



## **DENVER BRONCOS QUOTES**

Patrick Smyth, *Executive Vice President of Public & Community Relations* (patrick.smyth@broncos.nfl.net)

Erich Schubert, *Director of Media Relations* (erich.schubert@broncos.nfl.net)

Seth Medvin, *Strategic Communications Manager* (seth.medvin@broncos.nfl.net)

### **DENVER BRONCOS 2018 NFL DRAFT PRESS CONFERENCE QUOTES (4/27/18)** **PRESIDENT OF FOOTBALL OPS./GM JOHN ELWAY & HEAD COACH VANCE JOSEPH**

#### **On the team's Day 2 selections**

**John Elway:** "We got better on the offensive side, no question. There were some areas that we needed some players, and so we're really excited. [SMU WR] Courtland [Sutton] is big, fast and he's really raw. We feel like he really has a tremendous ceiling and upside. [WR Coach] Zach [Azzanni] is going to have fun working with him, and he's also going to be able to help us right away. [Oregon RB] Royce [Freeman] has obviously carried the ball a lot at Oregon. He had tremendous production there. He's a big banger that we haven't had for a while so we're excited to have him, too. [Boston College CB] Isaac [Yiadom], we had him down at the Senior Bowl and really liked him. He's really long and can run, and really does a nice job on the deep balls. He's physical and we think he'll be a really good special teams player. We're excited about the three players we got today."

#### **On if Freeman can compete for the starting job**

**Vance Joseph:** "Absolutely. It's going to be open obviously with [RB Devontae Booker] and [RB] De'Angelo [Henderson]. You've got to have two or three backs anyways, so it's always going to be open competition. It takes two or three guys to have a solid backfield."

#### **On not selecting an offensive lineman on Day 2**

**JE:** "We actually thought we had one but it didn't work out that way. Things happened, so we didn't get it."

#### **On selecting Sutton in the second round**

**JE:** "With what we were thinking, where Courtland was and where we were picking with No. 40, we needed some help at the wide receiver position. Plus, with the grade that we had for Courtland and that he was still there, he was the top receiver we had still available. We had different options and different directions we were going to go if things happened—we had a chance to go back too, so we were in pretty good shape. He fell to us so we stayed right there and took Courtland."

#### **On the impact position coaches have on draft selections**

**VJ:** "The coach is so important. For a young guy like [Sutton], with the physical tools he has, to sharpen his route running ability is going to be huge for him. That's Zach's strength, he's coached college ball for a long time so he's big in the fundamentals. That's huge for a young guy."

#### **On where Sutton will play on the offense**

**VJ:** "The third receiver is like a third corner. Everyone is in sub and everyone is in three-wide. It's like being a starter. He can play X and he can play in the slot, so that won't be important where he plays. It's important to the concept that you call in the huddle, but his skillset is special. He can play all three spots."

**On if they were surprised that Sutton was available**

**JE:** “We were excited he was still there. We had a plan for that spot as far as talking about moving up. We had different options, but I like the plan that we there and eventually we got to. We were able to stay there and we were excited that Courtland was still there. The third wide receiver was important to us and he’s a guy that can really develop and eventually maybe become a No. 1.”

**On the impact Sutton and Freeman can red zone**

**VJ:** “With Sutton, and obviously the 6-4 frame, that’s key in the red zone. His skillset translates to being the No. 1 guy. He’s got No. 1 traits as a receiver. Obviously he’ll come in and compete for the third spot, but John said it, in the future he can be our No. 1 guy. Obviously with Freeman, he’s a big back with speed. When we get down there in the red zone and we want to run the football, he’s a nice option. When you’re third-and-one, fourth-and-one, he’s a great option. We’re excited about both guys.”

**JE:** “Courtland’s got really good ball skills, so he’ll be good down inside. Any time you get those big targets down inside the red zone, they’re much better.”

**On the high number of carries Freeman had in college**

**JE:** “What it shows to us is he’s durable. He played a lot so therefore he can take that. At the end of his career who know how much that will shorten it, but it wasn’t a concern when we took him that there was too much tread.”

**On the team’s draft picks not knowing Denver was interested in them**

**JE:** “Well yeah, I have to hide everything from you (laughs). If I let too many things out... I have to play hide-and-go-seek with you guys all the time when it comes down to who we’re going to pick. I’ve got to try and keep it quiet. The thing is like I said yesterday, our scouts have done a tremendous job. Courtland, as well as Royce and Isaac, they’re really, really good people. They’re really positive people. When you get that kind of feedback on them, you don’t have to do a whole lot of homework and visit with them too many times when you know that the background is there.”

**On if Freeman reminds them of former RB C.J. Anderson**

**JE:** “Yeah, he’s got the same type of size. Royce has got a lot better speed, he’s a 4.5 [40-yard dash time] guy. He’s got breakaway speed and has that ability. The experience that he’s had, he’s really got a good feel between the tackles. He’s a guy that if we can get him on the safeties, he has a chance to break it.”

**On drafting players that can contribute immediately**

**JE:** “I think that with the experience, with Sutton and the size that he’s got, as well as Royce, that’s what you hope for in the first three rounds, guys that can come in and help you right away. Hopefully we’ve got those guys. We’ll see how they adjust when they get here, but we have high expectations for them.”

**On their experiences with Yiadom in the Senior Bowl**

**VJ:** “Isaac was a guy that got better every day. He certainly fits our profile at corner. We want long corners with long speed because we’re a press team. He got better and better every day, he’s a smart guy and he’s going to be great on special teams for us as a tough tackler. He definitely fits our bill at cornerback.”

**On if Yiadom will compete for the No. 3 corner spot**

**VJ:** “Again, it’s open competition. We’ve got [CB] Chris Harris [Jr.] who is a proven player. Outside of that, we’ve got [Bradley] Roby who we’re hoping will take the next step to be a No. 2 guy, but that’s open also. At every position, it’s going to be open competition.”

**JE:** “The more competition we get the better.”

**On Sutton's passion for the game**

**JE:** "Again, the scouting report and the character we got back on him was tremendous coming out of SMU. We had the chance to meet with him in Indy for the 15 minutes. He came across as a kid who wants to be a great football player. He wants to be great and loves the game of football. He's physical, he's tough and he's got the tools. It's just a matter of coaching him. That's what's exciting about him, how high his ceiling is."