



## **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 OTA QUOTES (5/22/18)**

#### **HEAD COACH VANCE JOSEPH**

##### **On how the first day of OTAs went**

“Great first day. Everyone was very engaged. We’ve got nine more [OTA practices], so hopefully the intensity remains for the rest of OTAs, but it was good today.”

##### **On whether he wanted to get RB De’Angelo Henderson more work today**

“It’s his second year and he had a rough week this past week [after his car was struck by another vehicle]. He’s back, he’s healthy and he’s on the field. That’s the plan. We’ve got four or five young backs, so it’s an opportunity for everyone to show what they can do.”

##### **On QB Case Keenum running the offense today in practice**

“Good, really good. We’ve been in the huddle and doing team work for about three weeks now, so I’ve seen it. I wasn’t surprised that he would come out and do the right things. Even [QB] Paxton [Lynch] and [QB] Chad [Kelly] did a great job commanding the huddle. It was fun to play real football today, versus a defense and versus an offense. It’s been one-on-ones as far as the offense going against air, and same on defense. It was good to see football today.”

##### **On if Keenum is showing good leadership traits**

“Yes he is. This is Case’s first time having a chance to really be the guy, so he’s excited about that and I’m excited for him. His entire career he’s been a backup. He’s become a starter because of injury, most of the time, but this is his first time being the guy. It’s been fun to watch that. It’s good for our football team and it’s good for our coaches. It’s good to have a guy in place.”

##### **On if the team not picking up OLB Shane Ray’s fifth-year option has changed Ray’s mentality**

“I think he is motivated by that. [He’s] obviously disappointed that the option wasn’t picked up, but that’s business. You have to go out and earn your keep in this league. It’s a great league because you can earn it, and if you earn it you keep it. He understands that. Shane has been in a great mood. He’s worked hard in Phase 1 and Phase 2. Even today, he had a great day. I’ve been proud of Shane and how he’s handled those things because obviously he reads the papers and what you guys write about that stuff, but it doesn’t matter. He’s a pass rusher, so he controls his own destiny. If he goes and has a great year, he can make a lot more than the option. That’s my message to Shane. He’s motivated.”

##### **On RB Devontae Booker**

“Nothing’s really changed. We’ve got four or five backs competing to be the guy, so he’s got to come out and work and earn the right to be the guy. Obviously he understands that with [Panthers RB] C.J. [Anderson] gone, it’s a wide open race. He’s excited about that and he should take a step forward. He’s a good football player, but we want more from him, obviously.”

**On WR Isaiah McKenzie getting an opportunity in the slot**

"I think with [Offensive Coordinator] Billy (Musgrave's) offense, we don't really have a set slot guy. We have formations where certain guys go into the slot. I like it that way. I don't want one slot guy. We have formations where [WR] D.T. (Demaryius Thomas) is in the slot, [WR] Emmanuel [Sanders] is in the slot, [WR] Courtland [Sutton] is going to be in the slot some, so it's more by formation than personnel. Isaiah has had a good offseason. He's worked hard, he's been really engaged and he's maturing every day. I've been proud of him."

**On if he'd prefer one running back to emerge or if he prefers a committee approach**

"Someone's got to be the starter, but I think to have a great running game, you have to have two or three guys. I think [it's] also [important] having a third-down back, a guy who can be great in protections, catch the ball out of the backfield and beat linebackers one-on-one. So I think it's a combination of both. You want a guy to say, "Hey, it's my role," but also in the same breath, you want a combination of guys that help you win."

**On if OL Menelik Watson will continue to play guard into the season**

"We'll see. OTAs, especially with the O-Line, are to allow guys to kind of play different positions. We want guys to play left guard and right guard. We want guys to play tackle and guard. He's played tackle his entire career, so we're going to see how he plays guard. It just makes us better and makes him a better player. It helps us win. We'll see."

**On if his coaching style has evolved in his second offseason**

"Absolutely. I think if you don't do that, it's a disservice to your football team. I think every year we're trying to do something different to make us better. This year we're going to incorporate a situational period in practice so we can be a smart football team—just doing things different. Adding more reps so we can have even reps with the firsts, seconds and thirds. I think you have to each year get better, and find ways to get better and make your football team a lot better."

**On injured players who did not participate**

"We had [WR] Jordan Taylor obviously with his hips. He'll be back probably mid-camp. We had [OL] Jared Veldheer, he's got the foot injury. He was on IR last year with a broken foot in Arizona, so we're just being smart there. It's OTAs obviously, and we want to be smart and get him totally healthy before he plays again. [TE Troy] Fumagalli had a sports hernia. He had surgery, I think, after the Senior Bowl. So again, just being smart. He's not really cleared to play yet, so we're being smart there. [OL] Ron Leary has got some knee soreness, we're being smart again there. [DL] Clinton McDonald had a procedure about two months ago. Again we're being smart there. Our goal is to get out of OTAs healthy. We want every guy that we came in with healthy, and to go to training camp with a full roster of healthy players."

**On RB De'Angelo Henderson saying that Musgrave's offense is player-friendly**

"We'll see. Ask me after the Seattle game (laughing). That's a great question. That's the way (Henderson) sees it, but what we did last year was also player-friendly. I stress to our coordinators that it's players first and schemes second. That thought hasn't changed here. That's awesome if he feels better about what Billy is doing. Billy is here now, so good for him."

**On how much Lynch can learn from Keenum**

"He can learn an awful lot. Case has played a lot of football. Case has also had spots in his career where it was tough, so that's a good example for Paxton to be around and see, that if you just keep grinding and keep playing, and keep surviving and playing, that you have a chance one day to have your own huddle. I think it's a great, great example for Paxton Lynch as a young quarterback."

**On evaluating QB Nick Stevens**

"He's been here about three days total, but obviously a local kid who had a great career at CSU. I watched him last year put up some records down there. He's a great kid and we're happy to have him."

**On what he wants to see out of TE Jake Butt**

"I want to see Jake just play football. Jake's healthy, and again, I've seen these guys play the last month and a half, so I'm not surprised that Jake's flying around the field. I want to see Jake obviously play football, to get better as a blocker and just to be an NFL tight end for us."