



DENVER BRONCOS QUOTES

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INSIDE LINEBACKER BRANDON MARSHALL

On President Trump's comments that people that don't stand for the National Anthem should not be in the country and that the NFL owners did the right thing with the league's new policy

"Obviously that statement right there to me is—I'll say it, to me, it's disgusting. I say disgusting because of our First Amendment rights. We have freedom of speech, right? Freedom to protest? So because somebody decides to protest something, now we have to be kicked out of the country. That's not how things should work in my opinion anyway. It's not about—just because somebody disagrees with something, or if I didn't stand for the anthem or if I don't like what's going on, especially him saying that I should be kicked out of the country—we're supposed to have conversations about things, talk about things and work things through. Everybody is not going to agree on things. Everybody is not going to have the same opinion on things. Just because someone disagrees or has an issue with something that is going on in this country, doesn't mean they should pack up and leave. That is absurd in my opinion."

On the NFL's new National Anthem policy

"I don't like it, but that's my opinion. I don't like it. I understand it, though. I don't like it, but I understand it. I understand what they're trying to protect. They're trying to protect the shield. The reason that we did this in the first place was to bring awareness to police brutality. That is the reason why we took a knee. That was just a symbol. That was the symbol of what was going on taking a knee. Just like the flag is a symbol for America, right? Taking a knee was a symbol, and the work came after that. [QB] Colin [Kaepernick] has been doing work. I've been doing work. [Philadelphia S] Malcolm Jenkins, a bunch of guys have been doing work. To me, the knee wasn't the end-all, be-all. There should have been action behind the knee, and there was. I feel like it might make people want to rebel. Just like when [President] Trump what he said last year. People rebelled. And let's be clear, I know they say they'll fine the team, but players don't care about that. Players don't care about the team getting fined."

On conversations with his teammates about the NFL's National Anthem policy

"There has been a little bit. It's only been a preliminary conversation because no one has really understood it yet fully. We haven't really talked about it. I guess some were talking, 'OK, if you're going to stand or not, if you're a starter, can you stay in if they announce the starters? Are you going to stay in on the road games?' It's crazy."

On whether he has thought about what he will do personally during the National Anthem

"I really haven't. I have a lot going on personally. I haven't really given much thought to what I was going to do. I guess we'll cross that road when it comes."

On work he has done in the community to promote social justice

"I think it was really valuable. I saw progress, which is the reason why I initially stood up again back in 2016. The Denver Police changed their use of force policy—or they reviewed it. I thought that was progress. I thought that was big. I've gotten a few courage

awards for what I've done. In the future, I'm continuing to think about different things. I'll continue to talk to Colin and see where his head is at with everything. I hope he gets a job though."

On the NFLPA's statement that the union was not included in the National Anthem policy discussions

"They were never going to engage us anyway. When you really think about it, why would we have a say? I think they should have, right? But I guess they don't look at us like that to have an input or a say-so in this policy."

On whether he feels the Broncos have supported him

"Yes, absolutely. [Former Head Coach Gary] Kubiak, in 2016 when I did it, Kubiak was very supportive. He pulled me into his office and talked to me about it. My [Linebackers] Coach, Reggie Herring, was extremely supportive. He talked to me. [President and CEO] Joe Ellis has been supportive as well. Those guys have had my back. I really appreciate how Kubiak how handled me and how he handled everything. This organization has been good to me."

On if he feels like players are partners with the NFL

"I guess this is how I feel with the NBA and the NFL players relationships: There is so much turnover in the NFL. There is always a new star. There is always somebody new, right? This year was [Jacksonville RB] Leonard Fournette and [Giants WR] Odell [Beckham Jr.]. There is just somebody new coming in all the time. The NBA, you'll see a guy like Jason Terry in the league for 15 years, Vince Carter in the league for 20 years. They have the same players all the time. The same superstars. That camaraderie and that longevity is built, and so they can go and talk to those guys because those guys will be in the NBA for a long time. They'll be the face of the NBA for a long time. There is a new face of the NFL all the time. [Patriots QB] Tom Brady is the best example, but he's only one guy. I guess if you look at somebody like 'Gronk' (Patriots TE Rob Gronkowski), 'Gronk' is a dominant player, but he then gets hurt. He gets hurt, so it's like, 'OK, who is the new tight end?' It's always like that. I think we're expendable and I think everybody understands that."

On whether the nature of NFL players' job statuses makes it more difficult for them to take a stand

"Absolutely. Look, I had a couple of players—I'm not going to say names—when I was kneeling, a couple of guys came to me and said, 'Brandon, you know what? I want to do it with you, but I'm not in good standing with the team. I don't want to do that. I don't want to put my career on the line.' That is how guys feel in the NFL. The NBA could be different. The guys know they're going to be around. In the NFL, the turnover is crazy. You get cut for so many different reasons. A perfect example is one of my good friends, [S] T.J. Ward, that's my guy, Super Bowl Champion. I feel like he could have won Super Bowl MVP. Next year he plays. The next year he gets cut in training camp. He goes to Tampa, doesn't really play as much. Now he's looking for a job. That's how it goes."

On what he thinks about rookie ILBs Josey Jewell and Keishawn Bierria

"I'm starting with Jewell. I like Josey. He's a smart, smart kid. He's intense. He's a hard worker, a blue-collar worker. You see him out there going full-speed all the time. He knows what he's doing already. Obviously he's still young, so he still has some learning to do. We have one of the best linebacker coaches (Herring). He's going to get him right. Whenever he comes to me, I talk to him. I help him out because that is just my job. That is how I do it. I've done everybody like that. I did [Eagles LB] Corey [Nelson] like that. I brought [ILB] Todd [Davis] along when Todd first got here. I do it to everybody. I like Josey. I think he's going to be a good player here. He's just got to stay the course. Keishawn, he's going to be good as well. He just has to stay the course and keep working."

On how his body feels

"I feel good. I lost about six pounds so far. I'm trying to go maybe five more. I'm trying to get lighter."

On why he's trying to lose weight

"Just to be able to move more efficiently, move quicker."

On whether he is losing weight because of opposing running backs

"Everything. Tight ends—tight ends run 4.5. I just want to be able to move more efficiently. I just want to be more disciplined. I just try to be a more disciplined person in my whole life, not just what I eat, but with everything. I make my bed every morning now (laughing). I do things as a routine to become more disciplined just in life. I'm down to about 232 [pounds] from 238. I'm trying to get down to 227."

On whether he thinks Kaepernick will play again in the NFL

"I saw something on Pro Football Talk that said should him and [S] Eric Reid get a job now because this [anthem policy] is in place? I guess this will make it easier to get a job maybe. But then maybe he'll be a rebel. I don't know. You know what I'm saying? He's kind of the face of everything, right? I just don't know. I hope he does. With his collusion case, will somebody sign him? Does that impact the case if somebody does sign him? Is there no more collusion case? I don't know. I hope he gets signed because I know he can play and because I know he still wants to play. That's why I hope he gets signed."

On if he thinks players remaining in the locker room during the National Anthem will be viewed as protesting

"Before, both teams used stay in the locker room, right? Like 2009 or something like that? For the longest, we've been viewed as being on the field. You watch the games, the camera goes along the sidelines, you see everybody standing up. Instead of seeing 53 players with some coaches standing, you [could] see about 30. I don't know. It may leave a bad taste in some peoples' mouths. I know people will definitely have comments on it. I guess it won't be as bad as kneeling, but if a lot of players stay in the locker room and only like 20 players come out, 30 players come out, there could be an issue."

On if being included in the National Anthem conversation has affected his play and if he wants to be more of a linebacker than spokesperson for social causes

"I guess I've kind of shifted from that from 2015 when I was just this linebacker. 'He's good, we're going to talk to him about football.' Now it's like, 'OK, he's this.' I put myself in that position. I understand. As a grown man, I understand that. But absolutely, I think I've been able to eliminate some distractions with this. I'm doing my part in my community with my foundation. I'm actually taking my [foundation] kids to D.C. this weekend to the capitol. The kids that actually finished the program and all of the requirements for everything. I'm doing my part. I'm doing my part, and I think that's what we all can do. Everybody just do their part. It's tough for me to not be that [person] because of my past and because of my strong ties to the community and what I'm passionate about. I'm passionate about community work as well as football. I guess if God made me as just a football player, that's all we'd talk about. My passions are on the field and off the field."