you have a question about me or my teammates, you ask me or my teammates and we'll answer it. Don't get it from somebody else and just get Twitter fingers and start tweeting it out.”

A few members of the media horde at Friday's practice laughed as Wolfe talked about his expectations for the media.

Wolfe did not laugh and did not crack a smile. He's serious about his work as a media critic.

In other news from Mr. Wolfe:

* He said he gained 20 pounds in the offseason. Anchoring the middle of the defense, he said, was difficult at 285 pounds. He feels more comfortable at 305.

*He said he plans to combine for “30 to 40” sacks this season with friend and teammate Von Miller. “That's reaching high,” Wolfe said, “but if you're not reaching high there's nowhere to go.”

David Ramsey: Broncos rookie Carlos Henderson will be tough to catch after the catch

By David Ramsey
Colorado Springs Gazette
August 5, 2017

A few months ago, Carlos Henderson was happily terrorizing defenses in Conference USA. He scored 23 touchdowns in 2016, fourth highest in the nation. He scored as a receiver, a runner and a returner for Louisiana Tech.

He had mastered college football. Life was fun. Life was easy. A discouraging word was seldom heard.

Then he took the giant step to the Denver Broncos and the NFL.

Henderson already has heard whispers about his talents. He struggled in early practices, inspiring questions about his worthiness as a third-round pick.

He heard the whispers and just kept working. In the past few days, Henderson has rebounded, making tough catches and turning down the volume on the criticism.

Could he claim the Broncos No. 3 receiver spot behind Demaryius Thomas and Emmanuel Sanders?

He's not going there. Not yet, anyway.

"I got to continue to work hard," Henderson said in his New Orleans drawl. "It's up to the coaches. All I got to do is work hard and get better every day. I'm trying to be consistent, trying to help my team any way I can."

There are many ways he might help. Henderson played running back in high school and expected to play running back at Louisiana Tech.

Coaches had other ideas. They moved him to receiver, and he soon became one of the nation's most elusive pass catchers. He's a master at collecting yards after the catch. In 2016, according to Pro Football Focus, he caused 48 missed tackles, the highest in the NCAA. He scored three touchdowns on returns at Louisiana Tech.

Brandon Stokley caught passes from Peyton Manning in downtown Indianapolis and on the edge of downtown Denver. Stokley is now a Denver radio host who attends most Bronco practices.

In August 1999, Stokley was in a place remarkably similar to where Henderson is today. Stokley, a Ravens fourth-round pick from Southwestern Louisiana, remembers the pressure and confusion of his first camp.

Southwestern Louisiana and Louisiana Tech are bitter football rivals. Stokley, who retired in 2013, has chosen to look past his possible differences with Henderson.

“We’re really not supposed to like each other,” Stokley said, “but I do like him because he’s from Louisiana.”

Stokley has watched Henderson closely. He sees a player who is understandably nervous, but he also sees a diligent worker who is fearless in the frightening realm in the center of the field. Henderson, Stokley said, has the courage required to face, and survive, NFL violence.

“It’s hard to go out there and show what you have and who you are,” Stokley said. “That’s why it’s tough for rookies to make an impact in the NFL. I’m pulling for him because he’s a dynamic player and there’s a need for that this year.”

Henderson has been happy to hear a drawling voice from Louisiana as he begins his quest to earn a living in football.

“I talk to Mr. Stokley,” Henderson said. “He just gave me a little advice. Be consistent. Be in right spot at all times.”

And don’t worry too much about criticism.

Talking Football with the 2017 Pro Football Hall of Fame Inductees

By Kalyn Kahler

MMQB

August 5, 2017

What would your dad think of you getting into the Hall of Fame? What would he say to you? A reporter asked Terrell Davis these questions during his press availability, just a few hours before he received his gold jacket. Davis paused and took a deep breath. He shook his head, struggling to find words. His father, Joe, died of Lupus when Terrell was just 14 years old. “Y’all are trying to take me there,” Terrell said, fighting back tears. “I hope my dad would say he is proud. That’s it. I grew up with my dad and I just want to play for him, you know?”

Terrell’s bloodshot eyes marked the start of an emotional weekend for the former Broncos running back, and for the rest of the Hall of Fame Class of 2017. The enshrinees spoke to the media on Friday afternoon and reflected on how far they’d come over their careers and how many editions of their speech they’ve written. Here are some highlights of what the newest crop of Hall of Famers had to say.

THE MMQB: Have you had a wow moment yet this weekend?

KURT WARNER: The awe moment with all of this, is to realize these guys that you tried to emulate, that you grew up watching, that were your heroes growing up, they actually know your story. You come into this and you feel like, I don’t really think that I belong, I don’t belong in this room. But then these guys come up to you and tell you what your career meant to them—guys that you tried to be like. It’s hard to put that into words and I think that is the awe part of it. When you don’t understand how you fit in, and people start to tell you how you impacted them, it starts to sink in. Oh, I guess that’s why I am here. It’s not only fans and people watching, but guys that did it as well as anybody has ever done it, and maybe even before you that were inspired.

KENNY EASLEY: It’s been a big hug fest. That’s the thing about these Hall of Famers, when you make it to this level, whether you deserved it or not, to these guys it doesn’t matter. You’re here. And they hug you hard, because they are so happy you are here. That’s the thing that has been most interesting to me, guys who have been in the Hall of Fame for 30 years will walk up to me and say, Are you Kenny Easley? And I say, Yeah, and they will give me a bear hug, like, I’m glad to see you. And I really didn’t expect it! I really didn’t expect from the guys who have been here for a long time, I expected them to be standoffish, but it’s not like that. It’s like, We’ve been waiting for you.

JASON TAYLOR: Walking that gauntlet yesterday at the Hall of Fame game seemed like a mile and a half, walking across that football field. I remember I stood on that field for the Hall of Fame games I played in, and I watched those guys walk, never did I think that I would one day make that walk. It’s pretty crazy.

THE MMQB: What was the lowest point in your football life, a time when you would never have expected you’d end up in the Hall of Fame?

TAYLOR: In 1992, when I first got to Akron, as a homeschooled kid, the NCAA pulled my scholarship and declared me ineligible. I had to leave school, so that was probably the low point. I thought I wouldn’t

have a chance to play college football and I certainly couldn't pay to go to school. That was certainly the low point.

LADAINIAN TOMLINSON: I was always a pretty good athlete, and one of those fast kids, faster than most of the kids my age. But when I was in the sixth grade, I broke my foot, and I lost a lot of my skills. I really was depressed at that point. I couldn't play football that season, and when I came back the next season, I was no longer a starter. I was basically a guy sitting on the bench, just cheering for my teammates. So, certainly at that point, you are like, Man, I used to be this good athlete and was out there playing and now I don't get a chance to play much anymore. You doubt yourself, even if you are going to be good enough to play in high school.

DAVIS: There were a few points, but the first one was when I lost my dad. When I lost my dad, I quit playing football. There was no way I saw myself here when that happened. That's one. I mean, that would be it.

MORTEN ANDERSEN: I never thought I would be here, honestly. That was never on my radar screen. My most important thing was, How can I get better? Because next year there are going to be guys younger than me, cheaper than me and maybe close to being as good as I am, and they want my job. There are 32 jobs of what I did in the world. There are no backups; it's not like a lineman where you have backups. This was it. You have 32 jobs, so job security was paramount for me. And the only way I knew how to do that was to be as good as I could be every single year so that it was undeniable. They had to keep me, no matter what the salary situation was. This is our best option at this position. They can slide that nameplate in and out of those lockers really, really fast.

THE MMQB: When you see the latest report about CTE having been found in 110 of 111 deceased NFL players who donated their brains for research, how do you feel? Are you concerned for your own future?

DAVIS: I can't lie. We're all scared, we're all concerned. We don't know what the future holds. When I'm at home and I do something and I forget something, I have to stop and think, Is this because I am getting older? Or am I just not using my brain? Or is this an effect of playing football? I don't know that. Yeah, I'm scared. I try to stay as active as possible and try to keep my mind as sharp as possible. I also know that the game has gone through great lengths to change the game from Pop Warner to the pros. People ask me the question, Would you let your kids play football? It's like, yeah, I will. Now, 10 years ago, I may have said something different, but now the way they are teaching kids to tackle, the fact that they identify concussions a lot faster, they sit you out of plays, you don't practice as long, all that stuff is helping the game of football. But back to your question, yes, I'm concerned.

TAYLOR: Yeah, the research is out there. The data, however it is collected or disseminated, is still real. The effects of this game are real. It is a very violent and physical sport. In coaching now I tell people, there is a 100 percent chance you are going to get hurt playing this game. Whether it be banging a finger or something worse. We take that risk in playing this game. We appreciate the things they are doing to try to make it safer. You want to continue to make this game as safe as you can, regulating practice and structure around preparing for Sundays. Sundays, you can't stop violence, it is a tough game. So am I concerned? Sure. You have to be. I played with teammates, a former teammate of mine, a Hall of Famer that is no longer with us [Junior Seau] because of some of those things, and that's really hard.

THE MMQB: How many drafts of your speech did you write? What will it be about?

WARNER: You've got to wait for that one. I'm not giving anything away. It was just one constantly moving draft. I took a long time before I even started my speech. I had ideas, I had thoughts, and I wanted to shape my thinking before I started writing it on paper. But then once I wrote it down on paper, there were a number of drafts. I would take it paragraph by paragraph, point by point, and I would just try to shape it. One part that they kept telling me was make it shorter, make it shorter, so I had to try to cut things out. It was about getting the wording right more than anything. From when I first laid it out, the primary structure is the same, but how it is being said now is a little bit different. Even though I started late, I put a lot of time into it. I really went over it and thought about it and prayed about it. More importantly for me, even than thanking the right people, is sharing the right message. This is going to be my last moment, so to speak, on this kind of stage. I want to share the right message that goes along with the entire journey.

ANDERSEN: I wrote two or three drafts. I wrote the speech over a period of the summer. I started in June, and I spent a couple months on it. It's going to be about, if I account for crying and maybe a smattering of applause here and there . . . we are under 15 minutes, so I feel pretty confident I can land the plane in 14 minutes.

TOMLINSON: [My speech will be about] family history and what my last name means to me, and how important it is to me and my family to have this legacy in Canton . . . [I've been] doing it in front of the mirror, standing up, speaking, looking in the mirror speaking. But of course I work in the studio all the time, so I have that experience. But for me it is about driving home some of the stories I really want to tell and have that emotional impact, for people to understand where my feelings are coming through.

JERRY JONES: You're all going to be—knowing me and the times we've interviewed—you're going to be pleasantly surprised.

THE MMQB: Terrell, you were a Hall of Fame finalist for three years, and there was debate over whether your three best seasons were enough to qualify you for the Hall. Do you think that your inclusion will have an impact on other guys who have short careers?

DAVIS: I hope so, because for me, Gale Sayers was that guy, that everybody compared me to. Now, the precedent is set. The voters are now looking at careers and the quality of it, not necessarily how long you have played, which is a great thing for the Hall of Fame. It should be based off quality, how well you played while you were playing. Priest Holmes was nice, Priest was nice, and he's never talked about. The injuries didn't help, but you look at the numbers, and I think they are comparable to mine. Not necessarily the postseason numbers. I certainly hope so, I like Priest. I root for him and hopefully one day he will be wearing that gold jacket too.

WARNER: I'm not necessarily going to address it in my speech. I think for me, there are so many people and so many fan bases and so many groups that went into me getting here. Hopefully in other opportunities I will get a chance; up to this point I have tried to do that. I think for me, [the speech] is more about being inclusive with everybody and letting everybody know as a whole, their part in this. It wasn't necessarily one person or one group or one team more than another . . . the fans in St. Louis were instrumental to where I'm at, to where my family is, and how much we love that community.

Those things I am going to try to stay away from, because I think there is a time and a place for all of that, and I think St. Louis knows how much they meant to us.

THE MMQB: LaDainian, what does it mean to you to be going into the Hall as a San Diego Charger?

TOMLINSON: When you think about the history of the organization and 56 years in San Diego, it's pretty significant. At the luncheon we just had, seeing Ron Mix and Kellen Winslow and Dan Fouts, and guys like that, and being welcomed in at the luncheon as another San Diego Charger that is here. I'm honored, emotions are really starting to run crazy, but I'm so happy I get this opportunity.

THE MMQB: Jerry, what lessons have you learned in your time as owner of the Cowboys?

JONES: There's no short list. I underestimated how hard it is to win ball games. I had spent a lot of my life in the discipline of business and you can be very successful in business, tremendously successful, and you can come in 15th or 20th, and you can get a lot done and take care of your family, and get a lot of pat on the backs. In our game, in the NFL, you stay out of the one hole very often and you don't get a lot of credit, that's the Super Bowl. So the bottom line is, it's tough. You guys have heard it described a lot of ways, but that really creates a challenge. I believe in driving across the lake, rather than laying up and shooting straight to the hole. And you get your ball in the water a lot of times. Seriously, I am still founded in risk-reward. I like to think my experience has given me better judgment on how much risk to take for the reward. The fallacy there is if you take a huge risk, and the reward wasn't worth it, that's not smart. I like to think I can do better with risk and reward. But what I have learned is if you don't do something that has some risk to it, you will never move, you've got to stretch out.

THE MMQB: How would you describe your career in one word?

ANDERSEN: That's always hard to put one word on it, but . . . long. It's been a career of will and will winning over all the other characteristics that sometimes come forth. The one single most important thing I've had throughout the years, when it didn't look good, was will. Will to excel and will to do it for as long as I can, at the highest level.

PK Brandon McManus is 'true weapon' for Broncos, drills 73-yard field goal in practice

By John Breech
CBS Sports
August 5, 2017

One of the most debated coaching decision of the 2016 season came back in November when Broncos coach Gary Kubiak allowed his kicker to attempt a 62-yard field goal in what turned out to be a 30-27 overtime loss to the Chiefs.

Although Brandon McManus missed the kick, there's a reason Kubiak actually let him try it, and that's because he nails kicks like that regularly in practice.

The Broncos kicker showed off his big leg again on Friday when he nailed a 73-yard field goal.

New Broncos coach Vance Joseph let McManus try two kicks from that distance, and the veteran kicker came through on one of of them.

Here's what it looks like when a kicker attempts a field goal from 73-yards away. On a kick from that far, the holder places the ball down at his own 37-yard line.

Although looks to be the kick McManus fell short on, Joseph was impressed with both kicks.

"That's a true weapon, guys. I mean, that was amazing," Joseph said after practice. "That was what, 73 yards, maybe? In the first one, he just swung his leg and he was, what, two yards off."

After missing the first one by just six feet, McManus promised to make his second attempt.

"The second one he said, 'I'll make it for you this time,'" Joseph said. "Well, thank you, I want to see that. Then he swung it. I mean, that's special."

After watching McManus hit from 73 yards, Joseph started to sound a lot like Kubiak, which means he's not going to be afraid to give McManus a few shots from far away during regular season games.

"Of course," Joseph said when asked if he's let McManus try extremely long field goals. "Whatever wins games, we want to go for it."

Letting a kicker trying a long field goal in Denver isn't exactly crazy. Former Broncos kicker Matt Prater holds the NFL record, which was set in 2013 when he hit a 64-yarder in Denver.

As a matter of fact, three of the five longest field goals in NFL history were kicked in Denver.

The ball allegedly travels farther in Denver's mile high air, a fact that Ravens kicker Justin Tucker pointed out in 2013. Tucker claims he once made a 79-yarder during warmups in Denver.

"In practice I've hit from 79 yards," Tucker said. "That was in Denver before our opener in September [2013]. The weather was perfect; the field was good. With the altitude in the Rocky Mountains, the ball jumps off your foot."

Tucker now seems to think he can hit an 84-yard field goal, and he might not be wrong. After all, he did hit a 75-yarder during warmups before the Pro Bowl in January.

Only 16 kickers in NFL history have even hit a field of 60 yards or more in a game, including Tucker, who nailed a 61-yarder against Detroit in December 2013.

Hitting a 70-yarder though is a different story, and that's mainly because there's not many kickers who could actually pull it off in a game.

Raiders kicker Sebastian Janikowski hit a 70-yarder in warmups once, but that came in Denver. Seahawks kicker Blair Walsh also once hit a 70-yarder in pregame warmups while he was playing for the Vikings.

If it's going to happen in a game, it's going to take a kicker with a huge leg playing for a coach who loves to gamble. Raiders coach Jack Del Rio, who's earned the nickname blackjack due to his in-game gambles, and Janikowski might be our best bet for ever seeing that happen.

Trevor Siemian steps ahead of Paxton Lynch in Denver

By Marc Sessler

NFL.com

August 5, 2017

As the second week of training camp creeps to a close, are we any closer to a quarterback decision in Denver, where Trevor Siemian and Paxton Lynch are locked in battle for the starting role?

"I think today you actually saw some separation," NFL Network's James Palmer reported Friday. "In my opinion, watching all the seven-on-seven and 11-on-11 drills, Trevor Siemian really had a better day than Paxton Lynch."

A raw performer as a rookie, Lynch gave way on Friday to Siemian, who showed better mastery of the attack after 14 mostly solid starts for the Broncos a year ago.

"You saw after Lynch had a couple of struggling reps, Trevor Siemian comes in, runs the play action, throws a dime into the quarter of the end zone for a touchdown," Palmer said. "The next play, play action, would have been a touchdown, but [was] dropped by tight end Jeff Heuerman in the end zone. Siemian looking just more poised in the spot."

After practice, first-year coach Vance Joseph complimented Siemian for having a "good day" and for consistently "changing plays at the line of scrimmage" to benefit the offense.

It's just one practice, but Saturday will cook up more hard-boiled evidence when the Broncos engage in their intrasquad scrimmage.

Here's what else we learned during Friday's action:

Dolphins chasing Cutler?

Here's where the Ryan Tannehill saga sits as we click publish: The Miami Dolphins have yet to decide the way ahead with their starting quarterback, who left practice Thursday after injuring his left knee -- the same one he tore up a year ago.

Coach Adam Gase said Friday that no decision has been reached on whether Tannehill will go under the knife or simply rest the knee. Both options are being weighed.

"[We're] talking to a lot of people, just making sure we're getting all the right information, and then we'll make a decision after that," Gase said. "Everything is on the table right now. We're going to talk to a lot of people."

One of those people? Jay Cutler. Hours after Gase told reporters Friday that "right now, [backup] Matt [Moore] is our quarterback," NFL Network Insider Ian Rapoport reported that Cutler, the passer-turned-broadcaster, is already pondering a comeback:

We'll be sure to update this space as the narrative in South Beach evolves.

FOLK-AGUAYO UPDATE

The sexiest position battle in the NFL has taken a decisive turn in Tampa, where second-year kicker Roberto Aguayo has shined in back-to-back sessions in his high-octane tussle with veteran Nick Folk.

"[He was] lights-out," Bucs coach Dirk Koetter said Friday, one day after Aguayo went 7-for-7 during a two-hour practice. "Best day of training camp, best day in a long time. He looked great [on Friday] ... Roberto was money on both ends. I don't think he missed all day. Yeah, he was money."

You want money? Check out this noise:

Odds and Ends

1. We have fresh quarterback data from Houston, where wideout DeAndre Hopkins strongly backed veteran Tom Savage: "If anybody should be a judge of quarterbacks, I've played with the most quarterbacks in NFL history throughout my first four years," Hopkins said, per ESPN's Dan Graziano. "So I put the stamp on Savage, and I think that's all that needs to be said about that."

While we're at it:

2. Set to be enshrined into the Hall of Fame on Saturday, Cowboys owner Jerry Jones spent part of Friday talking about Ezekiel Elliott. On the subject of potential league-mandated punishment for the star running back, Jones told reporters, per ESPN: "I do not anticipate a suspension."

3. The ultra-consistent Steelers announced Friday that Mike Tomlin inked a contract extension that will keep him with the team through 2020.

4. Is James Harrison -- one of Tomlin's charges -- destined for Canton? How about Matt Ryan? NFL Network's Gregg Rosenthal offers up his list of players teetering on the Hall of Fame bubble.

5. In-house Patriots watchdog Dan Hanzus posted an End Around missive about a blazing display of hubris out of New England, where the world champs have already shipped playoff tickets to season-ticket holders. They aren't the only team to follow such a practice, but Hanzus notes: "The Pats also presuppose that an eighth consecutive first-round bye is a mere formality. The package does not include tickets to a Wild Card-round home affair."

Arrogance? Or a crystal-clear peek into the future from shadowy powerbrokers in the know? I'm beginning to side with astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson, who claims the possibility of our universe being nothing more than a simulation run by next-level puppeteers "may be very high."

6. Speaking of the Patriots: People keep asking Tom Brady about Gisele Bundchen's springtime suggestion that he sustained a concussion last year -- and he keeps not answering those queries, telling scribes Friday: "I don't really think that's anybody's business."

7. You don't often hear Colts coach Chuck Pagano gush over a rookie, but he couldn't contain himself in talking about fourth-round running back Marlon Mack, saying of the former USF star: "He jumps off the

tape. He's popping out there," per Zak Keefer of The Indianapolis Star. "... He's not afraid to stick his face in there and pick up blitzers. ... And then he's a weapon out of the backfield on third down."

8. Anyone else growing tired of the "I'm playing past 40" line from every quarterback worth a damn?

9. NFL Media writer/spaceman Conor Orr penned a vibrant recap of the Hall of Fame Game for those who spent the night engaged in other human activities.

Transaction Corner

The banged-up Ravens signed former Raiders tackle Austin Howard to a three-year, \$16 million deal with \$5.5 million in guarantees. Scanning their cap situation, it's fair to wonder if the move would preclude Baltimore from pursuing Kaepernick. ... The Jets also picked up free-agent defensive lineman Devon Still, who's toiled in days past for the Texans and Bengals.

Injury Omnibus

Andrew Luck isn't the only Colts starter with a shoulder issue. Pagano announced that wideout Donte Moncrief has been sidelined with an AC joint sprain. ... Giants coach Ben McAdoo revealed that Sterling Shepard's ankle MRI showed nothing serious, with the receiver telling NFL Network's Kimberly Jones: "Oh yeah, I'll be ready for Week 1." ... Broncos safety T.J. Ward suffered a hamstring injury in practice on Friday. ... Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce missed practice with a swollen knee, but coach Andy Reid said: "He'll be fine." ... Bang it here for our full injury roundup.

Friends and lovers: Enjoy the weekend.

Who's the fastest Broncos' running back? Well, it sort of depends on who you ask

By Ryan Koenisberg
BSN Denver
August 5, 2017

Earlier this week we published a story on De'Angelo Henderson that contained a highly confident quote from the upstart rookie.

The answer came when we asked Henderson who would win in a straight-line race between all of the running backs.

"I do. I do," he said without a second of hesitation and a mile-wide smile. "I'm not sure by how much, but I do."

The confidence is admirable, but it also raised some questions from our readers. Is Henderson really that fast? Has former track star Jamaal Charles lost a step?

In search of clarity, we surveyed a large portion of the running back room to find out what they thought, and it sounds like De'Angelo has some proving to do.

C.J. Anderson:

Q: Who would win in a straight-line race between the running backs?

A: "Jamaal Charles. That's a sick question."

Q: De'Angelo feels pretty good about his chances.

A: "That could be true too! They're both fast. C.J. is nowhere in there, I'll leave that race to the fast cats."

"It'd be a good race. De'Angelo is fast, Jamaal is fast. We'll have to see. They'll get an opportunity to get in the open field. If I get in the open field, I just break a lot of tackles. They'll get in the open field and they won't get touched."

Andy Janovich

Q: Who would win in a straight-line race between the running backs?

A: "Jamaal. Jamaal."

Q: Is De'Angelo Henderson wrong in thinking he would win?

A: "For sure. For sure. Jamaal, he's fast."

Bernard Pierce

Q: Who would win in a straight-line race between the running backs?

A: "Jamaal."

Q: Would De'Angelo Henderson stand a chance?

A: "De'Angelo is fast but he's not that fast. Jamaal. I'm not even sure who gets second."

Stevan Ridley

Q: Who would win in a straight-line race between the running backs?

A: "Still Jamaal Charles. Come on bro."

Running backs coach Eric Studesville

"Jamaal. Jamaal. Jamaal. Jamaal. Jamaal. Not even close."

What we found out

1) Jamaal Charles still has it in the speed department

2) Henderson still has it in the confidence department. Told of the results of our survey, Henderson laughed, put on that same big smile and said, "Maybe we'll just have to line it up out here one day for you."

Broncos waiting for word on T.J. Ward's hamstring injury

By Josh Alper
Pro Football Talk
August 5, 2017

One of the the Broncos' defensive starters left the practice field early on Friday and the team is waiting to find out how long he may be out of the picture.

Safety T.J. Ward hurt his hamstring during 11-on-11 work at training camp and, per Nick Kosmider of the Denver Post, "left the field gingerly" after the injury. Coach Vance Joseph said the team didn't have a definitive idea about how long Ward might be out as a result.

"We're not sure how serious it is or how mild," Joseph said. "He's getting checked out right now."

Hamstring injuries can lead to tricky recoveries as players balance the need to see if they're ready to go against the possibility of aggravating the problem. Given that we're in early August, that will likely mean some rest in Ward's future even in the case of a milder diagnosis.

Vance Joseph hasn't decided on starting quarterback for Saturday scrimmage

By Mike Florio
Pro Football Talk
August 5, 2017

When it comes to picking a Week One starting quarterback, Broncos coach Vance Joseph is waiting as long as possible. When it comes to picking a starting quarterback for Saturday's intrasquad scrimmage, same.

"I'm not sure yet," Joseph told reporters on Friday regarding whether it will be Trevor Siemian or Paxton Lynch. "Whoever starts, you'll know. I'm not sure yet."

Joseph wasn't entirely tight-lipped on Friday about his quarterbacks. He offered Siemian a certain amount of praise for his performance in practice.

"I saw Trevor just being consistent, making his reads and making the throws where the reads told him to make the throws. He did a good job today," Joseph said.

As to Lynch, Joseph's only comments on Friday related to defensive lineman tipping the 2016 first-rounder's passes at the line of scrimmage, a trend Joseph didn't blame on Lynch.

"Our [defensive] line does a great job of knocking passes down," Joseph said. "Now, how do you stop that from an offensive line's perspective? You kind of jab him in the gut. We don't want to jab our own guy. Honestly, that's how you stop it. Or when the guy jumps, you bang him to the ground. Gameday, you will see that. You won't see that here. That's more of how we're practicing then it is for Paxton."

Even though Lynch wasn't blamed for tipped passes, it's a dynamic that came up in reference to him and not Siemian. Even though Lynch is 6-7 and Siemian is 6-3.

So there are now two things to watch on Saturday: (1) who starts the scrimmage; and (2) whether passes get tipped at the line of scrimmage.

Judge refuses to quash Colorado arrest for John Bowlen

By Mike Florio
Pro Football Talk
August 5, 2017

John Bowlen tried to avoid an arrest warrant for probation violation by claiming he was never told that his probation had begun. A Colorado judge wasn't buying it.

Via Kieren Nicholson of the Denver Post, Arapahoe County Court Judge Darren Louis Vahle refused to quash an arrest warrant for Bowlen based on multiple potential violations of probation arising from a domestic violence conviction in 2016. A DUI arrest in California served as the catalyst, but the son of Broncos owner Pat Bowlen also allegedly failed to report to his probation officer, failed to perform community service, failed to enroll in court-ordered treatment programs, and failed to report he'd left Colorado.

John Bowlen's lawyer, Harvey Steinberg, had challenged the arrest warrant by arguing that John Bowlen hadn't been informed that his probation period began when the Colorado Supreme Court denied the appeal.

Broncos' Brandon McManus nails 73-yard field goal

By Michael David Smith

Pro Football Talk

August 5, 2017

Broncos coach Vance Joseph says he's ready to try field goals from record-breaking distances this season.

After Broncos kicker Brandon McManus nailed a 73-yard field goal in practice on Friday, Joseph said he wouldn't hesitate to let McManus try a field goal from 70 yards or beyond in a game.

"Of course," Joseph said when asked about trying field goals from that distance in the regular season. "Whatever wins games, we want to go for it."

The mile-high elevation in Denver makes kicking long field goals easier, and the Broncos' training camp in Englewood, Colorado, is actually at a slightly higher elevation than their home field in Denver. So when Joseph says he'd try field goals from 70 yards and beyond during the season, he's surely talking only about home games.

But if Joseph is willing to take the chance of giving the opposing team good field position, McManus could easily break the record for the longest field goal in NFL history. That record, 64 yards, was set by Matt Prater in Denver. Joseph may let McManus try to break that record by five or 10 yards.