



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 (6/5/18)

TACKLE GARETT BOLLES

On how he plans to change his physique this year

"I just had to gain a bit more weight. Just so I can anchor when I get those bull rushes and things like that. I talked with my coaches and the front office and they want me to get a little bit bigger. So, I'll probably stay around 300-305 [pounds]. That's sort of my range. I feel more comfortable there—I feel more explosive and powerful. Probably no more than about 308 is what I'm feeling. I feel confident there. My body feels good and I'm looking forward to the season."

On his weight at the end of last season

"Like 290-295. I put on a lot of muscle this offseason. I feel good. My body feels healthy. That's all that matter's right now."

On his rookie season

"There were rocky moments. Rookies have to go through certain things. I watched a lot of film trying to fix my mistakes. I'm trying to do everything I can possible to get ready. Knowing that we've got a new quarterback in, I've got to be ready to protect him. I'm excited for that and I feel really good going into Year Two. I feel a lot calmer and collected. The offense is pretty similar. The thing is just new terminology. I'm just looking forward to it and I'm excited to see what happens this season."

On reducing penalties this upcoming season

"Year One is different from Year Two. 'This is where you make your big leaps and bounds' is what everyone tells me. Just talking to [Director of Player Personnel] Matt Russell and talking to [Offensive Coordinator] Coach [Bill] Musgrave—my biggest help is [Offensive Line – Tackles] Coach [Chris] Strausser and [Offensive Line – Centers/Guards] Coach [Sean] Kugler, our offensive line coaches. Putting trust in. Last year, I just came in and I was raw. I only played offensive tackle for not too long. But now I have a season under my belt. I understand what it means to be in the NFL and hold down that left side and know where my quarterback is going to set up every single play, which is a big help. Just going out there and playing fast is the thing I'm going to focus on, which is going to help me stay focused. Also, to move my feet. We changed up our pass sets and everything like that with Coach Strausser. He did a great job with all of our tackles. Just trusting him, trusting in the process and knowing that if my feet get there before my hands I'm going to be alright."

On having two offensive line coaches

"I think it's very smart. Because you've got two different people who know about the game. They can see different things. Coach Kugler does a great job with the centers and guards. Coach Strausser does a great job with us tackles, teaching us things. but they're on the same page. I think that's the biggest thing, knowing that they both believe in what we have, our philosophy and everything like that. So, both of them believing in it is just going to help us believe in it more. Knowing that we can do everything possible to play for them and play for the guys around us."

On the difficulty of playing with multiple quarterbacks in one season

“I liked all of them. It was my job to do what I had to do—to protect them. I didn’t do a good job of that. I’ll be the first one to admit that. It wasn’t the best that I wanted to play. I was learning, I was new. Having all of that stuff on top of my head is no excuse. Like I said, they brought in Coach Strausser for a reason—to help me truly believe in everything that he needs to do. Trusting him and learning, meeting with him every single day and just going over the things that I need to do. As you guys watched me out there, I feel different. I feel a lot different, I feel more smooth. I feel that like that weight [gain] is a big thing for me too. I know that I can anchor and shoot my hands. It was a big learning curve last year, but now I can take all that and apply it into my game. There’s only uphill for me and I’m really looking forward to that.”

On T Jared Veldheer

“Jared Veldheer is a leader. He’s been in the league for eight or nine years, I believe. He’s worked with me every single day. He’s always telling me to take breaths at the line and stay calm and collected. He’s a great leader for me, learning from a guy like that and knowing that he’s been there. He’s taken thousands of snaps and [I know] that I can trust him and he can trust me, and we can work together. He’s learning out there with our new pass sets and our new offense. He’s brilliant smart. He knows everything. He brings that smartness and helps me understand everything. I’ve just got to continue to trust him and know that he’s going to help me continue to craft my game.”

On QB Case Keenum taking control of the huddle

“Oh absolutely, I’m grateful we have Case here. I think he brings a demeanor here. That season he had in Minnesota was not a fluke thing. It was 100 percent who he is. A man that has been benched and moved around multiple times and still fought his way to the top and took his team as far as he did. That’s a big picture in my eyes. When we brought him in I had to do my research and understand what kind of man he is. Knowing that he’s been with his life for a long time goes to show what type of man he is. Knowing that everything he does—he’s collected, he gets in that huddle and he demands. But he showed us in the offseason, before we even started OTAs. He’s bringing us along, we’re doing outings together—hockey games and all those things. He’s taking control. He does a great job bringing the other wives together, which I think is a big thing. We all get together and understand each other. Because that’s what a team is, understanding each other. If we understand each other then we get on the field, it’s easy.”

On OLB Bradley Chubb

“Bradley Chubb is a hard worker. I’m very grateful he’s on our team. He’s a great guy to go against. We have [OLB] Von Miller, which, he’s always a leader and a teacher. It’s a bummer about [OLB] Shane Ray, but he still teaches, he still leads on that sideline. But you have Bradley Chubb who brings in a whole different demeanor to the game. And knowing how fast he is and explosive he is, is going to help me and help him in the long run. I’m grateful to have him as a teammate. I sit right next to him in the locker room. So, watching him work in the weight room and doing everything possible, and knowing the pressure that he has—he’s done a great job with all of that and I’m just excited to see his future.”

On the biggest challenge transitioning from college to the NFL

“I think just understanding defenses. In college, you can just sort of show up and play and knowing that if their starter is out they can attack that area. But in the NFL, if one starter’s out, the backup guy is just as good. They are one snap away from becoming the starter. Just knowing that and the defense moves so fast, the players move so fast, that was a big thing for me. But I felt like I settled in when I needed to settle in. I did make mistakes, like I said. I’ll be the first one to admit that. At the same time, I feel like those mistakes just continue to light a fire in my head that I know I can play in this league, know that I can do the things that I need to do for this team and protect Case with everything that I have, so that he can open up pass lanes and let our running backs do what they need to do through the hole. We’ll have a great start, we have great leaders here with Case leading the offense and [WR] Demaryius [Thomas] and [WR] Emmanuel [Sanders] and all of those guys behind us. It’s a great start and I’m just looking forward to seeing how far we can go. I know we have a bright future. So, I’m excited.”