



DENVER BRONCOS QUOTES

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DENVER BRONCOS ROOKIE ORIENTATION QUOTES (5/12/18)

TIGHT END JAKE BUTT

On how it feels to be back out on the field

"It feels great. I've missed the game for sure. I'm happy to be out here working this weekend with the rookies. It's another opportunity to play football, and when you've been away from it for so long you really can't take these opportunities for granted."

On his health status

"I think this is probably the best I've felt in my career getting a whole year under my belt with professional strength coaches. Focus on my strength, speed, mobility and all that good stuff. I'm pretty confident saying that this is the best I've ever felt in my career."

On taking his rookie season off to heal

"Selfishly, being a competitor, I wanted to be out on the field. But I think it's going to pay off for me to really get back to being 100% before I go back out there. I'm thankful for that."

On if he has bulked up in the weight room

"Yeah, I'm up by about eight pounds right now. I'm feeling good."

On his role in the offense

"That's what we're trying to figure out right now. That's why we're out here competing. I'm trying to prove myself to the coaches, to my teammates and [QB] Case [Keenum]. I think that it's going to fall into place more once the fall comes. Right now I'm just working to be the best player I can be."

On how difficult it was to sit out last year

"Emotionally, the hardest part was that I'm so used to being a part of a team and being out there practicing. It hurt a little bit when everyone was out practicing, but I was going to the weight room to lift. It hurts when everyone's watching themselves on film and I'm watching back from afar. I think that the emotional aspect is really the hardest part, but it made me find a new appreciation for this game."

On if he thinks he can be the team's No. 1 tight end

"You have to have that kind of confidence, and I think we all do in the tight end room. You've got to have a confidence to play in this league. That's my goal, that's everyone else's goal, and that's what's going to make us better. That we're all going to be competing for that No. 1 spot."

On how his injury has helped him

“At the end of the day, you've got to do your job. Last year, from a mental aspect it was nice because I got to see how the game is played. I got to learn what it's like to be a pro. I got to see how different this game is from college football and I'll get to apply some of the things I learned last year to this year.”

On rookie TE Troy Fumagalli

“He's a great kid. Another Big Ten [Conference] guy to add to the room. We're full of Big Ten guys right now, so he's going to fit in great. I played against him in college and I know he's a hell of a football player. We're excited for him.”

On QB Chad Kelly

“He can rip that thing. You definitely have to wear gloves because he'll be spinning that bad boy pretty tough. He's learning the offense, he's taking leadership and he's doing a great job.”

On if the rookies were struggling with the altitude

“Yeah, I saw a couple of guys like, 'This altitude is the real deal.' I was like, 'Yeah dude, it's going to take some time to get used to it.' They're struggling a little bit, but they'll be alright.”

On what Offensive Coordinator Bill Musgrave expects from the tight ends

“There are just expectations of how he wants us to play the game. That goes for every single position. He wants us to be finishers. He wants us to understand the game and the offense. He wants us to work hard and play hard. As far as individually, for our group it's all going to fall into place as it plays out.”