



DENVER BRONCOS QUOTES

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NOSE TACKLE DOMATA PEKO SR.

On going into the season on a contract year

"I try to treat every season the same. Just go out there and do my thing. There are a lot of incentives [to perform well] when you are in a contract year they say. This is the last year of my deal, but I can't wait to go out there. It feels really good to be out there right now on the second day of OTAs, putting the helmet back on and strapping up. There is nothing like it. I was telling some guys today it feels really good to be back out there playing football and not just lifting weights. You get tired of that stuff. To be able to put hands on people again, it feels good. I was telling Coach [Vance Joseph] jokingly that in American years I'm 33, but in Samoan years I'm 23. I think I've got a lot more to go. I still have more in the tank and I feel really good. I'm excited for this being a contract year."

On the NFL anthem policy

"I heard a little bit about it. For me, I always stand for the anthem. I respect the U.S. I respect our country. I respect the men and women that have fought for us. The anthem for me is also a big deal. I like to really zone in and get ready for the game. It's a good, nice, long song there where you can really get ready. I really respect it. I'm definitely going to be standing for our country. I heard a little bit about the rule changes where I think you can stay inside if you want to kneel or whatever. You can just wait inside, but I respect the guys that want to stand up or stay inside for their rights. I kind of feel both ways about it on that one. I respect both sides of that."

On whether he thinks the NFL anthem policy will make it into a bigger deal

"I think it's going to be as big of a deal as people make it out to be. For me, I know what I like to stand for is the country and for everyone that has served. Everyone is different. That is what is great about America, great about the U.S. People come from all over the world to live the dream and to come out here. I'm American Samoan. I'm from American Samoa. I thank God that I am a U.S. citizen and I came out here. I'm living the American dream. I came out here and I was able to go to school, get my scholarship, play one of the best games in the world and make some money. Everyone has their own stance on it, but I think it is just going to be as big of a problem as people make it."

On the new lowering the helmet rule

"I feel like it's pretty crazy, especially for us up front. We are always using our helmets to kind of bull-rush people and stuff like that. I think it goes from when you are little. You just have to learn that technique to keep your heads up, [especially] after seeing what happened to [Pittsburgh LB Ryan] Shazier last year. You really have to have a great tackling technique where you keep your head up and try not to spear people and stuff like that. I think it's good for the safety of the game. I think there will be more penalties now because a lot of us as d-linemen, that's what we're taught to do—put our head into people's chest and then lock out when we're bull-rushing. It's going to be a little different, so we'll see. But that is how the game has been throughout the years. You have to make adjustments just like the target area for the quarterback. There is a target now. You have to learn how to adjust and adapt to the rule changes."

On his early impressions of OLB Bradley Chubb and the rookie class

"I really like Chubb. Just seeing him on the first day, he reminds me of Von a lot. He's quick, he's strong and he can get to the passer. He's disruptive and he's willing to learn. He's always talking to Von and asking, 'Hey, what can I do?' That's good to see out of a rookie. I also like the linebacker we've picked up, that Jowell dude (ILB Josey Jewell), the guy from Iowa. He's been looking really good also. Then we've got that big wide receiver from SMU (Courtland Sutton) I believe. He had a good catch yesterday. He 'Moss'd' somebody I think (laughing). I'm exciting just seeing him in two days. I was telling some guys that, man, these guys are going to make a difference for us. They're only going to help our team. I love our new guys. Excited to see what they can bring to the table and help us win games."

On when he learns the rookies' names

"Once you make the team, that's how I feel about it (laughing). Right now, like coaches say, I call them by their number. Like '55.' Until you make the team and make that 53-man roster, than I'll learn your first and second name. Until then, I just try and call them by their number. That's just a rookie thing. You've got to earn the respect of the veterans. These rookies, like [DE Derek] Wolfe said, are really hungry to learn and really hungry to win. I'm excited to have them a part of the team."

On his consecutive games played streak ending last season

"It was just something cool to have. I'm starting a new one now. That was really cool to have I think 120-something games in a row as a nose guard in the NFL. That's tough to do. I really give God all the glory and thanks for that. It's just unfortunate that it had to come to an end. I'm really looking forward to the season and just keeping our run-game really stout. We made some strides stopping the run last year. A big props to all of my teammates, all of our d-linemen. We play the run really stingy. We try to be really tough in the trenches. That is what I love to do. I like to eat up running backs, take up double teams and just have fun out there. It's so much fun in the trenches for me."

On the Broncos not adding another interior run defender

"That just shows that the team has a lot of confidence in me and also in [NT] Kyle [Peko], [DE] Shelby [Harris], [DE] Adam [Gotsis] and our d-line. Even [Defensive Line] Coach Bill [Kollar] was saying, 'All the rookies come with me.' Than he goes, 'We don't have any rookies.' It just shows that the front office has a lot of faith in us. I take that as a compliment, but I'm also really excited to go out there, continue to play well and play at a high level for my team and for our city."