



DENVER BRONCOS QUOTES

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

HEAD COACH VANCE JOSEPH

On seeing all the rookies out on the field for the first time

“The guys look good. It’s more of an orientation, so we took it slow. Just more individual drills and a little bit of teamwork at the end. The guys look very engaged.”

On if all rookies do team drills

“It’s a walkthrough. Everyone’s getting aligned, getting their calls and walking through their assignments. Very simple.”

On his expectations for the rookies

“First of all, half of the transition into this league is off the field. Our hope is that these guys develop some sense of being a pro in these first two days. Outside of that, it’s just picking up our basic football knowledge. They’re a month behind our veterans, starting Monday. They’re chasing our guys, so we want to get them as close as they can before they start with our guys on Monday.”

On rookie camps now as compared to in the past

“They haven’t played football since their bowl game. Bringing guys in and asking them to play full-speed football, just for a two-day evaluation makes no sense to me. We drafted these guys and it was a long evaluation process. To bring them out two weeks later to see what they can do, it’s too late. We drafted them, they’re ours. We like to bring them in and start them slow. Give them a chance to get comfortable with us and the program. Have some football and have some off the field stuff. It helps the guys to transition quicker in my opinion.”

On QB Chad Kelly’s performance this weekend

“I’ve been proud of Chad overall. He’s been here every day and he’s worked his butt off. You mentioned it, he’s changed his body. Last year he was a little tubby kid. He’s really lean now, he’s eating right, he’s working hard. He’s definitely put the work in and he’s throwing the ball really well right now, so I’m really proud of Chad. He’s obviously here as a [first-year] player. He’s been good for our new guys.”

On what Kelly and TE Jake Butt bring to this group

“They’ve been in our program for the last month. They can lead these guys on the drills. Even with [Strength and Conditioning Coach] Loren Landow stuff. It helps to have four or five veteran guys here to lead our young guys through the process this weekend.”

On anyone who stood out among the rookies

“It’s hard to say. It was more walkthrough today. But I tell you, [OLB Bradley] Chubb’s a big, explosive guy. That’s obvious. Both receivers we drafted are big athletes and have great ball skills. They’re all good workers. It’s hard to see everyone, but next week we’ll see more from those guys physically.”

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On the rookies who could be candidates to return punts

"Yeah, we've got a couple of guys. Obviously [RB Phillip] Lindsay is here to be a returner and a halfback for us. [WR] River Cracraft's been catching balls. [WR DaeSean] Hamilton has been catching balls also. That's going to be open competition for us. [WR] Isaiah [McKenzie] is still here. We'll get [WR] Jordan [Taylor] probably about mid camp. We've got about four or five candidates to be a punt returner. That's a huge job for us."

On what has stood out about this rookie class

"It's a very mature, very engaged class. Everyone's so serious. That's a good thing because it's a hard league for young guys. You bring those guys in and you hope they transition cleanly, but sometimes it doesn't happen like that. The linebacker, [LB] Josey [Jewell], he's a very serious guy. He's in the front row every meeting. The same for Chubb and [WR] Courtland [Sutton]. It's a class that we're proud of from a maturity standpoint and from a point of helping us get better as a football team. It's 18 guys and I can truly say that all 18 have a chance to help us. That's special with your draft class."

On the team's offseason theme of accountability

"That's been our offseason theme for our entire football team. We want more accountability from all of us, from coaches to players. Because the best teams win. Every team has talent, every team has good drafts and good players. But the best teams who do things right all the time, it's those teams that win. That's our message this offseason."

On OLB Jeff Holland being available as a college free agent

"We had a draftable grade on him as an outside linebacker. It was really cool to get him signed. Every free agent we signed had a draftable grade on our board. All eight guys had draftable grades. That's always cool, and that's the eighth round of the draft. We've had great success here at Denver, with guys like [CB] Chris Harris Jr. and last year with [CB Marcus] Rios, [S Dymonte] Thomas, and [S] Jamal Carter. We've had great success with eight-round drafts. Hopefully it happens again."

On QB Paxton Lynch competing as a backup

"I think Paxton has done a good job also. For Paxton and our football team it's been a weight off all of our backs to have a starting quarterback. It's a relief to have everyone's role defined from day one. For Paxton, he can relax and get better each day without worrying about a competition. [QB] Case [Keenum] has been through some ups and downs in his career. He can learn from Case on how to handle those things. It takes time to be an NFL quarterback and you would hope that with Case being here, he can sit back, relax, and not worry about being 'the guy' right now and focus on being our backup."

On rookies taking a leadership role this season

"I've told those guys, 'Come in and listen, learn, follow. But don't take any back seats when it comes to competing.' Every kid we've drafted or signed as a free agent has a chance to help us. We want them to come in and compete hard. But we also want them to understand that there are veterans here who've played at a high level. Just listen, learn, and follow, but also compete."