



## **DENVER BRONCOS QUOTES**

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### **DENVER BRONCOS OTA QUOTES (5/29/18)**

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

##### **On today's practice**

"First day back after a long break and the guys are working hard. It was a productive day."

##### **On how OLB Bradley Chubb changes the defensive scheme**

"Schematically, he won't change our defense. He's playing the SAM linebacker position, which is obviously opposite of the WILL, so he's an outside linebacker. On sub downs, he's playing defensive end. Last year, just talking numbers, we were in base probably 35 percent of the time and in sub the rest. He's going to be an outside linebacker/defensive end on sub. So schematically, we won't change what we're doing because of one player."

##### **On the pace of practice**

"I think there's a fine line in OTAs as far as the pace. You want to keep guys healthy; we're not wearing pads. You don't want guys flying around all over the ground. That being said, you get in football shape by playing football. We want to play fast, obviously, so our pace is going to be fast, just to get in shape to play football. We're just being careful with the bodies and not getting guys injured, but yes, we want a fast pace every day to get in good football shape so we can play fast."

##### **On Broncos President and CEO Joe Ellis addressing the team over the NFL's new National Anthem policy**

"It went well. It was good that Joe can address the team with that issue. It hadn't been an issue for our football team, but the policy came out last week and he wanted to just confirm what the policy meant for the ownership and for the players. It was a great conversation—again, a conversation—and he just kind of gave some clarity to it and what it meant for us. It was great to have Joe talk to the team about that issue."

##### **On if the Broncos will have their own independent policy regarding the National Anthem**

"We don't need one. This is the beauty of having a league policy now. Last year we didn't have a policy, so you had 32 different policies. This is a good thing for our league to have one policy. It's clean. It's clean for everyone involved, so I am happy that it's a policy in place for all 32 teams, the same."

##### **On WR Demaryius Thomas**

"He wants to work. He's always in great shape. He's eating right, he's taking care of his body and the older he's gotten, the more involved he's gotten with taking care of his body. He looked great out there. Obviously, having [QB] Case [Keenum], that brings new life to a receiver. He's been in an offense where they've had two years of quarterback battles. For a receiver, they don't like that stuff. They want one guy and they want the timing to be right. He is really excited about Case, but he's always in great shape. Again, when he's healthy and he's rolling, he's hard to defend."

**On if he changed Thomas' practice regimen to avoid injury**

"I'm being smart with everyone. Obviously, we're getting reps, but it's all scheduled [for] keeping everyone healthy. That's one of our goals—to leave OTAs healthy. You don't want to lose anyone this time of the year. Absolutely, everyone is being managed appropriately."

**On if WRs Thomas and Emmanuel Sanders appreciate having rookie WRs Courtland Sutton and DaeSean Hamilton**

"Yeah, I would hope so. Having young teammates who can help you win, that's always a good thing. Having guys that can push you to become a better player, that's always a good thing also. I think those two young guys have helped the whole room just to be more competitive. That's a good deal having that much talent behind you because it forces you to always be on your 'A' game. If not, they can make you look bad in front of your peers. I think it's helped those two guys to keep pushing to get better and better each day."

**On rookie RB Royce Freeman**

"It's hard to evaluate a running back without pads, but you can see the cutting ability. You can see the vision he has when he's carrying the football. He catches the ball well, also. His evaluation won't be complete until we put pads on, but he's a very detailed player. He knows what to do, and that's half the battle with runners."

**On CBs Brendan Langley and Tramaine Brock**

"[Langley's] definitely getting better. He is such a talent. His problem won't ever be matching up physically. His problem is getting reps enough to know what to do, and to have great technique every play. Physically, he's what you want. He's tall and long with great ball skills. Obviously, with Brock, he's an experienced guy that's played a lot of football. That's why he's here; he's been a starter in this league. He's going to help us, but I've been really pleased with all of the young guys in the secondary just pushing forward and getting better every day."

**On DE DeMarcus Walker**

"DeMarcus right now, he's back to about 277-280 [pounds]. He looks good. Having him with [Defensive Line Coach] Bill [Kollar] all the time has helped him. Last year he was kind of bounced around from outside linebacker to defensive line, but having him at one position has helped him a lot. He understands what Bill wants. Bill's obviously a demanding coach, so being with Bill has helped DeMarcus play harder, and obviously being bigger is going to help him play better for us."

**On if CB Chris Harris Jr.'s role will change this season**

"It hasn't changed much for Chris. Obviously he's a great player and he played really well for us last year. When you go back and watch the entire season as a whole, he had a really good year last year. I was impressed watching him. His role won't change much, I don't think. He likes the slot. That's a huge position for us on third downs and obviously sub downs. To be a great slot player you have to be a smart player. He's got a two-way going to you every play, so you have to understand leverages and concepts. He's good at that, so he's going to be our slot player."

**On QB Paxton Lynch**

"I've been proud of Paxton. Paxton's worked hard, he's not relaxing. So you guys know, he's not relaxing (laughing). He's competing, so he's not relaxing. He's competing. He wants to be a great player. He's a young player that's getting better and better every single day. I was with [Redskins QB] Alex Smith in his third year, and it wasn't pretty. But Alex now, you'd take Alex, right? He [Lynch] just needs time to work on his craft. He's obviously a rare talent, again, 6-5 and a big arm. He's a rare talent. He just needs time to play. Once he plays, he'll be fine."

**On if Lynch has taken a step forward this offseason**

"He took a leap last year from training camp to Week 17 against the Chiefs. That game, I was impressed with how he played. From that game to now, he's taken huge strides. As he plays, obviously he's had three coordinators in three seasons. That's tough on a quarterback, like Alex Smith, same situation. Having "Billy" (Offensive Coordinator Bill Musgrave) for a year and half is going to help him be a better quarterback. Having the same system, same audibles, same concepts, that's huge for a young quarterback. I've been really impressed with how he's worked and competed, and not relaxed."

**On WRs Courtland Sutton and DaeSean Hamilton's route running skills**

"DaeSean at the Senior Bowl—he's a guy that has veteran presence as a route runner. He is a sharp route runner. He gets route running. He is definitely ahead of his time. With Courtland, he needs some work with it, but he is so physically gifted that once he gets that part, he's going to be hard to defend. Both guys are working and both guys need more work at route running, but Hamilton has a knack for running routes."

**On if the defense will look significantly different than last year**

"No, we haven't changed our scheme, but like most coaches, you kind of add more to your scheme each year to make you better in all phases. We haven't changed our foundation, but we are going to add different deals to it."

**On how much coaching is going into teaching tackling rule changes**

"I think most coaches have coached differently, probably five or six years back now. No one all of a sudden has not been teaching to not spear players. That's what we're talking about, basically using the helmet as a weapon and not protection. I think everyone's coached the game differently, for the safety of our players and the penalty aspect. That's been going on for four to five years, so with the new rule change, I think most guys will continue to coach it the right way. It's (the helmet) not a weapon, it's a protection device for the players."

**On if the rule makes it different in the trenches**

"In the trenches? I'm not sure, we'll see about that. That's definitely new for all of us to kind of get it officiated cleanly. We'll see about that. That's new and only time will tell how they get that done."

**On the kickoff rule changes**

"I think this rule is a good rule. I'm in favor of this rule because the problem with kickoffs was the space—the space and speed and big guys versus little guys. That's when guys get hurt. Now, you're kind of condensing the field by shrinking the takeoff. Without having the back wedges, now you don't need big guys, you need little guys who can block guys in speed. You can't have any wedges. The only double teams you have is from the front line, and that's in the 10- to 15-yard radius, which is going to be tough to do. It's going to go to a safer play because it's going to be manageable in the effect of having big skill on big skill. It won't be offensive linemen blocking skill players. It's going to be a speed and skill play now. It won't be a wedge, aggressive double-team play. It's going to be like a basketball play. The more skill you have, guys are evenly matched, there'll be less injury, and we're shrinking the field by having it as a stand-still takeoff. It's going to be a safer play for all of us."