



Denver Broncos Post Game Quotes

vs. Oakland— Monday, September 12, 2011

DENVER BRONCOS HEAD COACH JOHN FOX

On the injury report

"[DE] Elvis Dumervil—shoulder; [CB] Champ Bailey—hamstring strain; [RB] Knowshon Moreno—hamstring strain; [WR] Brandon Lloyd—groin strain. They all left the game at some point."

On DE Elvis Dumervil

"He tweaked his shoulder. He had a little harder of a time on run-downs than he did on pass-downs. We tried to cut some of those collisions down."

On the trouble with the run game

"I think they stacked the run, but we passed the ball pretty well. Unfortunately, not well enough."

On QB Kyle Orton

"I think all-in-all it was probably like all of us, not quite good enough."

On the team's stamina

"I think that's a good question, and it's probably something we need to improve on a little bit. I think the whole league needs to improve on it. There's reasons for it. We had a couple of guys go down, so we were playing a lot of people there at the end. So, that's something we'll look at and definitely work on this week."

On feelings post game

"I think we still have optimism. This was a game against a team that swept our division a year ago. I think it's a team that whacked us twice a year ago. There's no consolation for 'close', but I think we're still optimistic. We are just at 0-1 like half the teams in our football league."

On the run defense

"They stayed pretty true to it. If you break it down, it probably still wasn't very good, but if you attack that big, long run at the end, which was a pivotal play of the game, that helped their totals."

On the amount of penalties

"It was still 15-to-10, so they're still a little ahead of us. It's something that in the first week of the season, it does happen. We had a rookie right tackle play his first real season NFL game. I think he was responsible for some of them. It's something we'll address, we'll look at, and we'll practice against it. Most of it was holding. We had a horse collar on defense, but I didn't see a lot of dumb penalties, false starts and those types of penalties that frustrate coaches more than physical penalties."

On the defense

"We could have stayed true to the 1.5 yards per carry, but we elected not to."

On if the team gave up on running the ball

"We don't ever give up on anything. It just wasn't fairing very well."

On the injuries

"You always have concern. I had concern when they left the game tonight. I haven't had a chance to think about next week yet."

On QB Kyle Orton's fumble, which resulted in a Raiders' TD

"We still battled back to 23-20. It was deflating for a minute, but that's part of a team—you battle back. We had a chance there at the end that if we got them off the field defensively, we'd have a chance to get the ball back, and we're down three. It was a pivotal play, no doubt."

On his message to the team

"Kind of what I just told you guys. They fought hard; they battled. We got off to a fast start. We didn't end the half real good. We came and battled back out. We came close with [WR] Eric Decker's return, and battled back there at the end. We just came up a little short."



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On LB Mario Haggan replacing LB Von Miller

“He’s a young player, and Haggan is more of a veteran player—just trying to mix that up. Mario has earned that right.”

On dropped passes

“At the end of the day we didn’t make enough plays. We had some miscues, and drops were one of them. Somebody mentioned penalties. All in all we came up three points short. We will look at it on tape and try to evaluate it, digest it and try to improve on it next week against Cincinnati.”

On field goals

“We attempted a fairly long one and missed, too, so we did miss a field goal, and they didn’t.”

DENVER BRONCOS PLAYERS

QB KYLE ORTON

On the loss

“We just continued to hurt ourselves with turnovers and penalties and second and long, third and long. It’s tough to establish anything in that situation. There a good defense, for sure. They did some things that hurt us, and we didn’t help ourselves at all.”

On struggles in the running game

“Some of it was they played with five defensive linemen there for a while, and some of it was it’s tough to run on second and 12. I just think we found ourselves in too many of those, and then, obviously, in the fourth quarter, we got behind by two scores and had to throw it.”

On Redzone struggles

“Yeah, we didn’t get it in the first time and had to settle for a field goal, and I just feel sick about the ball slipping out of my hands like that. It’s just one of those deals that’s sickening to have happen to you. We fought back hard, and everybody stayed together; we had a chance there at the end, but it’s one of 16 [games]. It’s a tough loss for us, obviously. It hurts, but all in all, we’ve got 15 more to go, and we still have a bright season ahead of us.”

On the ball slipping out of his hands

“I don’t know to be honest with you. It never really happened before, but it’s just sick when that happens to you.”

On Denver’s penalties

“It just seemed like there were a lot of them, and it just kind of piled on and took away some good plays for us and put us in some tough situations.”

On Oakland’s pass rush

“Any time you throw the ball as many times as we did, it’s a one-deal pass rush for them. The offensive line played hard. We’ve got a lot of stuff to clean up, but, like I said, we stuck together and have got 15 more ahead of us.”

On dropped passes

“We just have to go back and look at the tape to see what we can clean up. Obviously there’s a lot to clean up, and getting off to a better start is certainly important to our team to help our defense out, but I still like our team. I still like our offense. We’ve got a lot of talent out there, and it’s just a matter of going out and executing a little bit better.”

On not being able to establish the run

“We tried to do it, and they’ve got a good defensive front; there’s no doubt about it. It’s the strength of their team, and they played [well].”



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CB CHAMP BAILEY

On stopping the run

“If we don’t stop the run, it’s going to be a long season.”

On the loss

“You always want to start fast, whether it’s in a game or in a season, period. You can’t expect to do that if you don’t do things right, and we didn’t do a lot of things right. We did more things wrong than anything, so with that, obviously you see the end result— a loss.”

On Denver’s effort

“I don’t think our coaches can do a much better job of putting us in position to stop the run. I know we’re going to look at this tape and notice a lot of missed tackles, a lot of missed assignments, and those are just things--that’s just attitude, heart, and desire. I don’t think we had enough of that to win this game. It’s very disappointing; you work so hard to try to win these games, and you pour a lot into it. Regardless of the lockout, we had a tough training camp preparing for this game, and you don’t want to come out with a loss in your first game like this.”

On his injury

“We’ll see. It’s a hamstring thing, so I’ve dealt with it before. I’ve just got to see how it is, get an MRI tomorrow and go from there.”

On whether the Raiders have their number

“It seems like it right now, but, obviously, it’s all about us. They’re a good football team, but we do so many things to help them win these games. They’re going to exploit every weakness or every mistake that we make, so you can’t give them anything.”

SLB VON MILLER

On positives taken from the game

“There were a lot of great positives, but we didn’t get the ultimate goal, which is the win. We just got to keep on working – come back to work on Wednesday and keep taking steps forward to be the team we want to be.”

On first game against Raiders

“It was a tough game. It was a very physical game, and I feel like we had chances and opportunities to take advantage of the situations that we were put in, but we didn’t. All we can do is go to work on Wednesday and take steps forward to be the team we want to be.”

On stopping the run

“I am sure that is probably the No. 1 priority on our list. All we can do is get in there on Tuesday, watch some film, break it down, and move forward.”

On if he expected a more efficient pass rush from the defense

“My role on this team is to make plays. I was trying to do that; everyone on the defense was trying to do that. We didn’t get to him [QB Jason Campbell] like we wanted to, but the style of offense they were running didn’t allow us to get to him. That is not the question; we lost and we have to come back to work on Wednesday.”

On forcing a fumble on his first NFL snap

“I didn’t even notice. I was on to the next one – worried about the next play and worried about our offense, hoping they got the ball in there. All we could do is keep moving. We can’t dwell on plays that we make.”



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RDE ELVIS DUMERVIL

On injury

“I just have a strained muscle, so I am going to get some treatment.”

On timeline of injury

“I kind of felt it in practice and tried to give it a go in the game, but it didn’t hold up, so, now I have to get some treatment.”

On being disappointed about his injury

“It is not what I expected, nor what I wanted. It could be worse. At least I have a chance of recovering. So, that is a good thing.”

On stopping the run

“Give them credit – they came out and played aggressive. You have to watch the film and get better.”

On preseason momentum not carrying over into regular season

“We didn’t play the same way, including myself. We have to learn from it - it’s only Week 1, so, we have a lot of opportunities left.”

WR Eric Decker

On having a good individual game

“I think personal stats don’t matter in a game like this, we found out it is a team game. It is a little bittersweet to have my first punt return in a game. That was pretty neat. At the same time, when you don’t come out victorious, it’s hard to feel good about it.”

On punt return

“I have to give credit to my 10 guys up front -- they did a great job blocking. I made one guy miss and then literally there was a wall to the right and Scott free, got a good block on the punter and just ran it the rest of the way.”

On seeing the punter as the last defender to beat

“As a returner, it is almost embarrassing if you do get caught by the punter. I got some great blocks up front, made one guy miss, and executed it like the coaches drew it up.”

On finding rhythm on the last drive

“There is no give up on this team. We battled at the end, and we hurt ourselves with some self-inflicting wounds with offsides (penalties), holding and things like that. You can’t win a game when you do that. I think a big focus going into the next couple weeks is going to be really take care of business, execute, don’t get behind the chains and don’t get into third-and-longs, because you can’t win a ballgame against a great team. Give Oakland credit – they played really great and are a tough team.”

LDE JASON HUNTER

On the middle of the defense being susceptible to the run

“We definitely have guys that can anchor the middle. Maybe it is a step here, a knock back here or being in your gap assignment – things that are all correctable. Definitely guys had great effort. They played physical, they played hard, but in the heat of the game, and when you get emotionally hot, you have to stay poised. You have to transfer what you learn in practice to games. In practice it will get emotional, but you have to stay poised. When the game is on the line, you have to perform under pressure.”

On the loss

“We have high expectations for our team. A loss is hard. We don’t want to accept mediocrity. We are going to watch this film and be critical. We had some bright spots, but we also made a lot of mistakes and mental errors on both sides of the ball. We have to get those things corrected.”



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On if he was mentally prepared to play a large role in the game

“All week I was taking reps at both right and left (defensive end) so coach told me to be ready, and I knew I was going to get opportunities to get in. I didn’t realize how severe (RDE Elvis Dumervil’s) injury was, so, when they told me that I was going to be taking the rest of the reps for the night, I was ready for that.”

On feeling comfortable in the 4-3 defense

“I love playing the 4-3 -- that is my home. I love playing outside linebacker, too, but back there in the three-point stance with my hand on the ground, you just feel that battle. You’re down there battling with the big guys in the trenches -- it’s a man’s game. I just try to continue to get better each week, work on my technique, my pad level, tackling and doing things that the team needs me to do, so, I can help this team have a chance to win some games.”

OAKLAND RAIDERS HEAD COACH HUE JACKSON

General

“Long night tonight. I never told anybody it would be easy. Obviously, we’ve got some work to do ... but anytime you can go on the road in the AFC West and win, especially when we have had what has happened to us on Monday nights in the past, you’ve got to take it. I know that I’ve got to do a better job for this football team, but I’m very excited for our men, the city of Oakland, for the organization, for Raider Nation. That’s all that matters at the end of the day. We understand we have a big challenge in Buffalo next week; we’re looking forward to it. We’ve got a lot of growth to do before now and next week.”

On bullying in the game

“I saw a lot. Anytime you’re going to run the football like we did in that game -- what a great effort by the offensive line and [RB] Darren McFadden -- I mean, obviously, Darren rushed for 150 yards. I mean, really, that was his first action, and you can just imagine if the guy had played in a few preseason games, exactly what he would have been doing. I was just excited about those guys and what they did, running the football and, obviously, like I said, we’ve got some work still to do, but we’re pushing it. We’re 1-0, and that’s what matters.”

On what made the difference in the game

“I think the difference was our will to keep playing, that we kept our poise and that we kept playing. Obviously, the penalties don’t say that. That’s still an Achilles heel of this football team that I’ve got to get addressed and fixed, but I thought at the end, when it was all said and done, that we were going to be poised under pressure, and that’s something that we truly talk about, and we were able to go out and finish that game the way you’ve got to finish a game in this league.”

On QB Jason Campbell having a second year in the Raiders’ system

“I saw that he did a great job of managing the game for us. Obviously, in Year 2 it’s a different Jason Campbell -- he’s a winner. He won tonight, and that’s what matters. I saw us a year ago not finish the game, but we finished it tonight. That’s a tribute to him. He leads this offense and this football team. He’s one of the captains of this football team, and I’m excited for him. He’s 1-0, and that’s what matters at the end of the day.”

On the front sevens imposing their will

“I think the offense just kept pushing and kept grinding. These guys kept coming to me saying, ‘Coach, just keep running it, just stay out there,’ which we did. We finished the game the way we had to finish it -- a credit to our team. I thought Denver fought hard -- really hard -- but I think our guys tonight just kept on really being what we talk about, what we’re going to be. We’re building a bully here, and I truly believe that, and we’ve just got to keep working at building this thing, and it’s going to come the way we want it to.”

On WR Darrius Heyward-Bey

“He was clutch. Darrius made some big catches in this game -- and big throws by [QB] Jason [Campbell], good protection by our offensive line, for the most part -- but [WR] Darrius Heyward-Bey played as well as I’ve seen him play. Just as we keep talking about. I think he’s growing. I keep telling you guys that I think the sky is the limit for the young man. I think if he keeps working, great things will happen to him.”



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On why WR Derek Hagan wasn't activated

"Because I decided not to activate him. He was down for a couple days, and when it's all said and done, I'm going to put healthy guys out there. That's just the way it is. I get to make that choice and that decision, and that's what I decided to do."

On K Sebastian Janikowski

"He's phenomenal. Both of them. What [K] Sebastian [Janikowski] did was unheard of, but I think we have two of the best kickers in the league. I trust those guys. I truly believe in them. And what a kick. A lot of people say that was the difference in the game. Tremendous kick. How about that punt by [P] Shane [Lechler]? Are you kidding me? I truly believe in those guys and they did an excellent job."

On the two game balls he carried into the press conference

"Yeah, there are some balls up here. My players are awesome but I want everybody to know one of my biggest speeches at the end of this game is that it's not about Hue Jackson at all, this is about the Raiders' organization and the man that leads this organization Al Davis. Al Davis has entrusted me with this football team and I'm not taking this game ball, I'm giving this game ball to him because what this is truly all about is a man who is an icon in this game who has given me an opportunity to run this team and at the end of the day all I want to do is win for him and that's what these players want to do and tonight, to me, this is his game. We haven't won on Monday night, and that's well documented, but we got that broken tonight. And I know [Chief Executive] Amy Trask is in this audience. And she deserves it, too. I mean there have been a lot of years on Monday night. Squelches. But tonight we got that monkey off of our back, and I truly believe that there are great things to come for this football team."

OAKLAND RAIDERS PLAYERS

QB Jason Campbell

On his performance

"It felt kind of weird because I knew we'd have a different game plan because we were going to try and contain their rushers. We wanted to go downhill in our run game, and the coaches pretty much just tried to manage the game as much as they can. We really tried to do some things differently, and I think a lot of things worked for us."

On being in the second year of Coach [Hue] Jackson's offense

"I have a great comfort level. Like I said, there are things we'd like to continue to improve on, especially in the passing game, but each game is different. After the first quarter, after the first couple of series, you could tell it was going to be more of a run-oriented game. You know, [RB] Darren [McFadden] had an outstanding game; the guy rushed for a lot of yards. Then [RB Michael] Bush came in in the fourth quarter and was able to finish it. That's what it's all about. We don't worry about statistics at this point; it's all about getting the 'W', because this is the first time we've gotten an opening win in, I think, eight years for the Raiders."

On preparation for this game, specifically rushing

"You could tell by our game plan we were going to try and be a more physical team this week against Denver. We wanted to go downhill in our run game, pass it when we were in certain situations to create first downs. There will be games where we'll have explosive passing games; each game is different. I'm just excited we got the 'W'. We didn't have a lot of turnovers—we had one—but our defense made a lot of plays, and it was a total team victory."

On the magnitude of the game

"Oh yeah, it's a big game. That's why coach told us, 'If we win this one, it'll be a total team victory.' It wasn't going to be explosive plays, it was going to be a grind. Both teams were going to give basically 100 percent. They basically played two safeties all game because they know we're a team that can run downfield. When you do that, it opens up our run game, and that's exactly what we want."

On Janikowski's 63-yard field goal

"Most teams would be like, 'Man, why are they running the ball in that situation?' But we see that in practice all the time—this guy kicks 65, 70-yard field goals. We knew if we could set him up on the right hash, his preference, it gives him the



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opportunity to kick that field goal. It was exciting to see that. We ran the ball because we have trust in him.”

On getting Coach Jackson his first win

“We definitely wanted to win for him, and for Mr. [Al] Davis, also. We haven’t had a win on a Monday night in a long time. Also, for Coach, his first regular-season game. We didn’t win anything in the preseason, but we knew when we got to the real season, got to the 55-man roster and guys got into a chemistry together, we know what’s ahead of us. We was excited to get both of those guys the victory tonight, and get them the game ball.”

K Sebastian Janikowski

On his record tying field goal

“I just got to thank the o-line, [P/Holder] Shane [Lechler], and [LS Jon] Condo; they put it down and I just went out there and swung as hard as I could.”

On the factor of altitude on his field goal

“I didn’t hit it really good, but that’s no excuse. It [the altitude] definitely helped it.”

On whether he thought the kick would go through

“I got a little doubts; I mean it cleared by like one yard only.”

On getting into a rhythm prior to his record tying kick

“It helped, but I had a good warm-up, coming out there I hit a 70-yarder. The coach knew about it.”

On Broncos K Matt Prater

“Matt Prater, he’s got a strong leg; he’s the only guy I’ve got to worry about breaking the record.”

On what tying the record means to him

“It means a lot. I’m not big on setting goals, but I wanted to be ten years in the league, break the record or tie the record, and win the Super Bowl, those were my three goals. So I’ve got two out of three. Hopefully this year I get the third one.”

RB DARREN MCFADDEN

On the running game

“You have to take pride in running the ball. If you start off slow, you might get one or two yards here and there, but eventually the big one is going to come.”

On the holes that opened up

“I have a lot of confidence in our offensive line. You know, so whatever they do up front doesn’t surprise me at all.”

On what the win means to the team

“It means a lot. We haven’t won an opener in seven or eight season, much less a Monday night game. So you know, that’s a big plus for us. We want to take this and boost our confidence and just try to keep building off of it every week.”

On winning division games

“You want to win all of your division games. That’s what will help you get to the playoffs, winning your division games. So you want to just try to win all those games. It’s one of those things; Coach Jackson had everyone ready to play tonight.”

On the other division games this year

“That’s something we are going to take care of. Like I said, we are just going to take it one week at a time. We got to get ready and prepare for Buffalo, and do the same thing we did tonight.”

On Head Coach Hue Jackson’s first win

“We just congratulated him as players. As a rookie head coach it’s a plus for you to get your first win out there.”



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On not having Broncos DE Elvis Dumervil on the field

“For us, we were sticking to our game plan. We weren’t worrying about what they were doing. We were just worrying about what our players were doing. As long as our players are playing good, we felt like we could get a win.”

On not having a preseason carry

“I feel like I did a pretty good job tonight. I guess it didn’t affect me too much.”

On taking his first hit of the season

“It was one of those things, that when you get your first hit, you get the butterflies out of your stomach. It felt great just to get it over with and just to get ready for the next one.”

On K Sebastian Janikowski tying an NFL record.

“You know, he’s a great field goal kicker. We have a lot of confidence in him when he’s kicking the ball, and it’s really great to see him be able to do that. He’s always kicking long field goals for us. Kicking 57 [yarders] and 58 [yarders], but tonight he made a big plus in going out there and making a 63-yarder.”

On winning in Denver over the past two years

“It’s one of those things, if you prepare hard all week, we know it’s a big rivalry game. I think a lot of guys take that to heart, and they just come out here and play hard.”

On WR Darrius Heyward-Bey’s play

“He did a great job. He’s just going out there catching balls left and right. He made some good plays for us, big third downs. We are looking forward to see what he does the rest of the year.”

DT RICHARD SEYMOUR

On the Raiders-Broncos Rivalry

“Not a lot of love at all. I don’t think you’ll see many of us hanging out in the off season. If you see one of them you probably go the other way. It’s the game of football. I think of all of the guys that came before you and played in such historic games. You go out and try to play with that type of intensity, so it definitely means a lot.”
