



## **DENVER BRONCOS QUOTES**

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### **DENVER BRONCOS 2018 NFL DRAFT PRESS CONFERENCE QUOTES (4/28/18)** **WR COURTLAND SUTTON, RB ROYCE FREEMAN & CB ISAAC YIADOM**

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#### **Quick links for easy navigation:**

[WR Courtland Sutton](#)

[RB Royce Freeman](#)

[CB Isaac Yiadom](#)

#### **OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR BILL MUSGRAVE**

##### **Opening Statement**

"I've got a couple of our draft picks, a couple of offensive guys to introduce. Joe Woods will introduce our defensive [picks]. Number one we've got Courtland Sutton, wide receiver from SMU. We also have running back Royce Freeman from Oregon. Courtland was the guy we targeted, I think [President of Football Operations/General Manager] John [Elway] mentioned last night, had first round grades on him. He's had a tremendous career, both of these men [are], as you'll see here real soon. Terrific people, outstanding football players. Courtland, very productive, he's a big target as you'll see. Great ball skills, we interviewed him there in Indianapolis. Glad to have him on the team. He's tough to be tackled. We're glad to have Courtland. The second fellow that'll come up to you is Royce Freeman. More eye-popping production just like Courtland, played a number of games. Has proved to be like Courtland, very durable, very productive, resilient. Both of these are team oriented people. We're excited to have them exhibit their Bronco traits that they've exhibited thus far in their careers. I'm glad that they're Denver Broncos."

#### **WIDE RECEIVER COURTLAND SUTTON**

##### **On being drafted early in the second round**

"After day one, I was sitting with my family. I was able to enjoy the moment together with them. I wasn't too worried about where I went. I knew that where ever I ended up going it was going to be the best situation for me. Me being a man of my faith, my mom, my dad and my grandparents were all sitting in there telling me to keep my head up and that where ever I end up going it was going to be the best place for me and the best fit for me, and obviously that what it was. I fell to the best spot possible. For me to be able to come in be able to come to an organization that mirrors the same qualities and traits that I hold myself t,. I wasn't too worried about the whole 'going in the first round.' I knew that I was going to go for the best spot for me and being a Bronco is the best thing for me, and looking forward, I'm excited to be a Bronco."

### **On his relationship with Wide Receiver Emmanuel Sanders**

“While I was at SMU, I wanted to understand how he was able to be as productive as he was at SMU. I reached out to him a few times through twitter DMs just to see what did he do to elevate his game, to get that national attention. Coming from a smaller school it’s really hard to get that national attention that a lot of the guys who go to the Power 5 schools get. I wanted to ask him ‘What did you do to put yourself on the map besides showing up day in and day out at work? What were you doing?’ And basically, he was doing what I thought he did. He showed up every day. It didn’t matter if the lights weren’t on, the times where people weren’t at the facility, he was there working on his craft so that whenever the cameras were on, the lights were on and it was game time, he was able to show his traits. That’s one thing that I wanted to make sure I was doing when nobody was there at the facility and nobody was watching. That’s when I was up there working, making sure I was getting my job done, so that way whenever the lights were on and the cameras were on, I was able to put my best foot forward. I was able to do that. That’s the same thing I’m going to do here. I’m going to come in, I’m going to find out what [WR] E-Man [Emmanuel Sanders] does, what [WR] Demaryius [Thomas] does. What do they do to make them all-pro and to make them dominant people at their position? I’m going to follow them and figure out what it is that’s going to get me to that level so I can be able to perform day in and day out at a very high level.”

### **On his leadership background on and off the field**

“Just after being able to talk to the whole organization at the Combine, I think they sensed that’s the type of guy I was and I’m pretty sure I put that out there that that’s the guy that they’re going to get. If they take me it’s going to be a guy that comes in and he’s going to work not only on the field, but off the field. He’s going to make himself the best version of his self as possible and that’s what I do day in and day out. I’m making myself the best version of myself as I possibly can. Whether that’s studying the playbook, so that when I get on the field I’m ready to do that. Or if it’s doing stuff in the community so that the community understands that the Broncos love their community and that we love our fans just the same way that they love us. Whatever it is, I’m pretty sure that they sensed that that’s the type of guy they were going to get when they drafted me and I’m pretty sure that I put that forward. That’s thing that I want to make sure that I’m continuing to do and continue to put out there that that’s the guy they’re going to continue to get from here and years on.”

### **On whether he thinks he is a younger version of Demaryius Thomas**

“I will say that I’m definitely willing to learn from Demaryius [Thomas]. He’s been playing this game at a very high level for a very long time. To be able to learn from him, it’s going to be a blessing and an honor for me to be able to learn from him. I will say that we might have some of the same qualities. He plays the game at a very, very high level, all-pro level, and that’s the level that I want to get to. I’ve already started picking his brain. He reached out to me last night and I think I might be annoying him a little bit just from trying to pick his brain of ‘When are going to be able to get on the field and start working?’ I just want to start picking his brain. I want to start learning. ‘How did you get to the point that you’re at? How are you maintaining that and how are you elevating that to continue to be great?’ I think we do have some of the similar traits to play this position, but I’m still trying to get some of those little traits that make him the great player that he is. I’m trying to get those added to my game. I was sending text messages, just asking questions. ‘What makes you, you?’ I’m going to continue to do it once I get into the same locker room as him.”

### **On his experience playing basketball at SMU**

“I was always told that a lot of the sports that I play kind of went together within themselves. I played basketball, baseball and football growing up. Baseball helped me with depth perception and being able to see where the ball is going to be when the quarterback throws it. It is a unique trait to be able have after you have played in there. With basketball, being able to be a dominant rebounder you have to know how to box out guys. You have to know how to high point the ball at the highest point or you won’t get any rebounds. I think adding those to my traits of being a dominant, big body receiver is something that I have been able to do and continue to do. Being able to play basketball that one year that I was at SMU was very helpful. Coach Larry Brown helped me understand the importance of bodying people, being able to box out guys that are 6-10, trying to get rebounds over them. It really helped me whenever I got in games, I was boxing out guys that were like 5-9, 5-10. It was lot easier to be able to do. I think all of those traits definitely go together, blends together, and makes me the football player I am right now.”

### **On where he envisions himself playing in the offense**

“Honestly, anywhere on the field. If it is on the outside, the inside, special teams, wherever it is, I feel like I have a very unique talent tree. I am willing and ready to go and put it on the field wherever it is. I always felt like I had a unique set of talents. Wherever it is,

outside or inside, if I have to motion out of the back field, if I have to block off the edge and give the illusion as a two tight end set when it is really only a one tight end set and I am blocking off on a linebacker, that is what I am going to do. Whatever I have to do to get on the field and help the team be successful, that is what I am going to do. That is one thing I did at SMU. I was able to incorporate that. I am pretty sure that coach [Head Coach Vance Joseph] saw that. Hopefully he is able to use me in the same way I was able to be used at SMU and use that here in this organization.”

#### **On what he knows about fellow draft pick wide receiver DaeSean Hamilton**

“I actually trained in the same place where DaeSean trained at. I got to watch him just work. DaeSean is a guy that can play the position very well. He has unique talent trait when it comes to playing the wide receiver position. He and I are going to be able to come in and learn. I think he is more so like ‘E-man’ (Sanders). I am more like Demaryius. We are going to be able to take from them what they oat a high level and add that to our games so that whenever they need a break or whatever the situation is on the field, we can come on the field and there won’t be any drop off at all. It is going to be the same talent level on the field whatever it is. I think he has a very unique set of talents and I think he is going to come in and produce at a very high level.”

#### **On being recruited by the University of Colorado Boulder**

“I was very close to coming to CU. When I visited up here, I loved CU. Denver was beautiful. Boulder is beautiful. My mom and I had a really good time. Things did not work out like we wanted them to. I wound up with SMU and it ended up being the best decision I made in my young career and making that decision. CU was beautiful. Boulder was beautiful. I am glad I got the opportunity to be in Colorado again and play for these amazing fans we have here in Denver.”

## **RUNNING BACK ROYCE FREEMAN**

#### **On if he thought getting drafted by Denver was a possibility**

“I think everybody at the position kind of goes through the teams just wondering who needs who and what certain position. With the draft, you can never tell when you are going to go. You can never tell what team is going to pick you up. You just hope that throughout the process leading up to the draft that you left an impression on the coaches and that they see that you fit well in to their organization. I am very appreciative to be here.”

#### **On who he has modeled his running game from**

“Growing up, I really try to take running styles from everybody. I feel like as a back, if you can take intangibles from all of the backs around the league, the highest level the NFL is, it will make be a better player. I honestly couldn’t model after one in particular. I watched highlights growing up and doing all of that. I feel like I have watched them all. They are the best.”

#### **On seeking contact from the defense**

“I feel like durability for a running back is very important especially when you get to this level. You want to be on the field making an impact for your team as a much as you can. The violent tenacity out there, my recent running backs coach [former Oregon Ducks running back coach/current Florida State running backs coach Donte’] Pimpleton always emphasized that we needed to go inflict pain on the defender especially as a bigger back. They are going to try to come at you, come at you low and come at you different in different directions and all kinds of ways. I feel like if I take it to them and put that on film, the team prior to playing us watches the film is going to think twice once in the game.”

#### **On convincing NFL teams that his heavy workload in college should not be a concern**

“I feel like I just contributed to my productivity. I feel like all of that durability and all of those carries just reflected my productivity throughout my four years at Oregon. It is not often you get backs playing as many games or taking as many carries. I feel like the fact that I was able to do so proves I am a durable running back.”

#### **On coming in to compete for a starting job**

“I am definitely coming in trying to compete. That is definitely a big factor. We have a great running back room. We have depth. I feel like all of us are going to make each other better. To contribute is definitely my No. 1 goal however it may be, special teams, however the coaches want me to come in and just be impactful for this team.”

#### **On his decision to return to Oregon for his senior season**

“I feel like that was one of the best decisions in my life to be honest. It was a tough decision but I feel that I took the time with my family and talked over with the new coaching staff with why I needed to come back and why I feel it would benefit me. I felt it greatly did. I felt like my play kind of altered my mindset and I saw football from different angles. I got the chance to be coached by different coaches that saw different things. I feel like I benefit from that a lot.”

#### **On makes the difference between winning and losing to him**

“I feel like it does not start when the season starts. It starts way before. I feel that older guys need to go in and help the younger guys. I feel especially here, that can happen. The work ethic that you put in is going to reflect during the season.”

### **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR JOE WOODS**

#### **Opening Statement**

“It’s another exciting day for the Denver Broncos. Isaac Yiadom was a guy that we were very familiar with from the time we spent down at the Senior Bowl. He’s a guy that fits our profile and what we look for at corner. He has size and length, he can run, he’s very smart and he’s a physical player. We like to play a lot of man coverage and he excels at playing press and making plays down field. It was an easy pick for us. To give you guys some inside information that helped us make this pick, when we were down at the Senior Bowl, it got a little sideways. The kid from LSU was giving us face. We go to the sideline and say, ‘We’ve got to do something. Let’s put Isaac on him.’ So we flipped him over, he didn’t bat an eye and he did a great job at the line of scrimmage and broke up the pass. Later on in the game, we had a couple guys get banged up at the safety position. We’re over there talking to the group of guys and we say, ‘Hey, guys. We need somebody to take a few snaps at safety.’ He was the first one to say, ‘Coach, I’ll do it.’ So we put him out there and he made a great play in the post, a great tackle coming out of the post. He is a great young man that does the right things on and off the football field. He competes and won’t back down or back away from any challenge. So with that being said, I would like to introduce Isaac Yiadom.”

### **CORNERBACK ISAAC YIADOM**

#### **Opening Statement**

“Thank you, Coach. I’d obviously like to start off by saying that I’m excited to be a part of the Denver Broncos family. It’s a first-class organization with a winning tradition and I’m a part of something special. I would like to thank the Bowlen Family, [Head Coach Vance Joseph] and [Executive Vice President of Football Operations/GM John] Elway for giving this great opportunity to be a part of something so special. I’m going to get a chance to be coached by some of the best defensive coaches in the NFL in [Defensive Backs Coach Marcus Robertson], [Defensive Coordinator Joe Woods], Coach Greg [Williams]. I’m just excited. I played with [S] Justin [Simmons] in college so I’m excited to learn stuff from Justin and guys like [CB] Chris [Harris Jr.], [CB Bradley] Roby, [OLB] Von [Miller] and so on. I’m just ready to compete.”

#### **On what he learned from the Broncos coaches at the Senior Bowl**

“I learned a lot from them, just simple stuff. The first day Coach Joseph was like, ‘You’re stance is too wide, let’s tighten it up a little bit.’ That helped me throughout the whole entire week, just making plays on the ball and making sure once I’m in phase that I’m turning back and finding the ball. Stuff like that, I learned a lot from them.”

#### **On playing with Simmons in college**

“In our locker room, Justin is really highly praised and honored. We hear about it all the time if we do something bad at practice because Justin set such a high standard that we have to hold up to. We always say that Justin set the bar up here for us, and after that it was John Johnson with the Rams now, and it’s me, [former Boston College DB] Kamrin [Moore] and Gabe (former Boston

College DB Gabriel McClary) right now and so on. Every single year we know that we have such a high expectation at B.C. because of Justin that we all have to fulfill. We all stay in touch with Justin every day and he still talks to us. It's something that keeps us going."

**On how his relationship with Simmons will help him in the NFL**

"I think it's going to help me a lot. Justin is like my big brother. When I first went to college, he's the one that hosted me on my official visit and here, I know if I have any questions I can ask the coaches or Justin. He'll help me on and off the field. I know he's got high expectations for me, so I could never let myself go underneath the bar because I know he's looking at me and everybody else."

**On how Justin and him continue to talk**

"It's simple stuff sometimes, like asking him about football and stuff. He's in our DB group chat back at B.C., so he don't text much in it, but he'll 'favorite' something or 'love' something really quick. I just talk to him about stuff like football and faith. He's the guy I go to all the time, we talk a lot."

**On where he sees himself fitting in the defensive backfield**

"I'm coming in to play corner of course and try and compete and help the team win a championship. I'm coming in here to play special teams, that's part of my game I take pride in. That's one thing I know will be the first thing I do when I get here—I'm going to know every single special teams play in and out and I'm going to contribute. I'm going to make sure I'm starting on every single phase in special teams."

**On Simmons' reaction to him being drafted**

"He was hyped. He texted me and he gave a couple of the other guys like Chris [Harris Jr.] and Von [Miller] my number. They texted me too to welcome me to the family. Justin put out a post and stuff like that. Yeah, he was happy and I was excited, too. Everyone was happy that we both are going to get together, and they know that it's going to be something special."

**On if he believes the 'No Fly Zone' still exists**

"It always exists. It's always going to continue to exist. I'm coming in here to compete. They've got a group of young guys right now in the secondary and I just don't see that going away anytime soon. I like that hashtag a lot and I'm going to take pride in it."