



DENVER BRONCOS QUOTES

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DENVER BRONCOS MINI CAMP QUOTES (6/13 /18)

SPECIAL TEAMS COACH TOM MCMAHON

On players that have stood out on special teams

“All of them. We’ve got some good, young players. It’s a great group, So, I would say all of them. There’s nobody that has went the other way.”

On punter Marquette King

“He’s fun to watch. He’s fun to coach—good football player, good punter. He’s got great leg strength. He’s very quick to the ball. I can’t wait to see what he can do [this] year, and he’s doing a great job with holds. You know it’s tough to flip over if you’ve been holding for a lefty for seven years in your career. Every single day he’s in there doing an extra 30 minutes. When they’re in walk-through and when they’re at their individual period, we’re getting a bunch on the jugs, so he’s doing a great job.”

On if he’s ever coached a punter with a strong personality

“[Former Punter] Pat McAfee. The personality is great. It’s one of those deals where when we’re out there on the rectangle, he’s all football. Both of those guys [K Brandon McManus] are two of the hardest workers I’ve ever been around in my life. They just work, work, work. That’s what I coach is just their own rectangle off the field. They know I’m not going to get involved in their lives.”

On coaching specialists with strong personalities

“We call it ‘Feed the stud.’ When we’re out on the field, we want to hit it as far as you can. Everybody does. You start pulling the reins back on a horse and pretty soon the horse isn’t a horse anymore. But off the field, I’ll be completely honest with you, I couldn’t tell you what goes on with either of them off the field. I don’t even really know how to use a phone very well. So, I wouldn’t know. But on the field, I want them to be themselves and hit the heck out of the football.”

On getting used to the new kickoff rule

“You know what, we’re working on it. You probably saw that today. We’re still working on it. The hardest part is you’re trying to roll into it. And if you roll, you can see my head already crossed the line. So, we’re trying to get it down to where we can—just that half a second. We’re going to need it down the field. It really slows you down. We saw it in the Senior Bowl when we were at the Senior Bowl. It was my first experience with having to start on the line, and both [Assistant Special Teams Coach Chris] Gould and myself were on the side thinking ‘We have the slowest team in football.’ But it’s just simply because you have to start from—basically he has to kick it before you go.”

On the challenges the new kickoff rules create for coaches

“Everybody has to stay within the rules, and the one thing I’ve been lucky is the last four years—kickoff return units that have played against us in Indy were afraid of our kicker kicking an on-side, so we’ve had eight in that set up zone for the last four years. I have over like 400 reps of it. From a kickoff return standpoint, stealing their ideas. Now from a kickoff standpoint, no I don’t. I don’t have all the answers yet.”

On if the new kickoff rule will benefit returners or coverage units

“Too early, but I’m leaning towards it’s going to be an advantage for the return unit. It’s slower now. You’re going to get down the field slower. The on-side kick is going to be tougher because you’ve got to slow the ball down because the guys getting to the ball didn’t get to start with a running start. So, there a lot of different things that we’ve got to tweak and I think it’s more on kickoff than kickoff return.”

On having smaller players return kicks versus larger players

“I think that the little man is back in. When I say the little man, I mean the smaller returners are now going to be able to get back there because it is more like a punt return. You can take your best returner, you don’t need the big back that’s going to take the big shots coming through a wedge. I’m excited to see what [WR] Isaiah [McKenzie] can do. You’re going to see the smaller guys, [Kansas City WR] Tyreek Hill, those type of body types back in this game, in my opinion.”

On whether he is happy with the special teams units

“We’re just in the beginning stage. We have a long way to go in training camp. I think the third preseason game we’ll know where we’re at. But I like where we’re at. It’s a good group. These guys come to the meeting room, iPads out, note pads out and they’re attentive. You don’t have guys looking around. We have a good core, we have a great kicker, we have a good punter and got great snappers. We’re ready to roll.”

On having a dynamic returner

“I think the returners look good. I think we have a stable of guys that can do it for us. It’s going to be interesting to see who pops and who separates themselves. That’s what I’m waiting for. Nobody has separated themselves yet. You really can’t until you get into preseason games and it’s a live ball, it’s coming down the field. We’ll know then, but I like what they’re doing. They’re catching the heck out of the ball. After practice everybody is working hard and they’re catching the ball in practice, too.”

On WR Jordan Taylor returning kickoffs once he’s healthy

“No question. Yeah, there’s no reason why he can’t be in the kick return mix. Yep, you’ve got to be able to do everything. And if can return them both, he will.”