



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 (5/31/18)

SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR TOM MCMAHON

On how much influence a special teams coach can have during OTAs

"I think you have a chance to have a lot of influence. On special teams you have a chance to get your culture in. The other thing is the fundamentals, believe it or not, and the wording is Spanish to these guys. It's new every single time you change coordinators. It's invaluable. Coach [Vance Joseph] gives me plenty of time. All of the coaches are involved. You'd be surprised when you look out there—[Assistant Defensive Line] Coach [Chris] Beake, [Offensive Quality Control] Coach [Chris] Kragthorpe, [Defensive Quality Control] Coach [Charles] Gordon, every single guy is helping with special teams. It's been great."

On how he is interpreting the new kickoff rules

"If you look at it from a KOR (kickoff return) perspective, so I'll start there first, there is a bunch of free space now. It's kind of scary back there because you have to have eight people up in front of the 40-yard line. You can only have three back. Now, if they formation you, you're actually going to have to bring one of those guys up. You could only have two back there. To be up front with you, I've had this experience the last four years in Indy. We had a guy named [former Colts P] Pat McAfee who was our [kickoff specialist]. Everybody feared his onside. Everybody came up from a kickoff perspective. Everybody came up and played us. We've been down that road before. KOR-wise, you have to be a double-team team now. You have no more wedges. The only way you're going to be able to handle the real big football players is to get two guys on them. There will be more doubles. You'll see that. The singles, they've got to be more athletic players. The diesels are out of the game now on KOR. It's all Ferraris right now. The big guys—it's hard on the roster on an active day now with 46 guys. You're still going to have six d-linemen up, you're still going to have seven o-linemen [up]. We're going to have to have more help from players that used to not have to help because you can't form those wedges."

"Kick cover-wise, what it's going to do is slow us down. And it's good. It's a great rule. I love it. The competition committee, the special teams coaches that went up there and fought for this, it's going to be great for the game. When you get a one-yard run up, it changes everything. [Strength and Conditioning Coach] Loren Landow is the most important guy right now on our kickoff coverage unit—by far, he and his staff. They've been working their tails off helping us how to start and take advantage of little starts like in the 40-[yard dash]. What is the best way to get an extra two tenths of a second, half of a second to get down the field."

On what will be different on special teams after reviewing last year's Broncos' special teams units

"I'm not going to go back. Don't take this the wrong way. I never will. I'm not going to go back and try and say what somebody should have done. I've made plenty of my mistakes. The things that aren't going to happen quote on quote here, number one, when we punt the football, we're going to always try and play just a small rectangle. Everybody can see the red line out there for example that is on the field right now. We're going to try and punt the ball outside of the red line on every single play. We play on a rectangle, so let's take this 53-yard rectangle and let's make it five yards that we have to cover. The best football player of all a time, a guy that we're going to use that you might not have heard the other special teams coaches use, is the 12th man. The best player in the history of the world who gets screwed every single year in the Hall of Fame is the white line. Never missed a

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tackle, so you start punting the ball outside of the red line. You have in kicking off out there another player all of the time. That red line, to answer your question, we're going to use the heck out that red line."

On how much P Marquette King plays into his punt coverage philosophy

"A ton. He's got to put it out there. He's the quarterback, and I think everybody was in seventh grade math and that was about as far as I got (laughing). But, $A^2 + B^2 = C^2$. If you really think about it, the hypotenuse of that triangle is his punt. Our gunners are running the fade now. That has got to help them. We can get them running a shorter defense. Now we should be pretty good with it. Can't put it down the middle. Put it down the middle, they're running the hypotenuse. We're all screwed."

On who the candidate are for punt returning

"No hierarchy. I want them to earn it. Naturally, [WR] Isaiah [McKenzie] and [WR] Jordan [Taylor], in my opinion, they're doing a great job right now. [RB] Royce Freeman is back there. We're using them all. [RB] David Williams is back there. [WR DaeSean] Hamilton is back there. [RB] Phillips [Lindsay] is back there. If you watch us after practice, we have seven punt returners back there that are rookies. I don't know who that guy is. I learned my lesson a long time ago with trying to think this is going to be the guy and not the guy. A year ago, [Colts WR] Chester Rogers popped out for us in Indy. Nobody thought he could do it. We've got great talent here. We're going to have a great returner, whoever it is. And they'll develop."

On whether he cares more that punt returners catch the ball or gain yards

"I care, number one, you can't return it until you what? You catch it. The most important thing for us is you'll hear us all of the time if you're out here on the practice field. You'll hear these guys catch the ball and they'll go, 'Words!' 'Blank!' All they're doing is on a football, there are numerals here or numbers. If they see numbers, words. If they see blank, it's blank. Because you catch a football with your what? With your eyes. Now, you've got to have some studs. You have to feed the stud. In order to feed it, he's got to catch it. We have to have guys that make plays for us. We want to be a half-court offense. We owe it to our offense to get them a first down before they come out."