



DENVER BRONCOS QUOTES

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DENVER BRONCOS OTA QUOTES (5/31/18)

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR JOE WOODS

On wanting players to wear Broncos gear in meetings

"I think it's always important because you just want the guys to do the right things. I'm very transparent with them. We want them to be in Broncos gear when they're in the meetings—be on time. It's just doing all of the little things right because if you do the little things right now, you'll do them right on the practice field and on the game field."

On having former OLB DeMarcus Ware helping out during the past two OTAs

"It's fun to see him. I saw him coming around the corner and I asked him if he could still play. But right now, I just think having a veteran player that's played at such a high level for such a long time just to mentor some of our younger players and also to continue that relationship that he's had with [OLB] Von [Miller] has been really good this week. We just look forward to having him for the rest of the offseason."

On what he learned during his first year as defensive coordinator

"Pressure (laughter) No, I think the— going through it the first year, you just experience different things. For me, I had to learn how to gameplan different. I was used to game-planning as a DB coach. But now I have to oversee everything: Run defense, pass defense, putting stunts together, pressures together. It was a process going through that. Right now, I have a comfort level. I have a great coaching staff. They help me, they're tremendous. But right now, my comfort level, I feel better. I'm not as worried. Because when you have older veteran coaches, sometimes you feel like you're going to step on their toes. But right now, I just feel better about it. I feel more at ease. I just feel more comfortable."

On how OLB Bradley Chubb is transitioning into the defense

"He is a great young man. He's very—obviously he's big. He's strong and he's athletic. He can run and he is extremely smart. I'm not surprised about it, but he has picked up this defense extremely fast, and he has versatility. Right now, we're playing with the SAM linebacker position. But our outside linebackers are interchangeable. He can play some defensive end for us as well. It's going really well so far."

On how the defense will change from last season

"Last year we added some things to help what we thought would help make the defense better. But it was kind of level one. Now we're on to level two. There's some more things we're going to add with the defense. We actually had a little plan in mind if we were to get Bradley Chubb, so it worked out. There are some different things we're going to do with our front to take advantage of him and Von and all of our pass rushers."

On fixing defensive backfield miscommunications

“Guys working together. From the first year to the second year, in the offseason we meet, we go through our self-scout. We iron out all those issues. That is what we spend time on during phase one and phase two, cleaning up those issues. But it’s just another year together with that group.”

On CB Bradley Roby’s leadership style

“Quiet. He’s a guy that keeps to himself. But he was a starter for us. Most of the time you play sub-defense 60 percent of the time during the game. To me, he was always a starter. I think it will be easy for him to make that transition. Just to be a full-time starter in base and sub. He’s a quiet person, he keeps to himself. But so far, I feel like he’s doing a pretty good job.”

On his excitement when Chubb was drafted

“I almost passed out when Cleveland took the DB (Denzel Ward). I was very appreciative of that. We had talked about this because of where we picked and with the quarterback situation. There was a possibility he could come to us. We just talked and went through a couple of different ideas of things we that could do if we got him and where we would play him. Dreams do come true.”

On having outside linebackers working with Defensive Line Coach Bill Kollar

“This is how we’re doing it. Last year, we had an outside linebacker coach and a D-line coach. But when we go to our sub-defense, which we’re in majority of the time, they work together. What we’re doing is when we’re doing everything with our dime personnel or our dime front, they’re all in the same room. Actually, the things we’re doing stunt wise, all the pressures, now all those guys are hearing all that teaching together. Then once we get that, then we move on and we separate and we go to outside linebackers. Then they specifically focus on outside linebacker play. So, really I feel like it’s better the way we’re doing it now.”

On getting more creative with blitzes on the defense

“I feel like we got creative last year. The problem is you have to make sure when you do things to be creative, obviously to move Von around, sometimes it creates issues. Because if they say, ‘If he’s always over there, we know he’s coming.’ The thing I want to do this year is we’ve added some more pressures. We’ve added some different packages. But I just want to create more bounce. So, they can’t always say ‘He’s over here, he’s always coming.’ Sometimes he’s coming, sometimes he may not be coming. And then now they’ll have to be able all of our rushers. Him, Chubb, [OLB] Shane Ray, and [OLB] Shaq [Barrett].”

On the progress DE DeMarcus Walker has made

“He’s improving. Last year, he was a versatile player for us. We feel like he could play outside linebacker and a defensive line position. With the injuries we moved him to outside linebacker. Right now, we said ‘Hey, you’re a defensive lineman’ So, he’s put the weight on. This morning I got on the scale with him or watched him get on the scale, he was up to 278, and he’s really making some tremendous improvements.”

On what weight he’d prefer Walker at

“As long as, to me if he’s in the 270s or 280s, that’s good enough for us to play the defensive end position and to play as an inside rusher.”

On S Su’a Cravens’ versatility

“He’s a unique player. You can see he natural instincts when he’s in the box. When he’s in the box, he fits the run like a linebacker. Right now, you can see that. You can see it’s easy for him. We’re just really spending a lot of time teaching him how to play off the ball. Playing the deep safety position. But I think he’s going to really help us in terms of what we’re able to do with our sub-packages. I think there’s a few things actually we can do that we couldn’t do last year.”

On if Cravens’ skillset would be a solution to covering tight ends

“Part of it. We’re going to have to do it with safeties and with linebackers at times. But he’s definitely a big part of it.”

On Chubb having an effect on Shane Ray's playing time

"It's a great problem to have. You've got four great rushers right now. We're developing some young guys. To us, we want to send waves of bodies at people. If it's 30-35 plays and their splitting the reps. but they're going all out the whole way—first quarter, second quarter, third quarter, fourth quarter—that's great for us. It's not really going to affect the reps. I just think we could put more of them on the field at the same time."

On the depth at defensive back

"It's rare. I think we've been fortunate. Since I've been here, not only with the safety position, but with the corner position, we've had guys that are able to play outside and inside. Then in the safety position, we can play strong, free and dime. It gives us the versatility based on matchups to move guys around. It could be— let's just say it's a team and they're running the ball more. We can put Su'a down there. If it's a team and maybe they're passing more, maybe we can put [S] Justin [Simmons] down there. But we can have more on the field and say, 'Hey on this call, you guys play these positions.' It makes it easy for me."

On ILB Brandon Marshall's weight

"I think at this time some guys come in heavy, some guys come in light. They work it off or they put weight on during the off-season. Brandon Marshall, to me, is moving extremely well. I've watched him all through Phase 2 drills and so far in OTAs. To me, he's moving more like he moved in 2015. I think he's doing really well."