



## **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 (6/4/18)**

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

##### **Opening statement**

“It was a good day for us after the long weekend. The guys came out and worked, so I was really pleased.”

##### **On veteran players not practicing**

“Is it a vet rest day? No, those guys have been here all year. Not here today. It’s not mandatory so no big deal.”

##### **On OLB Shane Ray not participating today in practice and the vets that missed practice**

“Shane’s got a sore wrist, so Shane is here. He’s got a sore wrist so he didn’t work today. Not a big deal for the guys who weren’t here. I think [OLB] Von [Miller] missed today. I think [WR] ‘D.T.’ (Demaryius Thomas) had a personal matter and [WR] Emmanuel [Sanders] had a personal matter. It’s their time. We can’t take roll. I’m not concerned about it. They’ve been here all year. We’re good. We coached the guys that were here today.”

##### **On increased reps for the young wide receivers during today’s practice**

“So far so good with those two guys—‘14’ (WR Courtland Sutton) and ‘17’ (DaeSean Hamilton) are very mature football players. Obviously, those two guys (WR Demaryius Thomas and WR Emmanuel Sanders) missed. They (Sutton and Hamilton) pushed up to the first team and we didn’t miss a beat. That’s what you want. You want guys in each room who can play as a starter. I was very pleased with those two guys today.”

##### **On the young running backs**

“All three backs have been very good with their assignments, and that’s key when you’re playing halfback in the league because of the pass protection part. They’ve been good with that part and they’re all good workers. Royce [Freeman] is a guy, obviously, he’s better in pads. Most backs are better in pads, so it’s hard to tell how good they are right now without pads. As far as assignment check, it’s been excellent.”

##### **On if he’d like to see one running back emerge**

“Out of the room you mean? Not just the young [rookies]? Absolutely. This question was asked about two weeks ago and what you want from your room is obviously a lead back, but you need two or three backs to make it through an entire season. That won’t change as far as that room. You want more than one guy to be a contributor there.”

##### **On TE Jake Butt and if the expectations for him are unreasonable**

“He looks healthy, finally. We brought him back last year hoping he was going to be healthy and he wasn’t ready to play, so we put him back on the shelf. Right now, he’s totally healthy. Expectations, I haven’t heard those, so I’m not sure what that means. He’s working hard and he wants to be a great player. We haven’t played a game yet, so I don’t know what Jake is going to be, but he’s very engaged, he’s worked hard and he’s here every day. That’s all I can tell you about that.”

©2018 Denver Broncos Football Club. All rights reserved. The individual quotes cited in this document may be used for the purpose of news reporting and other fair uses as defined by Section 107 of the Copyright Act. Duplication or posting of this quote sheet, in its entirety, or any other use of this material which is not a fair use as defined by Section 107 of the Copyright Act is strictly prohibited without the prior written consent of the Denver Broncos Football Club.

**On how the young wide receivers looked in practice today**

“They looked fine. We didn’t miss a beat. That’s what you want from your backup players. Someone’s not here today and they step in and play and we don’t miss a beat. I was very impressed with those three guys including Isaiah McKenzie, who played slot today.”

**On Hamilton, CB Brendan Langley, RB Phillip Lindsay and McKenzie working at punt returner today**

“We’ve got four, and obviously [WR] Jordan Taylor when he’s back from his injury he’ll be in the back and catching punts also. Yes, it’s an open competition and the more the merrier.”

**On if Ray will be back at practice tomorrow**

“Shane’s got a little wrist going on right now, so we’re not sure. We’re taking it slow, just being smart with guys. It’s the spring. Our real goal is to get him healthy for training camp, but right now we’re being smart with Shane, and he’s not by himself.”

**On if Ray’s injury is related to the wrist injury from last year**

“Yes it is.”

**On developing players in OTAs and the role the coordinators play in that process**

“I think having a plan for each player, that’s so important, especially when it comes to developing players. System-wise, it’s got to fit all of us, but having a plan for each player, that’s important. We’ve got some young kids here that we want to see get better every day, so having drill work for those guys and having homework for those guys is so important. Our system right now, it’s really good on both sides of the ball. I’ve been impressed both coordinators and how they’ve incorporated everybody’s skill set. It’s been easy learning for both sides so it’s been fun.”

**On DeMarcus Ware helping at practice**

“He’s our pass-rush consultant. Obviously, he played with these guys. They have great respect for DeMarcus. He’s got so much knowledge when it comes to pass rush, not just for the outside guys but for the inside guys also, like [DE Derek] Wolfe and those guys. It was good to have him out here and hopefully we can get him back in a couple weeks.”

**On the new players in the secondary**

“[S] Su’a [Cravens] is obviously a natural dime player. He’s a natural close to the ball. That’s what he played in Washington and that’s what he’s played for us so far, obviously also playing some strong safety. [CB Tramaine] Brock has played really well for us. He’s battling right now with [CB Bradley] Roby for the second corner. Obviously, whoever doesn’t win that job, they’ll be the third. I’ve been impressed with both guys. Both guys have played football at a high level, so it’s good to add guys like that.”

**On WR John Diarse**

“Everyone is working and grinding trying to get better. Obviously it’s hard to make a team in OTAs, so hopefully these young guys continue to get better and learn what to do so in training camp they can compete at a fair level.”