



DENVER BRONCOS QUOTES

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DEFENSIVE END DEREK WOLFE

On the status of his previous neck injury

“What neck (injury)? I don’t even know what you’re talking about. I don’t remember that (laughing). No, I feel great. It’s one of those things that needed to be fixed for a long time. I was really just putting Band-Aids on it for the last probably four years. Got the surgery, got it cleaned up. It’s all healed up, I feel strong again. I feel great.”

On OLB Bradley Chubb

“He’s a big kid and he can run. If he can get that speed and power going, he’s going to be a good addition.”

On how it feels to be healthy again

“That’s all you can really ask for in this league. It’s so hard to stay healthy. So, when you are healthy it’s a blessing and you want to stay healthy. I’m excited to try to put a full season together at my full potential. Not have any setbacks. Last year, it was the ankle. Then as soon as they ankle got better, the neck started up, so it’s been one thing after another. Getting those two things fixed up, it should be good.”

On if he considered not getting surgery and not continuing football

“No.”

On if he considered having his surgery done earlier

“I wanted to get it done two years ago but there wasn’t enough science on it. They hadn’t done much studies to show how many CCs of stem cells you actually put on each facet. And we didn’t really know about the frame that was blocking the nerve. We didn’t know about that yet. We had just found that out. Once we found that out, I was like, ‘Yeah, it makes sense to go in there.’ You want to avoid doing an operation at all costs, but at this point it was like, ‘We’ve got to do it.’ Having a helmet on, I was like, ‘Let’s see how it feels having a helmet on,’ but after two days, I don’t even notice it.”

On why retirement wasn’t an option

“Would you stop doing what you love just because you were a little hurt? Exactly.”

On how things will be different this season

“We made the changes as far as the football team goes, putting players where they need to be. We got a whole new special teams. Nothing against [former Special Teams Coordinator] Brock [Olivo] but we got a whole new attitude on our special teams. We got a new quarterback. Our offense has a leader now that’s going to be out there. Not that [QB] Trevor [Siemian] wasn’t a good leader. But we’ve got somebody who’s experienced in leading a football team. And you saw what kind of work he did in Minnesota. You got somebody like that over there, you got the offensive line that’s getting fixed up. It’s just about the attitude. Last year, we felt

like were going into the same old thing: defense was going to pick up a lot of the slack, this and that. Now our competition is great. It's not one-sided anymore."

On DE DeMarcus Walker

"First thing, he's put on some weight. His effort level is way above where he was. [Defensive Line Coach] Bill [Kollar] is pushing him and trying to make him better. He's trying to compete with everybody. He's not complacent. He's just trying to get better every day, and I'm proud of him."

On the new National Anthem policy

"I think that's probably the best way to do it. The NBA has been doing for 20 years and they haven't had an issue, right? I'm going to stand for the National Anthem. I think I've made that clear. Whatever anybody else wants to do, that's their decision and they have the right to their opinion. They can do whatever they want as long as they stay in the locker room, I guess. The players aren't getting fined. It's the team. Then if the team wants to fine the player then that's up to them. But me, I'll be out there on the field just like I always am."

On why the NFL had the National Anthem issue while the NBA didn't

"I don't know. I think that there's so much of a spotlight on us as football players. [In] the NBA, their faces are seen. I really don't have a good answer for you. This is a gladiator sport, and there's a bunch of savages out there playing football. There are no fouls. You're out there grinding. In the trenches, it's like a war out there every day. I don't know why they make it such a big difference. Why do they get paid so much more than we do? Why this? Why that? Who cares? All we can do is worry about ourselves and what's going on in our locker room."

On if he would be more vocal about certain subjects if NFL contracts were fully guaranteed

"This is America, we're allowed to speak our opinion. If you get fired because of your opinion, then I think you have the right to a lawsuit. That's wrongful termination, right?. I think that in America you're allowed to voice your opinion no matter what. And I do voice my opinion no matter what. I speak my mind, how I feel, and I'm truthful no matter what. I'm never just going to feed you guys [B.S] just to feed it to you."

On having OLB Von Miller in the defensive line meeting room

"I think it's good for him. I think it's good for Von to have somebody on his [butt] like that. Von's the kind of guy that's going to embrace whatever comes at him. He's not going to make a fuss about anything. He's going to keep doing him. He's practicing harder, and he's being a leader. He's doing a great job."

On the maturity of this year's draft class

"There's no complaining. That's the one thing that you notice from an immature draft class, is that they complain a lot, whine and cry a lot. There's none of that coming from this group."