



DENVER BRONCOS NEWS RELEASE

Preseason Game #1 • Denver (0-0) at Houston (0-0)
 Saturday, Aug. 13, 2005 • Reliant Stadium • 7 p.m. CDT

BRONCOS KICK OFF 2005 PRESEASON WITH PRACTICES AND GAME IN HOUSTON

After practicing with the Texans at the team's training facility in Houston, the Denver Broncos open their 2005 preseason against the Texans on Saturday, Aug. 13, at Reliant Stadium at 7 p.m. CDT.

The Broncos, who went 10-6 in 2004 and advanced to the playoffs for the second consecutive season, open the preseason away from Denver for the eighth consecutive year. Last season, the Broncos' nine-game preseason opener win streak was snapped with a 20-17 loss to Washington in the Hall of Fame Game in Canton, Ohio. Denver looks to improve its all-time preseason opener record of 22-23 (.489) and its all-time preseason record of 110-99 (.526).

Denver's game in Houston marks the third consecutive year it has faced the Texans in the preseason. The Broncos hold a 2-0 all-time preseason advantage against Houston, including last season's 31-17 victory at INVESCO Field at Mile High.

BRONCOS' 2005 PRESEASON SCHEDULE

The Broncos begin their 46th season of professional football with four preseason contests in 2005. After the Broncos face Houston, they play their first home exhibition contest of the year Saturday, Aug. 20, against San Francisco at 7 p.m. MDT in the first of two games at INVESCO Field at Mile High. The following week, Denver hosts its playoff opponent from the last two seasons, Indianapolis, in a nationally televised CBS game on Saturday, Aug. 27, at 6 p.m. MDT. The Broncos' final tune-up for the regular season takes place at Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, Ariz., on Friday, Sept. 2, against the Cardinals at 7 p.m. MST.

RADIO/TELEVISION AT HOUSTON

The Broncos-Texans game will be broadcast locally on KCNC-TV (CBS-Channel 4). **Gary Miller** will provide the play-by-play, and joining him in the booth will be **Steve Atkinson** and **Mark Schlereth** doing the color commentary. **Vic Lombardi** and **Keith Bleyer** will be on the sidelines.

For the 36th consecutive year, KOA radio (850) is the flagship station for the Denver Broncos' radio network. **Dave Logan** and **David Diaz-Infante** will provide the play-by-play and color commentary, respectively, of the Houston game with **Andy Lindahl** on the sidelines. The Broncos' radio network extends to nine states, and the KOA pregame show, hosted by **Mike Rice**, begins two hours before kickoff.

FINAL 2004 AFC WEST STANDINGS

Team	W	L	T	PF	PA	Home	Road	AFC	NFC	DIV	Streak
y-S.D.	12	4	0	446	313	7-1	5-3	9-3	3-1	5-1	Won 1
x-Den.	10	6	0	381	304	6-2	4-4	7-5	3-1	3-3	Won 2
K.C.	7	9	0	483	435	4-4	3-5	6-6	1-3	3-3	Lost 1
Oak.	5	11	0	320	442	3-5	2-6	3-9	2-2	1-5	Lost 2

x-clinched playoff berth; y-clinched division title

MEDIA RELATIONS CONTACT INFORMATION

Jim Saccomano	(303) 649-0572	jim.saccomano@broncos.nfl.net
Paul Kirk	(303) 649-0503	paul.kirk@broncos.nfl.net
Patrick Smyth	(303) 649-0536	patrick.smyth@broncos.nfl.net
Dave Gaylinn	(303) 649-0512	dave.gaylinn@broncos.nfl.net
Rebecca Villanueva	(303) 649-0598	rebecca.villanueva@broncos.nfl.net

WWW.DENVERBRONCOS.COM/MEDIAROOM

The Denver Broncos have a media-only Web site, which was created to assist accredited media in their coverage of the Broncos. By going to www.DenverBroncos.com/Mediaroom, members of the press will find complete statistical packages, press releases, rosters, updated player and coach bios, transcripts, injury reports, game recaps, news clippings and much more. The 2005 Broncos Media Guide is available in .PDF format on the media Web site, and the 704-page publication may be downloaded in its entirety or by individual section.

Additionally, the site features a complete archive of game books and flip cards for every regular-season and preseason game in franchise history. Feature clippings also are available as one complete packet and are broken down individually by player, coach and members of the front office. Game clippings will be posted on the site weekly throughout the season.

The Broncos' media Web site includes a password-protected photo section where media members can download high-resolution headshots and action shots, which will be updated after every game. To obtain a username and password, please e-mail a request to photos@broncos.nfl.com. The files are posted in .PDF format and require Adobe's Acrobat Reader to access them. If you do not have a copy of Acrobat Reader, a free version may be downloaded from the media room.

DENVER BRONCOS 2005 SCHEDULE

2005 Preseason

Wk	Day	Date	Opponent	Site	Time/Res.	TV/Record
1	Sat.	Aug. 13	at Houston	Reliant Stadium	7:00 p.m. CDT	CBS 4
2	Sat.	Aug. 20	SAN FRANCISCO	INVESCO Field at Mile High	7:00 p.m. MDT	CBS 4
3	Sat.	Aug. 27	INDIANAPOLIS	INVESCO Field at Mile High	6:00 p.m. MDT	CBS
4	Fri.	Sept. 2	at Arizona	Sun Devil Stadium	7:00 p.m. MST	CBS 4

2005 Regular Season

Wk	Day	Date	Opponent	Site	Time/Res.	TV/Record
1	Sun.	Sept. 11	at Miami	Dolphins Stadium	1:00 p.m. EDT	CBS
2	Sun.	Sept. 18	SAN DIEGO	INVESCO Field at Mile High	2:15 p.m. MDT	CBS
3	Mon.	Sept. 26	KANSAS CITY	INVESCO Field at Mile High	7:00 p.m. MDT	ABC
4	Sun.	Oct. 2	at Jacksonville	ALLTEL Stadium	1:00 p.m. EDT	CBS
5	Sun.	Oct. 9	WASHINGTON	INVESCO Field at Mile High	2:15 p.m. MDT	FOX
6	Sun.	Oct. 16	NEW ENGLAND	INVESCO Field at Mile High	2:15 p.m. MDT	CBS
7	Sun.	Oct. 23	at N.Y. Giants	Giants Stadium	4:15 p.m. EDT	CBS
8	Sun.	Oct. 30	PHILADELPHIA	INVESCO Field at Mile High	2:15 p.m. MST	FOX
9		Bye				
10	Sun.	Nov. 13	at Oakland	McAfee Coliseum	1:05 p.m. PST	CBS
11	Sun.	Nov. 20	N.Y. JETS	INVESCO Field at Mile High	2:15 p.m. MST	CBS
12	Thu.	Nov. 24	at Dallas	Texas Stadium	3:15 p.m. CST	CBS
13	Sun.	Dec. 4	at Kansas City	Arrowhead Stadium	3:15 p.m. CST	CBS
14	Sun.	Dec. 11	BALTIMORE	INVESCO Field at Mile High	2:15 p.m. MST	CBS
15	Sat.	Dec. 17	at Buffalo	Ralph Wilson Stadium	8:30 p.m. EST	ESPN
16	Sat.	Dec. 24	OAKLAND	INVESCO Field at Mile High	2:15 p.m. MST	CBS
17	Sat.	Dec. 31	at San Diego	Qualcomm Stadium	1:30 p.m. PST	CBS



2005 BRONCOS WEEKLY RELEASE

BRONCOS VS. TEXANS – POINTS OF INTEREST

Denver's game in Houston marks its third preseason game against the Texans with the Broncos holding a 2-0 advantage after earning one victory at Reliant Stadium (2003) and one at INVESCO Field at Mile High (2004)... The Broncos have played Houston in each of the last two preseasons, including a 31-17 victory last year at INVESCO Field at Mile High in their fourth exhibition contest... Denver also opened its 2003 preseason with a contest in Houston, defeating the Texans 20-12 at Reliant Stadium.... Houston (2-0) is one of four teams that the Broncos have faced in the preseason and own a perfect record against, joining Seattle (7-0), Tampa Bay (2-0) and Cleveland (1-0)... The Broncos have not allowed more than 150 net passing yards to Houston in each of their two preseason contests against the Texans, surrendering only 120 net passing yards in 2003 and 146 in 2004.... Denver is averaging 25.5 points per game against Houston in the preseason while giving up an average of 14.5 against the Texans.... Although they are 0-2 against the Broncos all-time in the preseason, the Texans have scored first in both of the contests.

DENVER VS. HOUSTON (PRESEASON)

Aug. 9, 2003	20-12	W	Reliant Stadium
Aug. 27, 2004	31-17	W	INVESCO Field at Mile High

The Broncos' only regular-season meeting with Houston occurred last season at INVESCO Field at Mile High on Nov. 7, a 31-13 Broncos win... Jake Plummer threw four touchdown passes in that contest while wide receiver Rod Smith became the Broncos' franchise leader in receptions and receiving scores in the game... Plummer's four touchdowns against Houston in that 11/7/04 game tied for the third-most passing scores given up by the Texans in their three-year history.

BRONCOS/TEXANS PRESEASON SERIES BREAKDOWN

Series Meeting:	Third
Broncos Overall Record:	2-0 (1-0 Home; 1-0 Away)
First Game:	Denver 20, at Houston 12 (8/9/03)
Last Game:	at Denver 31, Houston 17 (8/27/04)
Current Streak:	Won 2, Denver's only two meetings
Longest Broncos Win Streak:	2, Denver's only two meetings
Longest Texans Win Streak:	None
Last Broncos Home Win:	at Denver 31, Houston 17 (8/27/04)
Last Broncos' Home Loss:	None
Last Broncos' Road Win:	Denver 20, at Houston 12 (8/9/03)
Last Broncos' Road Loss:	None
Broncos Shutouts:	None
Texans Shutouts:	None
Most Broncos Points:	31 (8/27/04) at Denver
Most Texans Points:	17 (8/27/04) at Denver
Average Broncos Points:	25.5
Average Texans Points:	14.5
Largest Broncos Win:	14 (8/27/04) at Denver
Largest Texans Win:	None

DENVER IN PRESEASON OPENERS

Denver holds a 22-23 all-time record in preseason openers, including a 9-9 mark at home... The Broncos are 10-7 in road preseason openers and 3-7 in exhibition openers played in a neutral locations, including Hall of Fame Games (1-2) and American Bowls (2-2).... Denver has not opened the preseason at home since 1997 (a 31-10 win vs. Buffalo) and has not lost a preseason home opener

BRONCOS/TEXANS TEAM COMPARISON (2004)

	BRONCOS	TEXANS
Record	10-6	7-9
Division Standing	2nd (AFCW)	3rd (AFCS)
NFL Offensive Ranking	5	19
Offense-Points Per Game	23.8	19.3
Possession Average	32:38	29:59
Total Net Yards Per Game	395.8	320.5
Net Rushing Yards Per Game	145.8	117.6
Net Passing Yards Per Game	249.9	202.9
Had Intercepted/Yards Lost	20/344	14/157
Sacks Allowed/Yards Lost	15/90	49/301
Field Goals/FGA	29/34	17/24
NFL Defensive Ranking	4	23
Defense-Points Per Game	19.0	21.2
Defense-Total Net Yards Per Game	278.7	341.1
Defense-Rushing Yards Per Game	94.5	115.2
Defense-Passing Yards Per Game	184.2	225.9
Defense-Intercepted by/Yards	12/175	22/393
Defense-Sacks For/Yards	38/266	24/161
Punts-Average Yards (Gross)	40.5	41.2
Punts-Average Yards (Net)	34.3	35.7
Punt Returns-Average Per	9.3	8.2
Punt Returns-Average Per Allowed	9.2	8.8
Kickoff Returns-Average Per	21.2	21.0
Kickoff Returns-Average Per Allowed	24.0	23.1
Penalties Against/Yards	93/880	106/928
Fumbles/Lost	23/9	22/11
Opponent Fumbles/Lost	24/8	22/8
Turnover Ratio	-9	+5

BRONCOS/TEXANS INDIVIDUAL COMPARISON (2004)

	BRONCOS	TEXANS
PASSING YARDS		
Plummer.....	4,089	Carr 3,531
		Banks 16
RUSHING YARDS		
Droughns*	1,240	Davis 1,188
Bell	396	Wells 299
Griffin	311	Carr 299
RECEIVING YARDS		
Smith.....	1,144	Johnson 1,142
Lelie.....	1,084	Gaffney 632
Putzier	572	Davis 588
POINTS SCORED		
Elam	129	K. Brown..... 85
Droughns*	48	Davis 84
Lelie, Smith	42	Johnson 36
INTERCEPTIONS		
Bailey.....	3	Robinson..... 6
Herndon*	2	Glenn* 5
Wilson	2	Faggins, Wong 3
SACKS		
Hayward*	10.5	Wong..... 5.5
E. Johnson*	3.0	Babin..... 4.0
Palepoi.....	3.0	Robinson..... 3.0

* - denotes players not with current team



2005 BRONCOS WEEKLY RELEASE

since 1986 (a 10-7 loss to New Orleans)... Denver had a nine-game preseason opener win streak—which began during Head Coach Mike Shanahan's first season in 1995—snapped last season with a 20-17 loss to Washington in the Hall of Fame Game.... The Broncos' nine consecutive victories in preseason openers from 1995-2003 is the longest such streak in franchise history.... In opening their preseason Aug. 13 against the Texans, the Broncos begin their preseason the latest in the year since 1982 when Denver faced the Los Angeles Rams on Aug. 14 (a 33-20 Denver win at Anaheim Stadium)... All-time, Denver's Aug. 13 start date in 2005 marks the fourth-latest date for a preseason opener in team history... Denver's most common opponents in preseason openers are Los Angeles/St. Louis (5 meetings), Washington (5), Houston/Tennessee (3), Kansas City/Dallas (3) and San Francisco (3).

BRONCOS PRESEASON OPENER BREAKDOWN

Opener:	46th
Broncos Overall Record:	22-23 (9-9 home; 10-7 away; 3-7 neutral)
First Opener:	Boston 43, Denver 6 (8/5/60)
Last Opener:	Washington 20, Denver 17 (8/9/04)
Current Streak:	Lost 1
Longest Broncos Win Streak:	9, 1995-2003
Longest Opp. Win Streak:	5, 1971-75
Last Broncos Home Win:	at Denver 31, Buffalo 10 (7/26/97)
Last Broncos' Home Loss:	New Orleans 10, at Denver 7 (8/9/86)
Last Broncos' Road Win:	Denver 20, at Houston 12 (8/9/03)
Last Broncos' Road Loss:	at San Francisco 13, Denver 7 (8/3/92)
Broncos Shutouts:	None
Opponent Shutouts:	1 (8/11/72) at Was. 41, Denver 0
Most Broncos Points:	40 (8/3/88) Denver 40, at L.A. Rams 31
Most Opponent Points:	43 (8/5/60) Boston 43, Denver 6
Average Broncos Points:	17.0
Average Opponent Points:	18.6
Largest Broncos Win:	24 (8/10/02) Denver 27, at Chicago 3
Largest Opponent Win:	41 (8/11/72) at Was. 41, Denver 0

BRONCOS ALL-TIME PRESEASON OPENER RESULTS

1960—@Boston 43, Denver 6	1983—@Denver 10, Seattle 7
1961—@Dallas 31, Denver 13	1984—Washington 16, @Denver 13
1962—@Houston 33, Denver 17	1985—N.Y. Giants 30, @Denver 20
1963—@Denver 27, Houston 10	1986—New Orleans 10, @Denver 7
1964—@San Diego 34, Denver 20	1987—L.A. Rams 28, Denver 27 (Am. Bwl.)
1965—Kansas City 30, @Denver 24	1988—Denver 40, @L.A. Rams 31
1966—Kansas City 32, @Denver 30	1989—@Denver 17, L.A. Rams 13
1967—Miami 19, Denver 2	1990—Denver 10, Seattle 7 (Am. Bwl.)
1968—@Denver 15, Cincinnati 13	1991—Detroit 14, Denver 3 (HOF Game)
1969—@Minnesota 26, Denver 6	1992—@San Francisco 13, Denver 7
1970—@Denver 26, St. Louis 16	1993—Denver 23, @Tampa Bay 7
1971—Washington 17, @Denver 13	1994—L.A. Raiders 25, Den. 22 (Am. Bwl.)
1972—@Washington 41, Denver 0	1995—@Denver 9, San Francisco 7
1973—@Washington 14, Denver 10	1996—Denver 20, @San Francisco 17
1974—N.Y. Jets 41, @Denver 19	1997—@Denver 31, Buffalo 10
1975—Baltimore 23, @Denver 20	1998—Denver 20, @St. Louis 13
1976—Denver 10, Detroit 7 (HOF Game)	1999—Denver 20, San Diego 17 (Am. Bwl.)
1977—@Denver 14, Baltimore 8	2000—Denver 31, @Arizona 17
1978—Denver 17, @Houston 12	2001—Denver 20, @Dallas 6
1979—@Dallas 7, Denver 6	2002—Denver 27, @Chicago 3
1980—@Denver 17, Cincinnati 6	2003—Denver 20, @Houston 12
1981—N.Y. Jets 33, @Denver 7	2004—Washington 20, Denver 17 (HOF Game)
1982—Denver 33, @L.A. Rams 20	

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

Denver opens its 2005 preseason on Aug. 13 against Houston, a date that is the fourth latest start date for a preseason opener in team history.

LATEST PRESEASON OPENERS IN BRONCOS HISTORY

Date	Year	Opponent	Score
1. Aug. 15	1970	vs. St. Louis Cardinals	26-16
2. Aug. 14	1982	at L.A. Rams	33-20
Aug. 14	1971	vs. Washington	13-17
4. Aug. 13	2005	at Houston	7:00 p.m. CDT

THE LAST TIME (Preseason) at DENVER 31, HOUSTON 17 (INVESCO FIELD AT MILE HIGH, 8/27/04)

Jake Plummer and Danny Kanell combined for 293 passing yards and two touchdowns to lead the Broncos to a 31-17 win against the Texans on Friday, Aug. 27, in Denver's preseason home opener at INVESCO Field at Mile High.

Rookie wide receivers Darius Watts (two catches for 76 yards) and Triandos Luke (a 74-yard touchdown reception) showed big-play ability for the Broncos while veteran Rod Smith had a game-high four receptions for 44 yards.

After falling behind 7-0 on a 27-yard run by Tony Hollings with 9:57 left in the first quarter, Plummer led the Broncos on a 12-play, 68-yard drive early in the second quarter that resulted in a six-yard scoring run by Quentin Griffin that tied the game at 7.

Plummer, who finished the game 12-of-22 for 159 yards and an interception, used his athleticism to scamper into the left corner of the end zone on Denver's next drive for a 1-yard touchdown run on third down at 6:17 of the second quarter. The Broncos' two-point conversion attempt failed, and Denver headed into its locker room at half time trailing 14-13.

Kanell entered the game at quarterback after Denver's first series of the third quarter and threw the first of his two touchdown passes to Mike Anderson that gave the Broncos a 19-14 advantage.

Luke's speed allowed him to get the best of the Houston secondary and hall in a 74-yard pass from Kanell with just under five minutes remaining in the game, putting the score at 31-17. Kanell finished the game with 134 yards and two touchdowns on 6-of-9 passing for a 149.3 quarterback rating.

2005 PRESEASON – WEEK 1 NFL SCHEDULE

Thursday, August 11

San Diego at Green Bay(ESPN) 7:00p (CT)

Friday, August 12

Detroit at N.Y. Jets..... 7:00p (ET)

New England at Cincinnati 7:30p (ET)

Chicago at St. Louis..... 7:00p (CT)

Kansas City at Minnesota..... 7:00p (CT)

Seattle at New Orleans..... 7:00p (CT)

Tampa Bay at Tennessee 7:00p (CT)

Saturday, August 13

Baltimore at Atlanta 7:30p (ET)

Miami at Jacksonville 7:30p (ET)

Buffalo at Indianapolis 7:00p (EST)

Denver at Houston 7:00p (CT)

N.Y. Giants at Cleveland..... 8:00p (ET)

Washington at Carolina 8:00p (ET)

Dallas at Arizona 7:00p (MST)

Oakland at San Francisco..... 7:00p (PT)

Monday, August 15

Philadelphia at Pittsburgh.....(ESPN) 8:00p (ET)



TRACKING DENVER'S PRESEASON OPPONENTS

Opponent	Date/Result	Record	Last Game	Next Up
Houston	Aug. 13	0-0	Lost to Cleveland, 22-14 (1/2/05)	vs. Denver (Aug. 13)
San Francisco	Aug. 20	0-0	Lost to New England, 21-7 (1/2/05)	vs. Oakland (Aug. 13)
Indianapolis	Aug. 27	0-1	Lost to Atlanta, 27-21 (8/6/05 - American Bowl)	vs. Buffalo (Aug. 13)
Arizona	Sept. 2	0-0	Def. Tampa Bay, 12-7 (1/2/05)	vs. Dallas (Aug. 13)

WHAT'S NEW WITH THE BRONCOS

KEY ADDITIONS (PLAYERS): Among several offseason additions for Denver were five former first-round draft picks (DE **Courtney Brown** – No. 1 in '00; DT **Gerard Warren** – No. 3 in '01; RB **Ron Dayne** – No. 11 in '00; DE **Ebenezer Ekuban** – No. 11 in '99; **Jerry Rice** – No. 16 in '85)... DT **Michael Myers** joins defensive linemen **Brown**, **Ekuban** and **Warren** as players acquired from Cleveland in the offseason... DE **Courtney Brown**, the No. 1 overall pick in the 2000 NFL Draft from Penn State, is looking to join quarterback John Elway (1983 – Stanford) as the only the second former No. 1 overall draft choice to play for the Broncos, who are one of four current teams to have never picked first in the NFL or AFL Draft... RB **Ron Dayne**, the 1999 Heisman Trophy winner at Wisconsin, is looking to join Tony Dorsett (1988-89) as only the second Heisman winner to play for the Broncos... Three-time Pro Bowl P **Todd Sauerbrun**, who has the best net punting average and second best gross average in the NFL since 2000, joined the Broncos in a trade with Carolina... WR **Jerry Rice**, who owns nearly every major NFL receiving record, joined the Broncos as a free agent from Seattle and enters his 21st season three touchdown receptions shy of 200 for his career... LBs **Keith Burns** (1994-98, 2000-03) and **Ian Gold** (2000-03) rejoined the Broncos in the offseason after playing the 2004 campaign with Tampa Bay... Eighth-year TE **Stephen Alexander**, who has three times posted 40 or more receptions in a season and is a one-time Pro Bowl choice, was signed as an unrestricted free agent from Detroit... DE **John Engelberger**, who recorded a team and career-high six sacks for San Francisco last season, was acquired by Denver in a trade a week before training camp... T **Anthony Clement** and G **Cameron Spikes** started eight and nine games, respectively, for Arizona last season and were signed as free agents.

NEW ADDITIONS (COACHES): Denver has six new additions to its coaching staff: **Tim Brewster** (tight ends), **Thomas McGaughey** (special teams assistant), **Andre Patterson** (defensive line/tackles), **Jim Ryan** (defensive assistant), **Bob Slowik** (defensive backs) and **Ryan Slowik** (defensive assistant)... Broncos Tight Ends Coach **Tim Brewster**, who coached the position in San Diego and helped Antonio Gates earn All-Pro honors last season, is working with another former college basketball player in rookie free agent **Wesley Duke** from Mercer University... Broncos Defensive Line/Tackles Coach **Andre Patterson** was Cleveland's defensive line coach last season and worked with defensive line additions **Courtney Brown**, **Ebenezer Ekuban**, **Michael Myers** and **Gerard Warren**...

Defensive Backs Coach **Bob Slowik**, who has eight years' experience as a defensive coordinator in the NFL, was on the same coaching staff at the University of Florida in the early 1980s that included Head Coach Mike Shanahan and Strength and Conditioning Coach Rich Tuten as assistants... **Bob Slowik's** son, **Ryan Slowik**, is a defensive assistant for Denver... Defensive Assistant **Jim Ryan**, who played 10 seasons at linebacker for the Broncos (1979-88) to help the team advance to two Super Bowls, spent the second half of the 2004 season as a volunteer defensive assistant with Denver... **Jim Ryan** is one of six former Denver players on its current coaching staff.

POSITION/NUMBER CHANGES: Veteran **Dwayne Carswell**, a former Pro Bowl player at tight end in his 12th season, has worked on the offensive line in training camp for the second consecutive season and is competing at the guard position after practicing at tackle in 2004... **Carswell** has switched to No. 77 from No. 89... Third-year player **Nate Jackson**, who had eight receptions last season as a wide receiver, has moved to tight end and switched to No. 89 from No. 14... **Jeremy LeSueur**, who was selected by the Broncos in the third round of the 2004 NFL Draft but spent his rookie year on injured reserve (hernia), has moved to safety from cornerback and switched to No. 31 from No. 43... WR **Jerry Rice** wears No. 19, marking the first time in his 20-year career he has not worn No. 80... Other Broncos to wear No. 19 are current WR **Rod Smith**, who donned that jersey as a rookie in 1994, and K **Fred Steinfort** (1979-81) and QB **Don Breaux** (1963)... LB **D.J. Williams**, who finished third in the NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year voting last season while becoming the first Broncos rookie in 32 years to lead the team in tackles, has switched to No. 55 from No. 52... LB **Patrick Chukwurah** has switched from No. 55 to No. 54... RB **Quentin Griffin** has switched to No. 21 from No. 22, which he wore at the University of Oklahoma... QB **Bradlee Van Pelt** has switched to No. 11, which he wore at Colorado State University, from No. 9... Second-year CB **Jeff Shoate** has switched to No. 28 from No. 40... WR **Triandos Luke**, who ranked second on Denver in kick and punt returns as a rookie in 2004, has switched to No. 87 from No. 10... Second-year WR **B.J. Johnson**, who spent last year on injured reserve (left ankle), has switched to No. 12 from No. 2 while WR **Romar Crenshaw** wears No. 15 instead of No. 3, which he wore as a practice squad player last season.



WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

HEAD COACH MIKE SHANAHAN

On evaluating players in training camp (7/29)

"We try to make our decisions on a day-to-day basis. Now somebody can help themselves in a game, obviously, when it counts. If you do it in a game, but you don't do it consistently in practice... It's part of the evaluation process. We change the pecking order on a day-to-day basis."

On QB Jake Plummer (7/28)

"I feel very good about Jake, especially coming into this year. He's got a good feel of the system and the supporting cast. You don't have to think now — you can react. I think this will be the true year to evaluate Jake Plummer. I feel very good about what he has done in the off-season. He has had a lot of reps, and I'll be surprised if he doesn't have a heck of a year."

On WR Jerry Rice (7/28)

"First of all, everybody competes regardless of who they are. There are no locks. Guys have to come in here and perform. One thing I liked about Jerry Rice is he wanted no guarantees. He knew he had to come in and compete for the job. I've been very impressed with the workouts he has had with us. He's in great shape. He's caught the ball, and he's what I had hoped he would be."

On DT Gerard Warren (8/5)

"I think he's doing great. He's one of our leaders. He's a great hustler. He does everything you ask him to do. From what I've seen of him in the first week, I'd be disappointed if he's not in the Pro Bowl. It's just the way he plays on a day-to-day basis — the way he works, the way he hustles... I just expect him to play at that level because of what I've seen thus far in this camp."

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR LARRY COYER

On what impresses him about the four defensive linemen acquired from Cleveland in the offseason (7/28)

"I think it's a combination. You flash a guy like this, for instance (DE) Courtney Brown, who shows he's physically very similar to (DE) Trevor Pryce. He's got God-given skills — size, speed — and should be able to help us pass rush. He's very good against the run. You take a guy like (DT) Gerard Warren, ability wise he's phenomenally quick, fast for a big man, very active — a good pass rusher. So, we would expect help there. (DT) Michael Myers, the other guy, is a very steady, solid tough guy that fits in with our scheme very well. (DE) Ekuban is a wild man, tough, the kind of guy that we've always wanted around here."

WIDE RECEIVER ROD SMITH

On the Broncos' defense (7/30)

"I expect them to be in the top three easy as one of the best defenses in the league. It's the way they fly around. I love seeing it. I told them all, 'If I don't get at least three interceptions or a fumble a game, I'm going to smack all of you. You are doing it to us, so you better do it to them.'"

QUARTERBACK JAKE PLUMMER

On the first week of training camp (8/5)

"Things are coming along like they should. We've still got a lot of work to do. Each day, we're getting better and fighting through the tiredness and being sore. That's what camp is for... just fight through mentally. Physically, everyone is hurting. You've got to be mentally into it. Soon, we'll go down and break it up and get a look at a different team in Houston, which will be nice, but we've just got to keep pushing."

SAFETY JOHN LYNCH

On the play of punter Todd Sauerbrun in camp (8/2)

"It's fun to watch. The fans here are getting spoiled. Sauerbrun kicks a 60-yarder and it's 'ho-hum.' It's not until the 70-yarder that everybody is like 'oohh.' I've seen Sauerbrun over the years, and I really think he has fit in well going about his job and it's impressive to watch him."

WIDE RECEIVER JERRY RICE

On competing against his younger teammates in camp (7/29)

"These younger guys are all pumped up and ready to go, and they have to show what they are made of. It can get very competitive out there, but I'm from the old school. I got a lot in the rolodex. I got a lot of tricks in. Sometimes I'm going to win some battles and sometimes they're going to win some battles, but overall we are going to make each other better."

LINEBACKER AL WILSON

On the Broncos' starting linebackers (7/30)

"On paper more than likely, we are definitely the fastest (in the NFL). But at the same time, we still have to execute, do our job, make plays and we have to take it to that next level if we want to be the best linebacker core. We are three fast linebackers who know how to get to the football, but if you don't know how to use that speed and execute, then it really doesn't mater."

RUNNING BACK MAURICE CLARETT

On adjusting to the NFL (7/29)

"The best thing for me was mini-camp. Some of the stuff we are doing does come natural, and some things I still have to think about. But as long as I stay focused, I think this team will win a lot of ball games. I came in with a different attitude; I think it was a little bit selfish at first, but once you get out here with the team and coaches, you realize that it is about something a lot bigger than you."

BRONCOS/TEXANS CONNECTIONS

PLAYER-TO-PLAYER CONNECTIONS: Broncos CB **Champ Bailey**, DE **Marco Coleman** and TE **Stephen Alexander** were teammates with Texans QB **Tony Banks** with the Redskins in 2001... Broncos DE **Ebenezer Ekuban** and DT **Michael Myers** also played with Texans T **Chad Beasley** in Cleveland in 2004... Broncos DE **Ebenezer Ekuban**, DT **Michael Myers** and LB **Markus Steele** were teammates with Texans CB **Jason Bell** in Dallas in 2001... Broncos OL **Chris Myers** teamed up with Houston CB **Phillip Buchanan** in college at Miami in 2000 and 2001... Broncos LB **D.J. Williams** joined the duo of **Myers** and



Buchanan in 2001... **Buchanan** also played with Broncos WR **Jerry Rice** in 2004 with the Oakland Raiders... Broncos S **Nick Ferguson** and T **Cornell Green** spent the 2000 and 2001 seasons on the New York Jets' roster with Texans FS **Marcus Coleman**... Denver LB **D.J. Williams** played for the Miami Hurricanes with Texan WR **Andre Johnson** from 2000-2002...**Johnson** also teamed with OL **Chris Myers** in Miami in 2001 and 2002... Broncos LB **Ian Gold** played for Michigan with Texans TE **Bennie Joppru** in 1999... Denver S **Jeremy LeSueur** also played with **Joppru** at Michigan from 1999-2002... Denver Broncos S **John Lynch** and Texans WR **Kevin Jasper** were both born in Hinsdale, Ill.... **Jasper** was a member of the Denver Broncos in the 2001 and 2002 seasons... **Jasper** also played with Broncos G **Cameron Spikes** while playing with Arizona in 2003... Broncos T **Anthony Clement**, DT **Mario Fatafehi**, DE **Anton Palepoi** and QB **Jake Plummer** were all teammates of the Texans WR **Kevin Jasper** while playing for the Arizona Cardinals in 2002...Texans RB **Domanick Davis** and Broncos QB **Matt Mauck** spent three years together in college at Louisiana State University... Broncos DE **Courtney Brown** and DT **Gerard Warren** were both teammates with Texans T **Chad Beasley** in Cleveland from 2002-2004... Texans DE **Jerry Deloach** joined forces with Broncos TE **Stephen Alexander**, CB **Champ Bailey**, and DE **Marco Coleman** at Washington during the 2000 and 2001 seasons... Broncos DE **Ebenezer Ekuban** and Texans LB **Quincy Monk** were teammates on the University of North Carolina defense during 1998 season... **Monk** also teamed with Broncos RB **Ron Dayne** for the N.Y. Giants in 2002 and 2003... Broncos RB **Tatum Bell** and Texans RB **Vernand Morency** both lined up in the backfield at Oklahoma State University in 2002 and 2003... Denver Broncos CB **Karl Paymah** and Texans LB **D.D. Acholonu** played at Washington State from 2000-2003... Denver RB **Tatum Bell** and Houston TE **Marcellus Rivers** teamed up at Oklahoma State in 2000... **Rivers** spent the 2001-2004 seasons on the New York Giants' roster with Broncos RB **Ron Dayne**...Texans CB **Lewis Sanders** spent several seasons in Cleveland with current Broncos **Courtney Brown**, **Ebenezer Ekuban**, **Michael Myers**, and **Gerard Warren**... Broncos QB **Jake Plummer** and T **Anthony Clement** spent the 1999 and 2000 seasons on the Arizona Cardinals' roster with Texans DE **Corey Sears**...**Plummer** spent three years of his college career at Arizona State with Houston S/CB **Jason Simmons**... Broncos LB **Patrick Chukwurah** was teamed up with Texans LB **Kailee Wong** at Minnesota in 2001... Denver Broncos G **Cameron Spikes** was teammates with several Texans after spending time on the Houston roster in 2002...Broncos DT **Mario Fatafehi** and Texans CB **Demarcus Faggins** spent two years together at Kansas State in 1999 and 2000... **Faggins** also teamed with Broncos LB **Terry Pierce** in 2000 and 2001 at Kansas State... Broncos DT **Gerard Warren** crossed paths with Texans WR **Jabar Gaffney** in 2000 at the University of Florida... Broncos FB **Kyle Johnson** and Texans LB **Morlon Greenwood** played four years together at Syracuse from 1997-2000... **Greenwood** also teamed up with Broncos T **Cornell Green** in Miami in 2001... Broncos S **Chris Young** played with Texans RB **Tony Hollings** at Georgia Tech from 1998-2001... Denver

Broncos DT **Mario Fatafehi** teamed up on the Snow Community Junior College defensive line with Texans DT **Junior Ioane** in 1997... Broncos G **Tim Stuber** and Texans RB **Adam Matthews** both attended Northglenn High School in Colorado... Broncos G **Cameron Spikes** played along side Texans C **Steve McKinney** at Texas A&M from 1995-1997... **Spikes** and **McKinney** also teamed up in Houston in 2002... **McKinney** and Broncos DE **Chukie Nwokorie** played together in Indianapolis from 1999-2001... Texans TE **Billy Miller** played for the Denver Broncos during the in 1999 and 2000... Denver LB **Markus Steele** and Houston LB **Zeke Moreno** teamed up on defense at the University of Southern California during the 1999 and 2000 seasons... Broncos CB **Curome Cox** spent two seasons with Texans TE **Matt Murphy** at the University of Maryland from 2000-2001... Denver DT **Luther Elliss** was also a teammate of **Murphy's** with the Detroit Lions in 2002... Broncos S **Jeremy LeSueur** spent 2000-2002 with Texans LB **Shantee Orr** at the University of Michigan... Denver CB **Jeff Shoate** played with Houston G/T **Chester Pitts** at San Diego State in 2000 and 2001... **Shoate** also teamed up with Texans WR **Devin Pitts** at San Diego State in 2003... Broncos P **Todd Sauerbrun** played with Texans T **Victor Riley** at Kansas City in 2000... Denver TE/LS **Mike Leach** was teammates with Houston DE **Robaire Smith** at Tennessee in 2000 and 2001... Broncos WR **Jerry Rice** played with Texans P **Chad Stanley** in San Francisco during the 1999 and 2000 seasons... **Stanley** was with the Arizona Cardinals in 2001 with current Broncos T **Anthony Clement**, DT **Mario Fatafehi**, and QB **Jake Plummer**... Texans DT **Daleroy Stewart** and KR **Reggie Swinton** played with Broncos DE **Ebenezer Ekuban**, DT **Michael Myers**, and LB **Markus Steele** in Dallas... **Swinton** also teamed up with Broncos TE **Stephen Alexander** in 2004 in Detroit... Denver DE **Aaron Hunt** joined Texans QB **B.J. Symons** at Texas Tech from 2000-2002... Broncos WR **B.J. Johnson** lined up at the wide receiver position alongside Texans WR **Sloan Thomas** from 2000-2003 at the University of Texas... Broncos T **Cornell Green** shared the same position with Texans T **Todd Wade** while the two played for Miami in 2001... Texans C **Todd Washington** played with current Broncos T **Cornell Green**, TE **Patrick Hape**, and S **John Lynch** at Tampa Bay... Denver LB **Al Wilson** played college ball at Tennessee with Texans G **Fred Weary** in 1997 and 1998... Broncos DE **Marco Coleman** played with Houston G/T **Zach Wiegert** in Jacksonville during the 2002 season.

COACH AND PLAYER CONNECTIONS: Texans head coach **Dom Capers**, offensive coordinator **Chris Palmer**, special teams coordinator **Joe Marciano** and defensive coordinator **Vic Fangio** were all part of the coaching staff with the Saints in 1991 when Broncos assistant strength and conditioning coach **Cedric Smith** was a fullback... Broncos assistant defensive backs coach **Jimmy Spencer** played cornerback for the Saints from 1992-1995 under **Fangio** and **Joe Marciano**... **Spencer** also played with Texans QB **Tony Banks** in 2001 with the Redskins and Texans LB **Zeke Moreno** at San Diego from 1998-1999... Broncos DE **Chukie Nworkie** played for the Colts for a few seasons under Texans tight ends coach **Tony Marciano** and coach **Fangio**... Broncos



wide receivers coach **Steve Watson** played football at Temple University with **Joe Marciano** for one season in 1975... Texans offensive coordinator **Chris Palmer** crossed paths with Broncos DE **Courtney Brown** in Cleveland in 2000... **Palmer** also worked with Broncos defensive coordinator **Larry Coyer** at the University of Houston in 1990... Texans wide receivers coach **Kippy Brown** and Broncos defensive line/ends coach **Jacob Burney** worked together for one season in 1993 at the University of Tennessee... Broncos defensive backs coach **Bob Slowik** worked with coach **Brown** at Green Bay... Texans running backs coach **Chick Harris** worked at Carolina from 1999-2001 with coach **Jacob Burney**... Broncos G/T **Cooper Carlisle** and DT **Gerard Warren** both played at the University of Florida under Texans defensive backs coach **Jon Hoke**... Houston's defensive line coach **Mike London** worked closely with Broncos DT **Monsanto Pope** in 2001 at the University of Virginia... Broncos CB **Lenny Walls** played at Boston College for one season while **London** was on the coaching staff... Texans offensive line coach **Steve Marshall** was with the University of Colorado during Broncos LB **Jashon Sykes'** junior and senior seasons in Boulder... Denver LB **Al Wilson** played was on the same team that included **Marshall** on its coaching staff for a year at the University of Tennessee... Texans linebackers coach **Tom Olivadotti** was with New York during Broncos RB **Ron Dayne's** stint with the Giants... **Olivadotti** was a member of the Dolphins coaching staff in 1995 when Broncos DE **Marco Coleman** played for Miami... Broncos defensive line/tackles coach **Andre Patterson** coached with **Olivadotti** for two seasons in Minnesota... Broncos TE **Stephen Alexander**, CB **Champ Bailey** and DE **Marco Coleman** all were on the Redskins at the same time as Texans offensive line coach **Joe Pendry** and strength and conditioning coach **Dan Riley**... Broncos assistant strength and conditioning coach **Cedric Smith** played for the Redskins in 1994-1995 while **Riley** was there... Broncos P **Todd Sauerbrun** and defensive line/ends coach **Jacob Burney** were with Carolina at the same time that Texans quarterbacks coach **Greg Roman** and running backs coach **Chick Harris** were with the team ... Texans assistant strength and conditioning coach **Ray Wright** worked at the University of Maryland with Broncos CB **Curome Cox** and CB **Domonique Foxworth** in 2001... **Patterson** was also on the coaching staff at Dallas while Houston CB **Jason Bell** and DT **Daleroy Stewart** played for the Cowboys... Texans LB **Kailee Wong** played under **Patterson** while at Minnesota in 1998 and 1999... Denver defensive backs coach **Bob Slowik** spent the 2000 and 2001 seasons at Green Bay with Texans WR **Corey Bradford**... Broncos linebackers coach **Kirk Doll** was on the coaching staff at Notre Dame while Houston SS **Glenn Earl** played for the Fighting Irish... **Doll** spent the 2002 season at Louisiana State University with Texans RB **Domanick Davis**... Texans TE **Billy Miller** spent time with a number of Denver coaches while he was with the Broncos during the 1999 and 2000 seasons... Similarly, Houston WR **Kevin Kasper** played for the Broncos in 2001... Broncos G **Cameron Spikes** worked with a majority of the Texans coaching staff after playing for Houston in 2002... Broncos special teams assistant coach **Thomas McGaughey** worked with Texans T

Victor Riley in 2001 at Kansas City... Denver defensive line/ends coach **Jacob Burney** spent the 1996 and 1997 seasons working with Houston DE **Corey Sears** at Baltimore... Broncos defensive coordinator **Larry Coyer** spent the 1998 and 1999 seasons at the University of Pittsburgh with Texans SS **Ramon Walker**.

BRONCOS HEAD COACH MIKE SHANAHAN

Mike Shanahan in 2005 begins his 11th season as head coach of the Denver Broncos, and his first decade of measurement against the game's all-time coaches places him among the pro football elite. Last year, he joined the exclusive club of head coaches to post 100 wins in his first 10 seasons with one club, finishing the campaign and decade tied for fourth on this ultra-impressive list.

The group that Mike Shanahan joined is listed below:

COACHES WITH 100 WINS FOR ONE TEAM THROUGH THE FIRST 10 SEASONS WITH THAT TEAM (including playoffs)

	Years	Wins by Season			SB WINS
		Reg	Post	TOTAL	
Joe Gibbs, Washington	1981-1990	101	12	113	2
John Madden, Raiders	1969-1978	103	9	112	1
Don Shula, Miami	1970-1979	104	8	112	2
Mike Shanahan, Broncos	1995-2004	101	7	108	2
George Seifert, San Francisco	1989-1996	98	10	108	2
Mike Ditka, Chicago	1982-1991	101	6	107	1
Marv Levy, Buffalo	1986-1995	96	11	107	0
Bud Grant, Minnesota	1967-1976	98	8	106	0
Bill Cowher, Pittsburgh	1992-2001	99	6	105	0
Marty Schottenheimer, K.C.	1989-1998	101	3	104	0
Bill Walsh, San Francisco	1979-1988	92	10	102	3
Dennis Green, Minnesota	1992-2001	97	4	101	0

No head coach in the NFL has won more games than Mike Shanahan's 108 victories over the last 10 seasons. Those 108 wins by Mike Shanahan include seven consecutive in the playoffs (he is the only coach to have produced seven playoff wins in two years) during the 1997 and 1998 World Championship seasons, years in which he firmly established himself among the game's sideline greats.

In 10 seasons with Denver, Shanahan owns an impressive regular-season coaching record of **101-59 (.631)**. Including a postseason record of 7-4, he has a combined record of **108-63 (.632)** as head coach of the Broncos. Not only is that record the best among all coaches in Denver history, but his home record is a staggering **62-18 (.775)** in regular-season play.

The Broncos' success in Shanahan's 10 seasons with the club is staggering and puts Denver at the top of several offense categories during that time. From 1995-2004, Denver: tied with Green Bay for the NFL's best per-game scoring average (25.3 ppg., 4,045 points); Ranked first in the NFL in rushing yards (22,483, 140.5 per game; and ranked second in the NFL in total offense (58,469 yards, 365 per game). Below is the most updated look at how the success Denver's offense has enjoyed under Shanahan's leadership.



BRONCOS OFFENSE CLICKS DURING THE MIKE SHANAHAN ERA

MOST RUSHING YARDS, 1995-PRESENT

TEAM	YARDS
1. Denver	22,483
2. Pittsburgh	21,749
3. Kansas City	20,101
4. San Francisco	19,951
5. Minnesota	19,471

MOST TOTAL YARDS, 1995-PRESENT

TEAM	YARDS
1. Minnesota	58,524
2. Denver	58,469
3. San Francisco	56,587
4. Green Bay	56,445
5. St. Louis	55,911

MOST FIRST DOWNS, 1995-PRESENT

TEAM	1ST DWNS
1. Denver	3,404
2. Indianapolis	3,245
3. San Francisco	3,242
4. Green Bay	3,229
5. Kansas City	3,227

MOST POINTS, 1995-PRESENT

TEAM	POINTS
1. Green Bay	4,054
2. Denver	4,045
3. Minnesota	3,917
4. Kansas City	3,856
5. Indianapolis	3,854

Under Shanahan's superb guidance, the Broncos have: posted the most wins in pro football history in a two-year period (33 in 1997-98; New England has since won 34 in 2003-04); Posted the most wins in pro football history in a three-year period (46 in 1996-98); Won the most postseason games in history over a two-year period (seven, 1997-98); Won 18 consecutive games from 1997-98 to tie the NFL record at that time for consecutive wins, going undefeated for a calendar year during that streak (Dec. 15, 1997, Dec. 13, 1998); and recorded a 22-2 record in their last 24 games during the back-to-back title years.

Since Shanahan took over the Broncos' coaching reins in 1995, Denver has scored 30 or more points at home 39 times (twice in postseason) and 20 or more points at home 72 times (four times in playoff action) in 80 regular season and four playoff games. Including road games, the Broncos have scored 30 or more points 68 times (including four times in the playoffs) and 20 or more points 128 times (including eight times in the playoffs) in the 160 regular season games and 11 postseason games under him. Denver's record in the 68 games in which it has scored 30 or more points under Shanahan is an amazing 66-2 (which includes 4-0 in playoff competition), including a 39-0 mark (which includes a 2-0 playoff record) at Mile High Stadium and INVESCO Field at Mile High.

Over the last 13 years (10 in Denver and the previous three in San Francisco), Mike Shanahan's offenses have finished number one in the NFL four times, second twice, third three times and fourth once; in two of those campaigns Denver was just 17 and 83 yards short of the number one spot.

During his NFL career, Shanahan has been a part of teams that have played in nine AFC or NFC Championship Games, in addition to his six Super Bowl appearances, five with Denver and the Super Bowl XXIX game with San Francisco. In his nine seasons as a college assistant, Shanahan's teams participated in eight bowl games, winning two national championships.

MIKE SHANAHAN YEAR-BY-YEAR

Yrs.	Pos.	Team	Record
1975	Assistant Coach	University of Oklahoma	10-1
1976	Assistant Coach	University of Oklahoma	9-2
1977	Backfield Coach	Northern Arizona	9-2
1978	Off. Coordinator	Eastern Illinois	9-2
1979	Off. Coordinator	University of Minnesota	4-6-1
1980	Off. Coordinator	University of Florida	8-3
1981	Off. Coordinator	University of Florida	7-4
1982	Off. Coordinator	University of Florida	8-3
1983	Asst. H.C. /Off. Coord.	University of Florida	8-2-1
1984	Receivers Coach	Denver Broncos	13-3
1985	Offensive Coordinator	Denver Broncos	11-5
1986	Offensive Coordinator	Denver Broncos	11-5
1987	Offensive Coordinator	Denver Broncos	10-4-1
1988	Head Coach	Los Angeles Raiders	7-9
1989	Head Coach	Los Angeles Raiders	1-3
1989	Quarterbacks Coach	Denver Broncos	6-4
1990	Quarterbacks Coach	Denver Broncos	5-11
1991	Off. Coordinator	Denver Broncos	12-4
1992	Off. Coordinator	San Francisco 49ers	14-2
1993	Off. Coordinator	San Francisco 49ers	10-6
1994	Off. Coordinator	San Francisco 49ers	13-3
1995	Head Coach	Denver Broncos	8-8
1996	Head Coach	Denver Broncos	13-3
1997	Head Coach	Denver Broncos	12-4
1998	Head Coach	Denver Broncos	14-2
1999	Head Coach	Denver Broncos	6-10
2000	Head Coach	Denver Broncos	11-5
2001	Head Coach	Denver Broncos	8-8
2002	Head Coach	Denver Broncos	9-7
2003	Head Coach	Denver Broncos	10-6
2004	Head Coach	Denver Broncos	10-6

TEXANS HEAD COACH DOM CAPERS

Dom Capers is in his fourth season as the Texans' head coach. Capers is the first coach in NFL history to lead two expansion teams (Panthers, Texans) from their inception.

In 2004, Houston made its biggest leap to date under Capers' guidance, posting a 7-9 record against a schedule that featured six eventual playoff teams. The Texans swept two division rivals and won half of their road games. Houston's improvement in 2004 was evident on both offense and defense with the team establishing records in nine categories, including total yards (5,128), touchdowns (37) and points (309). Quarterback David Carr had his best season under center and running back Domanick Davis posted his second consecutive 1,000-yard season. Meanwhile, wide receiver Andre Johnson became the first Texans offensive player to earn a Pro Bowl berth, setting club records with 79 receptions for 1,142 yards and six touchdowns. Even though the Texans placed an NFL-high 17 players on the Reserve/Injured list in 2003, they managed to win a team-record five games. Highlights from 2003 included the emergence of rookies, RB Davis and WR Johnson. Davis became the Texans first 1,000yard rusher with 1,031 yards and Johnson had a team-high 976 yards receiving. LB Jamie Sharper and CB



Marcus Coleman led the Texans defense. Sharper had a NFL-high 195 tackles, while Coleman had a team-high seven interceptions. P Chad Stanley led the Texans special teams with 36 punts landing inside the 20, tied for second in NFL history.

Before joining the Texans, Capers was the Jaguars' defensive coordinator from 1999-2000. He was named NFL Assistant Coach of the Year by Pro Football Writers of America/*Pro Football Weekly* and *USA Today*. Before his stint as defensive coordinator in Jacksonville, Capers compiled a 30-34 record in four seasons as the head coach for the Panthers. The Panthers' 7-9 finish set an NFL record for most victories by an expansion team in 1995. In 1996, the Panthers surprised the league by winning their final seven regular-season games, resulting in a 12-4 record and the NFC West title. Eight Panthers played in the Pro Bowl and Capers won numerous honors, including coach of the Year by the Associated Press in 1996.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Broncos return to action Saturday, Aug. 20, to face San Francisco in their preseason home opener at INVESCO Field at Mile High... Denver owns a 16-14 all-time record against San Francisco in the preseason, including an 8-5 mark at home... The 49ers are by far the most common preseason opponent for Denver in its 45 years of professional football, and the two teams have squared off in exhibition play 30 times, a total that is twice as many as its next common opponent (Arizona franchise-15 meetings)... The Broncos and 49ers met in 12 consecutive preseasons from 1968-79 and played in 11 consecutive exhibition schedules from 1988-97, including two meetings during the 1995 preseason... In Mike Shanahan's first year as head coach, Denver faced San Francisco July 29, 1995, at Mile High Stadium (a 9-7 Denver win) in its preseason opener before departing for Tokyo, Japan, to face the 49ers again on Aug. 6 in the Tokyo Dome for the American Bowl (a 24-10 Denver win)... The 49ers are one of only four teams that Denver has faced twice in the same preseason (1995), with the others being the Los Angeles Rams (1987) Oakland Raiders (1961 and '65) and Dallas Texans (1961).

DENVER BRONCOS 2005 TRAINING CAMP INFO MEDIA ACCESS TO PRACTICE DURING TRAINING CAMP



Media access will be granted by camp credentials, which will be issued by the Broncos' media relations department. The credentials are valid for the duration of training camp and will include a photo ID. Media members may obtain credentials for training camp in the Broncos' press room, where a member of the media relations department will be present to assist them. Please note that these credentials will not be valid for games at INVESCO Field at Mile High. On their first visit, media members are encouraged to allow a few extra minutes to get their camp press credential. Access is strictly limited to working media only, and the media may not bring guests to practice. In line with regular

team policy, no cell phone activity is allowed. No tripods can be used except on the sidewalk and patio areas, and media cannot be "between fields" if there is any activity on both of those fields.

PARKING

Members of the media will park in Lot A, which is the lot located to the west of the Broncos' training facility. The media parking area will be supervised by security. A limited number of parking passes will be available for media organizations, and these will be distributed through the Broncos' media relations department.

LIVE SHOT LOCATIONS

The primary designated area for live shots is located in front of the helmet on the outside wall in front of the Broncos' training facility. The area immediately inside the press gate, off the field and immediately adjacent to the wall will be available for live shots only if the team is completely finished and no one is on the playing field.

EDITING TRAILERS FOR LOCAL TV STATIONS

Editing trailers will be located in the handicapped parking spaces in the main parking lot of the facility only as specifically approved by the Broncos' media relations department. No telephone lines will be available from the Broncos. These editing trailers will remain in the same locations for their duration, and the Broncos have been in contact with all local stations in advance of training camp to schedule the moving in process for these trailers. Those stations that do not require a microwave truck due to existing wiring inside the team's facility should not bring one because such parking will be extremely limited.

MIKE SHANAHAN AVAILABILITY

Head Coach Mike Shanahan will be available to the press in a group setting after each practice, excluding special-teams practices, as in past years. Requests for individual interviews with Coach Shanahan should be made through the club's media relations department.

PLAYER ACCESS

As in previous camps, players will be available coming off the practice field, and the locker room will be closed. During the lunch period, players will be available adjacent to the dining hall on the patio area. There will be no evening access to players or coaches.

TRAINING CAMP PRACTICE SCHEDULE

The Denver Broncos will run a two-a-day practice schedule until Thursday, Aug. 18, when the team breaks camp. Below is a look at the tentative practice schedule for remainder of the Broncos' 2005 training camp (All practices and times subject to change):



2005 BRONCOS WEEKLY RELEASE

SCHEDULE FOR THE REMAINDER OF TRAINING CAMP

	Morning Practice	Afternoon Practice
Monday, Aug. 8	8:45 (Pads)	3:50 (Shorts)
Tuesday, Aug. 9	8:45 (Pads)	DEPART FOR HOUSTON
Wednesday, Aug. 10	PRACTICE IN HOUSTON	
Thursday, Aug. 11	PRACTICE IN HOUSTON	
Friday, Aug. 12	PRACTICE IN HOUSTON	
Saturday, Aug. 13	BRONCOS AT TEXANS - 7 P.M. (CDT)	
Sunday, Aug. 14	PLAYERS OFF	
Monday, Aug. 15	NO PRACTICE	2:45 (Pads)
Tuesday, Aug. 16	8:30 (Pads)	3:40 (Special Teams)
Wednesday, Aug. 17	8:30 (Pads)	3:50 (Shorts)
Thursday, Aug. 18	8:30 (Pads)	3:40 (Special Teams)
BREAK CAMP		

A FINAL LOOK AT 2004

In 2004, Denver earned its second consecutive trip to the playoffs with a 10-6 record and a second-place finish in the AFC West. But despite losing its AFC Wild Card Game, Denver found plenty of success it can build on in 2005.

Offensively, Jake Plummer—in his second season as the Broncos' starting quarterback—passed for a franchise record 4,089 yards and tied the franchise record with 27 touchdowns passes. His primary targets, Rod Smith and Ashley Lelie, each eclipsed the 1,000-yard mark in receiving, posting 1,144 and 1,084 yards respectively. On the ground, the running game again excelled as Reuben Droughns, aided by a stellar offensive line, led the team with 1,240 yards rushing and six touchdowns.

On the other side of the ball, the team welcomed a number of offseason additions who made an immediate impact. Cornerback Champ Bailey and safety John Lynch garnered Pro Bowl selections for the NFL's fourth-ranked defense while rookie linebacker D.J. Williams led the team with 114 tackles (82 solo). In addition, defensive end Reggie Hayward had a break-out year, posting career highs in sacks (10.5) and tackles (60, 45 solo).

Denver earned its sixth trip to the postseason under Mike Shanahan, who completed a full decade as the franchise's head coach. In the process, Shanahan joined an elite group of coaches who have posted 100 wins in their first 10 seasons with one club.

2005 GAME NOTES

MEET DENVER'S 2005 DRAFT CLASS

Rd.	Choice	Pos.	Player	College
2	56	CB	Darrent Williams	Oklahoma State
<i>Owens the Big 12 Conference career record with five INT returns for a TD.</i>				
3a	76	CB	Karl Paymah	Washington State
<i>Started the final 24 games of his career as a two-year starter.</i>				
3b	97	CB	Domonique Foxworth	Maryland
<i>Earned All-ACC honors in each of his final three seasons.</i>				
3c	101	RB	Maurice Clarett	Ohio State
<i>Named Big Ten Freshman of the Year and first-team all-conference in 2002.</i>				
6	200	OL	Chris Myers	Miami (Fla.)
<i>Started at both guard positions, right tackle and center for the Hurricanes.</i>				
7	239	P/K	Paul Ernster	Northern Arizona
<i>Led Division I-AA in 2004 with a 47.8 gross punting average on 55 punts.</i>				

BRONCOS ELECT 20TH MEMBER TO RING OF FAME

Steve Atwater recently was elected as the 20th member of the Denver Broncos Ring of Fame. Atwater was named to eight Pro Bowls at safety during his 10-year career with the team from 1989-98.

The induction ceremony will take place Sunday, Oct. 9, at halftime of the Broncos' 2:15 p.m. MDT game against the Washington Redskins at INVESCO Field at Mile High.

Atwater is the first former Bronco to be inducted into the franchise's Ring of Fame since tackle Gary Zimmerman (1993-97) joined the distinguished membership in 2003.

The Broncos' Ring of Fame was created in 1984 by team owner Pat Bowlen to honor former players and administrators who played significant roles in the franchise's history. The Ring of Fame is displayed on the Level 5 façade of INVESCO Field at Mile High.

SMITH ONE OF THE BEST UNRAFTED 'CATCHES'

During the 1994 NFL Draft, 222 total players and 29 wide receivers were selected by NFL teams before Rod Smith, a receiver from Division II Missouri Southern University, signed a rookie free agent contract with the Broncos. The wideout is ranked first in receptions (712), second in receiving yards (9,772) and second in receiving touchdowns (59) among undrafted players in NFL history.

CAREER RECEPTIONS AMONG UNRAFTED PLAYERS, ALL-TIME, NFL

Player	Receptions
1. Rod Smith (1995-2004)	712
2. Gary Clark (1985-95)	699
3. Wayne Chrebet (1995-2004)	565
4. J.T. Smith (1978-90)	544
5. Drew Pearson (1973-83)	489

CAREER RECEIVING YARDS AMONG UNRAFTED PLAYERS, ALL-TIME, NFL

Player	Rec. Yards
1. Gary Clark (1985-95)	10,856
2. Rod Smith (1995-2004)	9,772
3. Drew Pearson (1973-83)	7,822
4. Wayne Chrebet (1995-2004)	7,212
5. Ken Burrough (1970-81)	7,102

CAREER RECEIVING TOUCHDOWNS AMONG UNRAFTED PLAYERS, ALL-TIME, NFL

Player	Rec. TDs
1. Gary Clark (1985-95)	65
2. Rod Smith (1995-2004)	59
3. Ken Burrough (1970-81)	49
Stephone Paige (1983-91)	49
5. Drew Pearson (1973-83)	48

Smith is not the only undrafted wide receiver who has found success with the Broncos. Steve Watson (1979-87), who has coached Denver's wide receivers since 2003, ranks 11th all-time in receiving yards (6,112), 11th in receiving touchdowns (36) and 13th in receptions (353) among undrafted players in NFL history.



SMITH RANKS WITH NFL'S BEST

Rod Smith has been one of the NFL's most productive receivers since 1997 and ranks second among active pass catchers in receptions (690), third in receiving yards (9,383) and fourth in receiving touchdowns (56) during that period.

MOST RECEPTIONS IN THE NFL SINCE 1997

Player	Receptions
1. Marvin Harrison (Colts)	781
2. Rod Smith (Broncos)	690
3. Jimmy Smith (Jaguars)	687
4. Terrell Owens (Eagles)	634
5. Keyshawn Johnson (Cowboys)	610

MOST RECEIVING YARDS IN THE NFL SINCE 1997

Player	Rec. Yards
1. Marvin Harrison (Colts)	10,349
2. Jimmy Smith (Jaguars)	9,732
3. Rod Smith (Broncos)	9,383
4. Terrell Owens (Eagles)	9,252
5. Randy Moss (Vikings)	9,142

MOST RECEIVING TOUCHDOWNS IN THE NFL SINCE 1997

Player	Rec. TDs
1. Terrell Owens (Eagles)	91
2. Marvin Harrison (Colts)	90
Randy Moss (Vikings)	90
4. Rod Smith (Broncos)	56
5. Tony Gonzalez (Chiefs)	54

BRONCOS WIDEOUT ON A STREAK

Rod Smith owns the Broncos' franchise record with 92 consecutive games with at least one catch after making at least one catch in all 16 games in 2004.

MOST CONSECUTIVE GAMES WITH A RECEPTION, BRONCOS

Player	Consec. Games	Years of Streak
1. Rod Smith	92	1999-Present
2. Ed McCaffrey	68	1997-2003
3. Lionel Taylor	62	1960-64
4. Shannon Sharpe	60	1995-99
5. Steve Watson	49	1983-86

SMITH LEADS BY EXAMPLE

Wide receiver Rod Smith is widely considered one of the leaders in the locker room, but he also is the team's all-time leader in receiving yards (9,772), receptions (712) and touchdown catches (59) over his 10-year career.

MOST RECEIVING YARDS BY A BRONCO, CAREER

Player	Yards	Rec.	TDs	Years with Den.
1. Rod Smith	9,772	712	59	1995-Present
2. Shannon Sharpe	8,439	675	55	1990-99, 02-03
3. Lionel Taylor	6,872	543	44	1960-65

PLUMMER: DENVER'S ALL-TIME TOP-RATED PASSER

Jake Plummer, after his first two seasons as the Broncos' starting quarterback, has amassed the best career passer rating in Broncos history. Below is a look at the top five:

BEST PASSER RATING AMONG ALL-TIME BRONCOS (min. 500 attempts)

Quarterback	Years	Passer Rating
1. Jake Plummer	2003-04	87.0
2. Brian Griese	1998-02	84.1
3. John Elway	1983-98	79.9
4. Craig Morton	1977-82	78.8
5. Charley Johnson	1972-75	73.1

PLUMMER POSTING IMPRESSIVE TD PCT.

Jake Plummer ranks fifth in the NFL in touchdown percentage since the start of the 2003 season. He has thrown 42 touchdown passes in 823 attempts for a percentage of 5.10.

MOST TOUCHDOWNS PER PASS ATTEMPT, 2003-04 (QBs with 600 or more attempts)

Player	TD	Att.	TD Pct.
1. Peyton Manning, Ind.	78	1,063	7.34%
2. Daunte Culpepper, Min.	64	1,002	6.39%
3. Brett Favre, G.B.	62	1,011	6.13%
4. Steve McNair, Ten.	32	615	5.20%
5. Jake Plummer, Den.	42	823	5.10%
6. Tom Brady, N.E.	51	1,001	5.09%

PLUMMER GETTING BETTER WITH AGE

Jake Plummer has improved his career statistics considerably since joining the Broncos before the 2003 season. Below is a side-by-side look at Plummer's statistics from 1997-2002 and from 2003-04:

Statistical Category	1997-2002 (Arizona)	2003-04 (Denver)
Win/Loss Record	30-52	19-8
Winning Pct.	37%	70%
Passer Rating	69.1	87.0
TD/INT Ratio	90-114 (-24)	42-27 (+15)
TD%	3.3	5.1
INT%	4.2	3.3
Completion Pct.	56.1%	59.8%
Passing Yds./Game	208.7	232.3
Passing Yds./Attempt	6.39	7.62

WINNING /ISN'T EVERYTHING?

Since coming to Denver in 2003 and taking over as Denver's starting quarterback, Jake Plummer has found a way to win. He currently ranks fourth in the NFL in winning percentage by a starting quarterback, and below is a list of the top performers.

BEST REG.-SEASON WINNING PERCENTAGE BY A QB, 2003-04

Quarterback	Record	Pct.
1. Tom Brady, N.E.	28-4	88%
2. Donovan McNabb, Phi.	25-6	81%
3. Peyton Manning, Ind.	24-8	75%
4. Jake Plummer, Den.	19-8	70%
5. Marc Bulger, StL.	20-9	69%



THE START OF SOMETHING GOOD

Durability and longevity are traits every coach looks for in a quarterback, and Jake Plummer ranks among the best in both. Plummer has started 109 games since 1997, a total that ranks fifth in the NFL among active quarterbacks.

MOST STARTS BY NFL QUARTERBACKS SINCE 1997

Quarterback	Starts
1. Brett Favre, G.B.	128
2. Drew Bledsoe, N.E./Buf./Dal. Peyton Manning, Ind.	112
4. Steve McNair, Ten.	111
5. Jake Plummer, Ari./Den.	109

THE COMEBACK KID

Jake Plummer has a knack for bringing his team back. In his career, Plummer has amassed 26 game-saving or game-tying drives in the fourth quarter and 19 game-winning comeback drives in the fourth quarter or overtime, which ranks first among active quarterbacks.

MOST COMEBACKS SINCE 1995

Quarterback	Comebacks
1. Jake Plummer, Ari./Den. (1997-2004)	19
2. Drew Bledsoe, N.E./Buf. (1997-2004) Peyton Manning, Ind. (1998-2004)	18

NALEN TIES RECORD FOR STARTS AT CENTER

Center Tom Nalen, entering his 12th NFL season, needs to start one more regular-season game to move into sole possession of eighth place on the Broncos' all-time games started list and first place among centers. Currently, his 151 starts ties Billy Bryan (1977-88) for most starts by a center in franchise history and eighth place overall.

MOST GAMES STARTED BRONCOS HISTORY (REGULAR SEASON)

Player	Games	Years Played
1. John Elway	231	1983-98
2. Billy Thompson	178	1969-81
3. Tom Jackson	177	1973-86
Barney Chavous	177	1973-85
5. Dennis Smith	170	1981-94
6. Louis Wright	163	1975-86
7. Steve Atwater	155	1989-98
8. Tom Nalen	151	1993-Present
Billy Bryan	151	1977-88
Rubin Carter	151	1977-86

DENVER O-LINE PROVIDING PASS PROTECTION

The Broncos' offensive line, renowned for its ability to clear the way for a dominant rushing attack, also has proven to be equally adept in pass protection during the last two seasons. Denver, which set a franchise record in 2004 by allowing only 15 sacks, has given up the third fewest sacks (40) in the NFL since 2003.

FEWEST SACKS ALLOWED, NFL, SINCE 2003

Team	Sacks	Yards
1. Indianapolis	33	219
Green Bay	33	238
3. Denver	40	247
4. Detroit	48	272
5. San Diego	50	354

RICE: SIMPLY THE BEST

Few NFL players have accomplished more than wide receiver Jerry Rice, who enters 2005 owning 38 NFL records (16 regular season, 9 postseason 11 Super Bowl and 2 Pro Bowl), according to the *NFL Record & Fact Book*. The 13-time Pro Bowler and 11-time Associated Press All-Pro has a commanding lead on all three major career receiving categories.

CAREER RECEPTIONS, ALL-TIME, NFL

Player	Receptions
1. Jerry Rice (1985-2004)	1,549
2. Cris Carter (1987-2002)	1,101
3. Tim Brown (1988-2004)	1,094
4. Andre Reed (1985-2000)	951
5. Art Monk (1980-95)	940

CAREER RECEIVING YARDS, ALL-TIME, NFL

Player	Rec. Yards
1. Jerry Rice (1985-2004)	22,895
2. Tim Brown (1988-2004)	14,934
3. James Lofton (1978-93)	14,004
4. Cris Carter (1987-2002)	13,899
5. Henry Ellard (1983-98)	13,777

CAREER RECEIVING TOUCHDOWNS, ALL-TIME, NFL

Player	Rec. TDs
1. Jerry Rice (1985-2004)	197
2. Cris Carter (1987-2002)	130
3. Tim Brown (1988-2004)	100
Steve Largent (1976-89)	100
5. Don Hutson (1935-45)	99

RICE BEGINS 21ST NFL SEASON

Wide receiver Jerry Rice begins his 21st season in 2005, and his longevity has placed him in elite company among NFL players who have played more than 20 seasons in the NFL. Of the nine players in NFL history to have played 20 or more seasons, Rice is the only wide receiver in that select group.

CAREER YEARS OF SERVICE, ALL-TIME, NFL

Player	Pos.	Seasons	Years
1. George Blanda	K	1949-58; '60-75	26
2. Morten Andersen	K	1982-2004	23
Gary Anderson	K	1982-2004	23
4. Earl Morrall	QB	1956-76	21
5. Jerry Rice	WR	1985-2004	20
Darrell Green	CB	1983-2002	20
Sean Landeta	P	1985-2004	20
Jim Marshall	DE	1960-79	20
Jackie Slater	T	1976-95	20



LELIE DIGS THE LONG BALL

Wide receiver Ashley Lelie steadily has emerged as one of the top deep threats in the NFL since entering the NFL in 2002. Lelie, who led all NFL pass catchers in yards-per-reception average with a franchise record 20.1 average in 2004, leads the NFL in yards per reception average (17.8) during his three-year career. Additionally, his pass-catching average ranks third in Broncos annals.

YARDS PER RECEPTION AVERAGE, NFL, SINCE 2002 (min. 60 rec.)

Player	Current Team	Rec.	Yards	Avg.
1. Ashley Lelie	Denver	126	2,237	17.8
2. Plaxico Burress	N.Y. Giants	173	2,883	16.7
3. Eddie Kennison	Kansas City	171	2,845	16.6
4. Corey Bradford	Houston	96	1,556	16.2
5. Amani Toomer	N.Y. Giants	196	3,147	16.1

YARDS PER RECEPTION AVERAGE, BRONCOS, ALL-TIME (min. 50 rec.)

Player	Years	Rec.	Yards	Avg.
1. Bill Van Heusen	1968-76	82	1,684	20.5
2. Haven Moses	1972-81	302	5,450	18.1
3. Ashley Lelie	2002-2004	126	2,237	17.8
4. Al Frazier	1961-63	58	1,010	17.4
5. Steve Watson	1979-87	353	6,112	17.3

IT STARTS WITH CHAMP

Cornerback Champ Bailey, who earned his fifth Pro Bowl nomination and first Associated Press All-Pro selection of his career in 2004, has started every game of his career since the Redskins drafted him No. 7 overall in the 1999 NFL Draft, a span of 96 consecutive starts. He is the only cornerback in the NFL to start every possible regular-season game played during that period.

MOST STARTS BY A CORNERBACK, NFL 1999-04

Cornerback	Starts
1. Champ Bailey, Den.	96
2. Ronde Barber, T.B.	95
3. Sam Madison, Mia.	93
4. Dewayne Washington, K.C.	92
5. Chris McAlister, Balt.	87

ELAM MOVES PAST 1,400 CAREER POINTS

In 188 career games, Jason Elam has scored 1,442 career points—and with his five points at San Diego in the Dec. 5 game last season—eclipsed the 1,400-point plateau faster than any player in NFL history. Nick Lowery held the NFL record, reaching the mark in 203 career games.

FASTEST TO 1,400 CAREER POINTS, NFL HISTORY

Player	Games Needed
1. Jason Elam	184 games
2. Nick Lowery	203 games
3. Gary Anderson	205 games
4. Morten Andersen	207 games

In addition, Elam surpassed the 1,300 career points mark in just his 170th career game and was the fastest player in NFL history to accomplish that feat.

FASTEST TO 1,300 CAREER POINTS, NFL HISTORY

Player	Games Needed
1. Jason Elam	170 games
2. Nick Lowery	188 games
3. Gary Anderson	191 games

ELAM REACHES ANOTHER CAREER MILESTONE

Kicker Jason Elam joined a very elite group in NFL history in 2004 by becoming just the 16th player ever to hit 300 career field goals. Elam now has 317 career field goals and ranks third among active kickers.

ACTIVE KICKERS WITH 300 OR MORE FIELD GOALS

Player	FGs
1. John Carney (NO)	365
2. Matt Stover (BAL)	350
3. Jason Elam (DEN)	317
4. Jason Hanson (DET)	308
5. John Kasay (CAR)	284

Of the kickers in league history who have reached this number, Elam did it faster than any other, taking just 177 games to accomplish the feat (11 faster than John Carney).

GAMES NEEDED TO REACH 300 CAREER FIELD GOALS

Player	Games
1. Jason Elam	177
2. John Carney	188
3. Gary Anderson	191
Nick Lowery	191

ELAM HAS NFL'S SECOND LONGEST SCORING STREAK

Jason Elam is on quite a tear. He has scored at least one point in every game of his career (188), which is the second longest streak in NFL history for scoring in consecutive games.

LONGEST CONSECUTIVE SCORING STREAKS, NFL HISTORY

Player	Games	Years
1. Morten Andersen	327	1983-Present
2. Jason Elam	188	1993-Present
3. Jim Breach	186	1979-92
4. Ray Wersching	155	1977-87

ELAM RANKS SECOND ALL-TIME IN 50+ FGS

The 50-yard field goal by Elam in Denver's 20-17 win vs. Miami in the Dec. 12 game last season was the 34th 50+yard field goal of his career during the regular season. He currently ranks second all-time in field goals of 50+ yards.

CAREER FIELD GOALS OF 50+-YARDS, ALL-TIME

Name	Field Goals
1. Morten Andersen	40
2. Jason Elam	34
3. John Kasay	26
4. Jason Hanson	25
5. Nick Lowery	22



ELAM IS 1ST IN CAREER PAT PCT.

Elam is the NFL's leader in career PAT percentage at 99.6 percent (491 of 493):

NFL'S CAREER LEADERS IN PAT PERCENTAGE

Player	Made	Att.	Pct.
1. Jason Elam (DEN)	491	493	99.6
2. Tommy Davis	348	350	99.4
3. Mike Vanderjagt (IND)	292	294	99.3
Matt Stover (BAL)	431	434	99.3
Jeff Wilkins (STL)	399	402	99.3

ELAM AMONG THE LEADERS

Jason Elam ranks among the league leaders in fields goals made inside 40 yards since he entered the league in 1993:

NFL'S MOST ACCURATE KICKERS INSIDE 40 YDS. SINCE 1993

Player	Team(s)	FG/FGA	Pct.
1. Jason Hanson	Detroit	189/198	.955
2. Matt Stover	Baltimore/Cleveland	213/224	.951
3. John Kasay	Carolina/Seattle	161/171	.942
4. Jason Elam	Denver	209/224	.933
5. Morten Andersen	MIN/K.C./N.O./ATL/N.Y.G.	182/196	.929

ELAM AMONG THE LEADERS (PART 2)

Jason Elam ranks first in the NFL in points scored (1,442) and field goals made (317) since entering the league in 1993. Here is a look at the tops in each category:

MOST POINTS SCORED, 1993-2004

Player	Current Team	Points
1. Jason Elam	Denver	1,442
2. Gary Anderson	Out of NFL	1,311
3. Matt Stover	Baltimore	1,308
4. Morten Andersen	Out of NFL	1,273
5. Jason Hanson	Detroit	1,243

MOST FIELD GOALS MADE, 1993-2004

Player	Current Team	FGs
1. Jason Elam	Denver	317
2. Matt Stover	Baltimore	313
3. John Carney	New Orleans	299
4. Jason Hanson	Detroit	287
5. Gary Anderson	Out of NFL	281

A "SCORE" TO SETTLE

In only 12 years, Jason Elam has scored 1,442 career points, which ranks third among the league's active leaders. In addition, Elam ranks 13th all-time in league history, and with 29 more points in 2005, can move past Pat Leahy for 12th. Below is a list of the NFL's top-5 active scorers:

TOP-5 ACTIVE SCORERS, NFL

Player	Yrs	TDs	PATs	FGs	Total Pts
1. John Carney, N.O.	17	0	442	365	1,537
2. Matt Stover, Bal.	14	0	431	350	1,481
3. Jason Elam, Den.	12	0	491	317	1,442
4. Jason Hanson, Det.	13	0	412	308	1,336
5. Jerry Rice, Den.	20	208	0	0	1,256

Note: Rice's totals include four 2-point conversions (8 pts.).

ELAM THIRD IN CAREER 100-POINT SEASONS

Kicker Jason Elam scored 129 points in 2004 to pass the 100-point plateau for the 12th time in his career, a total that ranks third all-time among kickers.

NFL'S CAREER LEADERS IN 100-POINT SEASONS

Name	100-pt Seasons	Years Played
1. Morten Andersen	14	1982-2004
Gary Anderson	14	1982-2004
3. Jason Elam	12	1993-2004
4. Nick Lowery	11	1980-1996

In addition, Elam's 12 consecutive 100-point seasons are the most consecutive in NFL history.

MOST CONSECUTIVE 100-POINT SEASONS, NFL HISTORY

Name	100-pt Seasons	Years
1. Jason Elam	12	1993-Present
2. Adam Vinatieri	9	1996-Present
3. Ryan Longwell	9	1997-Present
4. Mike Vanderjagt	7	1998-Present

ELAM TIED FOR THIRD IN GAMES PLAYED

By playing in all 16 games in 2004, Jason Elam has moved into third place all-time Broncos history in regular-season games played with 188.

MOST GAMES PLAYED BRONCOS HISTORY (REGULAR SEASON)

Name	Games	Years Played
1. John Elway	234	1983-98
2. Tom Jackson	191	1973-86
3. Jason Elam	188	1993-Present
4. Paul Howard	187	1973-86
5. Dennis Smith	184	1981-94

SAUERBRUN ON A ROLL

Three-time Pro Bowl punter Todd Sauerbrun, whom Denver acquired in an off-season trade with Carolina, has posted the best net punting average and second best gross average in the NFL over the last five seasons among punters with a minimum of 200 punts during that period.

NET PUNTING AVERAGE, NFL, 2000-PRESENT (min. 200 punts)

Player	Team(s)	Punts	Net Avg.
1. Todd Sauerbrun	Kansas City/Carolina	432	37.1
2. Craig Hentrich	Tennessee	370	36.6
3. Brad Maynard	N.Y. Giants/Chicago	440	36.5
4. Shane Lechler	Oakland	360	36.4
5. Matt Turk	Miami/N.Y. Jets	402	36.3

GROSS PUNTING AVERAGE, NFL, 2000-PRESENT (min. 200 punts)

Player	Team(s)	Punts	Gross Avg.
1. Shane Lechler	Oakland	360	45.9
2. Todd Sauerbrun	Kansas City/Carolina	432	45.4
3. Mitch Berger	Min./Stl./N.O.	337	43.6
4. Chris Hanson	Jacksonville	270	43.5
5. Hunter Smith	Indianapolis	315	43.4



2005 BRONCOS WEEKLY RELEASE

ONE POWERFUL PUNTER

Since entering the NFL in 1995, Todd Sauerbrun has posted the highest gross punting average in the league among punters with a minimum of 500 attempts.

GROSS PUNTING AVERAGE, NFL, 1995-PRESENT (min. 500 punts)

Player	Punts	Yards	Gross Avg.
1. Todd Sauerbrun (DEN)	760	33,443	44.0
2. Chris Gardocki (PIT)	810	35,502	43.8
3. Tom Tupa (WAS)	787	34,371	43.7
4. Tom Rouen (CAR)	606	26,375	43.5
5. Darren Bennett (MIN)	828	36,016	43.5

HOLDING THE OPPONENTS AT BAY

The Broncos held 10 of their 16 opponents under 20 points in 2004 and look to improve on that total in 2005. Under Head Coach Shanahan, they are 69-15 (.821) when they hold their opponents under 20 points. In addition, the club is 45-3 (.938) when holding the opponent to 15 points or less, including seven times this year (6-1, .857). Also, in that time the Broncos have only lost once when holding the opponent to 10 points or less. Below is a list of the 31 games in which Denver's defense has held the opponent to 10 points or under since 1995 (20-0 home and 10-1 on the road).

GAMES IN WHICH THE BRONCOS HAVE HELD THEIR OPPONENTS TO 10 POINTS OR LESS

Sept. 3, 1995	W 22-7	vs. Buffalo
Oct. 8, 1995	W 37-3	at New England
Oct. 16, 1995	W 27-0	vs. Oakland
Nov. 5, 1995	W 38-6	vs. Arizona
Sept. 1, 1996	W 31-6	vs. New York Jets
Sept. 29, 1996	W 14-10	at Cincinnati
Oct. 27, 1996	W 34-7	vs. Kansas City
Nov. 17, 1996	W 34-8	at New England
Dec. 1, 1996	W 34-7	vs. Seattle
Aug. 31, 1997	W 19-3	vs. Kansas City
Nov. 9, 1997	W 34-0	vs. Carolina
Nov. 24, 1997	W 31-3	vs. Oakland
Dec. 21, 1997	W 38-3	vs. San Diego
Nov. 8, 1998	W 27-10	vs. San Diego
Nov. 16, 1998	W 30-7	at Kansas City
Oct. 17, 1999	W 31-10	vs. Green Bay
Dec. 25, 1999	W 17-7	at Detroit
Oct. 8, 2000	W 21-7	at San Diego
Oct. 15, 2000	W 44-10	vs. Cleveland
Dec. 23, 2000	W 38-9	vs. San Francisco
Oct. 7, 2001	W 20-6	vs. Kansas City
Dec. 9, 2001	W 20-7	vs. Seattle
Oct. 6, 2002	W 26-9	vs. San Diego
Nov. 17, 2002	W 31-9	at Seattle
Dec. 29, 2002	W 37-7	vs. Arizona
Sept. 7, 2003	W 30-10	at Cincinnati
Sept. 22, 2003	W 31-10	vs. Oakland
Nov. 16, 2003	W 37-8	vs. San Diego
Nov. 30, 2003	W 22-8	at Oakland
Sept. 19, 2004	L 6-7	at Jacksonville
Oct. 17, 2004	W 31-3	at Oakland

CENTURY MARK AND BEYOND

The Denver Broncos have had one of the most potent rushing attacks in the NFL since Head Coach Mike Shanahan took over in 1995. In addition to having five different running backs rush for over 1,000 yards in a season (Terrell Davis, Olandis Gary, Mike Anderson, Clinton Portis and Reuben Droughns, who eclipsed the 1,000 yard mark in 2004), the Broncos are tops in the NFL with most individual 100-yard games with 75. Below is a list of the NFL's top teams in 100-yard performers since 1995.

MOST INDIVIDUAL 100-YARD GAMES SINCE 1995, NFL

Team	100-yd. Games
1. Denver	75
2. Pittsburgh	65
3. Indianapolis	55
4. Dallas	54
5. Detroit	49

100-YARDS AND RUNNING

The Broncos have won 10 of their last 12 games and 35 of their last 43 when a running back rushes for 100 yards or more.

BRONCOS' WINS WHEN A RUNNING BACK TOPS 100-YARDS

Player	Yards	Opponent	Result
1. Terrell Davis	178 yards	Seattle (12/27/98)	W 28-21
2. Olandis Gary	124 yards	Green Bay (10/17/99)	W 31-10
3. Olandis Gary	108 yards	at San Diego (11/7/99)	W 33-17
4. Olandis Gary	183 yards	Seattle (12/19/99)	W 36-30
5. Olandis Gary	185 yards	at Detroit (12/25/99)	W 17-7
6. Mike Anderson	131 yards	Atlanta (9/10/00)	W 42-14
7. Mike Anderson	187 yards	at Oakland (9/17/00)	W 33-24
8. Mike Anderson	103 yards	Cleveland (10/15/00)	W 44-10
9. Terrell Davis	115 yards	at N.Y. Jets (11/5/00)	W 30-23
10. Mike Anderson	195 yards	at Seattle (11/26/00)	W 38-31
11. Mike Anderson	251 yards	at New Orleans (12/3/00)	W 38-23
12. Mike Anderson	131 yards	Seattle (12/10/00)	W 31-24
13. Terrell Davis	101 yards	N.Y. Giants (9/10/01)	W 31-20
14. Mike Anderson	155 yards	Kansas City (10/7/01)	W 20-6
15. Mike Anderson	118 yards	at Dallas (11/22/01)	W 26-24
16. Terrell Davis	109 yards	Seattle (12/9/01)	W 20-7
17. Clinton Portis	103 yards	Buffalo (9/22/02)	W 28-23
18. Clinton Portis	102 yards	San Diego (10/6/02)	W 26-9
19. Clinton Portis	111 yards	at New England (10/27/02)	W 24-16
20. Clinton Portis	136 yards	at Seattle (11/17/02)	W 31-9
Clinton Portis	159 yards	at San Diego (12/1/02)	L 37-30 OT
Clinton Portis	103 yards	at New York (12/8/02)	L 13-19
21. Clinton Portis	130 yards	Kansas City (12/15/02)	W 31-24
22. Clinton Portis	228 yards	Arizona (12/29/02)	W 37-7
23. Clinton Portis	120 yards	at Cincinnati (9/7/03)	W 30-10
24. Clinton Portis	129 yards	at San Diego (9/14/03)	W 37-13
Clinton Portis	141 yards	at Kansas City (10/5/03)	L 23-24
Clinton Portis	117 yards	at Minnesota (10/19/03)	L 20-28
Clinton Portis	111 yards	vs. New England (11/3/03)	L 26-30
25. Clinton Portis	106 yards	vs. San Diego (11/16/03)	W 37-8
Clinton Portis	165 yards	vs. Chicago (11/23/03)	L 10-19
26. Clinton Portis	170 yards	at Oakland (11/30/03)	W 22-8
27. Clinton Portis	218 yards	vs. Kansas City (12/7/03)	W 45-27
28. Clinton Portis	139 yards	vs. Cleveland (12/14/03)	W 23-20 OT
29. Quentin Griffin	136 yards	at Indianapolis (12/21/03)	W 31-17
30. Quentin Griffin	156 yards	vs. Kansas City (9/12/04)	W 34-24
31. R. Droughns	193 yards	vs. Carolina (10/10/04)	W 20-17
32. R. Droughns	176 yards	at Oakland (10/17/04)	W 31-3
R. Droughns	110 yards	at Cincinnati (10/25/04)	L 10-23
33. R. Droughns	120 yards	vs. Houston (11/7/04)	W 31-13
34. R. Droughns	166 yards	at New Orleans (11/21/04)	W 34-13
R. Droughns	102 yards	vs. Oakland (11/28/04)	L 24-25
35. Tatum Bell	123 yards	vs. Miami (12/12/04)	W 20-17



SHUTOUTS, WE NO NEED NO STINKIN' SHUTOUTS

It's a rare day when the Broncos can't score any points. Denver currently holds the third longest current streak in the NFL for consecutive games without being shutout at 198. Below is a list of the top current streaks in the league.

MOST CONSECUTIVE GAMES WITHOUT BEING SHUTOUT, NFL

Team	Games
1. Minnesota	218
2. Green Bay	214
3. Denver	198

BRONCOS TOPS IN THE AFC SINCE FREE AGENCY BEGAN (1993)

Since the league's current free-agent system began in 1993, the Broncos have been extremely successful. In fact, the team has the AFC's best record, 117-75 (.609) and ranks second overall. Below are the NFL's top teams since free agency began:

NFL'S WINNINGEST TEAMS SINCE FREE AGENCY BEGAN (1993)

Team	Record	Playoff Appearances	Super Bowl Wins
1. Green Bay	127-65 (.661)	10	1
2. Denver	117-75 (.609)	7	2
3. San Francisco	112-80 (.583)	8	1
4. Kansas City	111-81 (.578)	5	0
5. Miami	109-83 (.568)	7	0

ROAD WARRIORS AGAINST THE RUN

The Broncos' run defense in road games played since 1995 has proven to be the stingiest in the NFL, allowing the fewest yards per game during that period. In the 80 contests it has played away from home, Denver is allowing an average of only 87.2 rushing yards per game.

TOP ROAD RUSHING DEFENSES SINCE 1995

Team	Rd. Games	Opp. Rush Yds.	Opp. Rush Avg.
1. Denver	80	6,973	87.2
2. Pittsburgh	80	7,159	89.5
3. Tennessee	80	7,319	91.5
4. San Francisco	80	7,444	93.1
5. San Diego	80	7,791	97.4



HOLD IT RIGHT THERE

When John Elway was ruling the roost in Denver, comebacks were often times the only thing people talked about. But since Head Coach Mike Shanahan took over the reigns in 1995, the Broncos have learned to not allow the opponents to come back on them. In Shanahan's tenure, the Broncos are 85-12 (.876) in games in which they led after three quarters, including 6-0 in '04.

BRONCOS RECORD WHEN LEADING AFTER THREE QUARTERS

Year	Record	Pct.
1995	6-1	.857
1996	10-1	.909
1997	12-0	1.000
1998	13-0	1.000
1999	5-2	.714
2000	9-1	.900
2001	7-2	.778
2002	8-2	.800
2003	9-3	.750
2004	6-0	1.000
Total	85-12	.876

RUMMY .500

With its final 10-6 record in 2004 and a 10-6 mark in 2003, Denver continued to improve its streak of 75 consecutive weeks with a .500 or better record. It is the longest such streak currently in the NFL.

CURRENT STREAKS / CONSECUTIVE WEEKS WITH .500+ RECORD

75	Denver Broncos (10/08/2000 to present)
32	Seattle Seahawks and Minnesota Vikings

HOME, SWEET HOME

The Broncos have amassed the NFL's best home record since 1974 in the regular season and postseason. Denver also has the most regular-season home victories in the league since 1974, and the most victories, regular and postseason, since 1974:

Team	Regular Season	Postseason	Total	Pct.
1. Denver	179-61-1 (.745)	11-2 (.846)	190-63-1	.750
2. Pittsburgh	170-69-1 (.710)	15-6 (.714)	185-75-1	.711
3. Miami	168-69-1 (.708)	11-6 (.647)	179-75-1	.704
4. Dallas	161-80-0 (.668)	14-4 (.778)	175-84-0	.676
5. Washington	150-88-1 (.630)	10-1 (.909)	160-89-1	.642

SHANAHAN BRINGS THE MAGIC BACK TO THE MILE HIGH AREA

Since taking over the coaching reins of the Broncos in 1995, Mike Shanahan has a 62-18 (.775) regular season record at home, the best home winning percentage among head coaches in the Broncos' 45-year history.

HOME WINNING PERCENTAGE, BRONCOS' HEAD COACHES

Head Coach (Years)	Reg. Season	Pct.
1. Mike Shanahan (1995-present)	62-18	.775
2. Dan Reeves (1981-92)	72-21	.774
3. Red Miller (1977-80)	22-9	.710
4. John Ralston (1972-76)	20-13-2	.600
5. Wade Phillips (1993-94)	9-7	.563



SHANAHAN TOPS THE CHART

Mike Shanahan's 10-year regular season record is currently first among active coaches in the league since 1995:

TOP RECORDS AMONG ACTIVE COACHES IN NFL, 1995-04

Head Coach, Team (s)	Record	Pct.
1. Mike Shanahan, Denver	101-59	.631
2. Bill Cowher, Pittsburgh	99-60-1	.622
3. Mike Holmgren, Green Bay/Seattle	98-62	.613
4. Jeff Fisher, Tennessee	93-67	.581

DENVER STRIKES FAST UNDER SHANAHAN

Since Mike Shanahan became Denver's head coach prior to the start of the 1995 season, the Broncos have not only scored the most points in the first quarter in the NFL, but they also have the biggest point-differential in the first quarter:

BEST FIRST-QUARTER POINT-DIFFERENTIAL SINCE 1995

Team	Differential	Points For	Points Against
1. Denver	+444	977	533
2. Tennessee	+228	825	593
3. Green Bay	+163	716	553

In addition, in Head Coach Mike Shanahan's career, he is first in NFL history in first-quarter leads. In Shanahan's 180 games coached, he has enjoyed a lead at the end of the first quarter 90 times (.500), which ranks first:

Coach	Games	1 st -Qtr.	
		Leads	Pct.
1. Mike Shanahan	180	90	50.0
2. Greasy Neal	101	50	49.5
3. Jeff Fisher	166	82	49.4

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Denver led the NFL in 2004 with five former Broncos on its coaching staff. In 2005, six of the Broncos' 21 coaches have appeared in at least one regular-season game for the club.

Below is glance at Denver's coaches who once donned the orange and blue.

DENVER COACHES WHO PLAYED AT LEAST ONE REGULAR-SEASON GAME FOR THE BRONCOS

Coach	Pos.	Gms. (Starts) with Denver	Years
1. Ronnie Bradford (Spec. Tms.)	DB	26 (3)	1993-95
<i>Started three games at cornerback for Denver during the 1993 season.</i>			
2. Rick Dennison (Offensive Line)	LB	128 (52)	1982-90
<i>Ranked second on the Broncos with 133 tackles in 1988.</i>			
3. Gary Kubiak (Off. Coordinator)	QB	119 (5)	1983-91
<i>Played the second most career games by a Broncos QB, trailing John Elway.</i>			
4. Jim Ryan (Defensive Assistant)	LB	150 (91)	1979-88
<i>Led Denver with 125 tackles in 1987 and was on two Super Bowl teams.</i>			
5. Jimmy Spencer (Assistant DBs)	CB	53 (8)	2000-03
<i>Returned two interceptions for touchdowns with the Broncos in 2000.</i>			
6. Steve Watson (Wide Receivers)	WR	126 (87)	1979-87
<i>Posted three 1,000-yard seasons for Denver and had 16 100-yard games.</i>			

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN 2005

• The Broncos look to extend their NFL-best home record of 190-63-1 (179-61-1 regular season) since 1974. The regular season victories and total victories are the most in the NFL over that period.

RUNNING BACK MIKE ANDERSON

• **Career Rushing Yards, Broncos:** Needs 292 yards to pass Clinton Portis (3,099) for sixth place, 600 to pass John Elway (3,407) for fifth place and 1,646 to pass Otis Armstrong (4,453) for fourth place on Denver's all-time career rushing yards list.

• **Career Rushing Touchdowns, Broncos:** Needs two rushing touchdowns to move past Otis Armstrong (25) for sixth place, six to move past Clinton Portis (29) for fifth place and 10 to pass John Elway (33) on the Broncos' all-time list for career rushing scores.

• **Career Rushing Attempts, Broncos:** Needs 74 carries to move past Jon Keyworth (699) for sixth place, 149 to move past John Elway (774) for fifth place and 398 to move past Otis Armstrong (1,023) for fourth place on the Broncos' all-time list for career rushing attempts.

KICKER JASON ELAM

• **Career Points, NFL:** Needs 29 points to pass Pat Leahy (1,470) for 12th place, 35 to pass Steve Christie (1,476) for 11th place and 40 to pass Matt Stover (1,481; active) for 10th place on the NFL's all-time career points scored list.

• **Career Field Goals Made, NFL:** Needs to make 19 field goals to pass George Blanda (335) for 11th place, 20 to pass Steve Christie (336) for 10th place and 31 to pass Al Del Greco (347) for ninth place on the NFL's all-time career field goals made list.

• **Career Field Goals Attempted, NFL:** Needs to attempt eight field goals to pass Lou Groza (405) for 18th place, 18 to pass Matt Bahr (415) for 17th place, 26 to pass Matt Stover (423, active) for 16th place and 29 to pass Pat Leahy (426) for 15th place on the NFL's all-time career field goals attempted list.

• **Career Extra Points Made, NFL:** Needs to make 27 extra points to pass Jim Breech (517) for 15th place, 29 to pass Fred Cox (519) for 14th place and 31 to pass Jim Turner (521) for 13th place on the NFL's all-time extra points made list.

• **Career Extra Points Attempted, NFL:** Needs to attempt 20 extra points to pass Mark Moseley (512) for 17th place, 27 to pass Chris Bahr (519) for 16th place and 42 to pass Matt Bahr for 15th place on the NFL's all-time extra points attempted list.

• **Career Games Played, Broncos:** Needs to play four games to pass Tom Jackson (191) for second place on Denver's all-time career games played list.



CENTER TOM NALEN

- **Career Games Started, Broncos:** Needs to start one game to pass Rubin Carter and Billy Bryan (151) for sole possession of eighth place, five to pass Steve Atwater (155) for seventh place and 13 to pass Louis Wright (163) for sixth place on Denver's all-time career games started list.

QUARTERBACK JAKE PLUMMER

- **Career Yards of Total Offense, Broncos:** Needs 575 yards of total offense (rushing and passing) to pass Charley Johnson (7,252) for sixth place, 930 to pass Terrell Davis (7,607) for fifth place and 974 to pass Frank Tripucka (7,651) for fourth place on Denver's all-time career yards of total offense list.

- **Career Passing Yards, Broncos:** Needs 167 passing yards to pass Steve Ramsey (6,437) for sixth place, 968 to pass Charley Johnson (7,238) for fifth place and 1,406 to pass Frank Tripucka (7,676) for fourth place on Denver's all-time career passing yards list.

- **Career Passing Attempts, Broncos:** Needs 97 passing attempts to pass Steve Ramsey (919) for sixth place, 148 to pass Charley Johnson (970) for fifth place and 455 to pass Frank Tripucka (1,277) for fourth place on Denver's all-time career passing attempts list.

- **Career Completions, Broncos:** Needs 26 completions to pass Charley Johnson (517) for fifth place, 171 to pass Frank Tripucka (662) for fourth place and 416 to pass Craig Morton (907) for third place on Denver's all-time career completions list.

- **Career Touchdown Passes, Broncos:** Needs 10 touchdown passes to move ahead of Frank Tripucka (51) for fifth place, 11 to pass Charley Johnson (52) for fourth place and 30 to pass Brian Griese (71) for third place on Denver's all-time career touchdown passes thrown list.

- **Career 300-Yard Passing Games, Broncos:** Needs two 300-yard games to pass Steve DeBerg (3) for sixth place, three to pass Craig Morton and Charley Johnson (4) for fourth place and four to pass Frank Tripucka (5) for third place on Denver's all-time career 300-yard passing games list.

DEFENSIVE END TREVOR PRYCE

- **Career Sacks, Broncos:** Needs five sacks to pass Lyle Alzado (64.5) for fifth place, 14 to pass Rulon Jones (73.5) for fourth place and 15.5 to pass Barney Chavous (75.0) for third place on Denver's all-time career sacks list.

- **Multiple-Sack Games, Broncos:** Needs two multiple-sack games to pass Lyle Alzado (13) for fourth place, four to pass Paul Smith (15) for third place and five to pass Barney Chavous (16) for second place on Denver's all-time career multiple-sack games list.

WIDE RECEIVER ROD SMITH

- **Career Touchdowns, Broncos:** Needs to score four touchdowns to pass Terrell Davis (65) for first place on Denver's all-time career touchdowns scored list.

- **Career Points Scored, Broncos:** Needs to score 23 points to pass Terrell Davis (396) for sixth place, 35 to pass Gene Mingo (408) for fifth place and 56 to pass David Treadwell (429) for fourth on Denver's all-time career points scored list.

- **Career Receptions, NFL:** Needs 12 catches to pass Marshall Faulk (723, current) for 19th place, 32 to pass Andre Rison (743) for 18th place, 39 to pass Charlie Joiner and Michael Irvin (750) for 16th place, 44 to pass Keenan McCardell (755, current) for 15th place and 53 to pass James Lofton (764) for 14th place in NFL history for career receptions.

- **Career Receiving Yards, NFL:** Needs 60 yards receiving to pass Drew Hill (9,831) for 22nd place, 289 to pass Shannon Sharpe (10,060) for 21st place, 434 to pass Andre Rison (10,205) for 20th place, 495 to pass Lance Alworth (10,266) for 19th place and 601 to pass Harold Jackson (10,372) for 18th place in NFL history for career receiving yards.

- **Consecutive Games with a Reception, Broncos:** Every game he catches a pass in this season will increase his franchise record for consecutive games with a reception (92).

- **Combined Yardage, Broncos:** Needs 1,303 combined yards (receiving/rushing/returns) to pass Floyd Little (12,157) for first place on Denver's all-time career combined yards list.

- **Punt Return Yards, Broncos:** Needs 45 punt return yards to pass Vance Johnson (689) for eighth place, 249 to pass Floyd Little (893) for seventh place, 278 to pass Darrien Gordon (922) for sixth place and 366 to pass Gerald Willhite (1,010) for fifth place on Denver's all-time career punt return yards list.



RECORDS WATCH – WHICH BRONCOS ARE CLIMBING THE CHARTS

(as of preseason 2005)

RB MIKE ANDERSON

CAREER RUSHING YARDS, BRONCOS

1. Terrell Davis, 1995-2002	7,607
2. Floyd Little, 1967-75	6,323
3. Sammy Winder, 1982-90	5,428
4. Otis Armstrong, 1973-80	4,453
5. John Elway, 1983-98	3,407
6. Clinton Portis, 2002-03	3,099
7. Mike Anderson, 2000-04	2,808

CAREER RUSHING ATTEMPTS, BRONCOS

1. Terrell Davis, 1995-2002	1,655
2. Floyd Little, 1967-75	1,641
3. Sammy Winder, 1982-90	1,493
4. Otis Armstrong, 1973-80	1,023
5. John Elway, 1983-98	774
6. Jon Keyworth, 1974-80	699
7. Mike Anderson, 2000-04	626

CAREER RUSHING TDs, BRONCOS

1. Terrell Davis, 1995-2002	60
2. Floyd Little, 1967-75	43
3. Sammy Winder, 1982-90	39
4. John Elway, 1983-98	33
5. Clinton Portis, 2002-03	29
6. Otis Armstrong, 1973-80	25
7. Mike Anderson, 2000-04	24

K JASON ELAM

CAREER POINTS, NFL

9. John Carney, 1988-2004	1,537
10. Matt Stover, 1991-2004	1,481
11. Steve Christie, 1990-2004	1,476
12. Pat Leahy, 1974-91	1,470
13. Jason Elam, 1993-2004	1,442

CAREER FIELD GOALS MADE, NFL

8. Matt Stover, 1991-2004	350
9. Al Del Greco, 1984-2000	347
10. Steve Christie, 1990-2004	336
11. George Blanda, 1949-75	335
12. Jason Elam, 1993-2004	317

CAREER FIELD GOALS ATTEMPTED, NFL

15. Pat Leahy, 1974-91	426
16. Matt Stover, 1991-2004	423
17. Matt Bahr, 1979-95	415
18. Lou Groza, 1950-67	405
19. Jason Elam, 1993-2004	398

CAREER EXTRA POINTS MADE, NFL

12. Matt Bahr, 1979-95	522
13. Jim Turner, 1964-79	521
14. Fred Cox, 1963-77	519
15. Jim Breech, 1979-92	517
16. Jason Elam, 1993-2004	491

CAREER EXTRA POINTS ATTEMPTED, NFL

13t. Jim Breach, 1979-92	539
13t. Fred Cox, 1963-77	539
15. Matt Bahr, 1979-95	534
16. Chris Bahr, 1976-89	519
17. Mark Moseley, 1970-86	512
18. Jason Elam, 1993-2004	493

CAREER GAMES PLAYED, BRONCOS

1. John Elway, 1983-98	234
2. Tom Jackson, 1973-86	191
3. Jason Elam, 1993-2004	188
4. Paul Howard, 1973-86	187
5. Dennis Smith, 1981-94	184

C TOM NALEN

CAREER STARTS, BRONCOS

1. John Elway, 1983-98	231
2. Bill Thompson, 1969-81	178
3. Tom Jackson, 1973-86	177
3t. Barney Chavous, 1973-85	177
5. Dennis Smith, 1981-94	170
6. Louis Wright, 1975-86	163
7. Steve Atwater, 1989-98	155
8t. Billy Bryan, 1977-88	151
8t. Rubin Carter, 1975-86	151
8t. Tom Nalen, 1994-2004	151

QB JAKE PLUMMER

CAREER PASSING YARDS, BRONCOS

1. John Elway, 1983-98	51,475
2. Craig Morton, 1977-82	11,895
3. Brian Griese, 1998-2002	11,763
4. Frank Tripucka, 1960-63	7,676
5. Charley Johnson, 1972-75	7,238
6. Steve Ramsey, 1971-76	6,437
7. Jake Plummer, 2003-04	6,271

CAREER PASSING ATTEMPTS, BRONCOS

1. John Elway, 1983-98	7,250
2. Brian Griese, 1998-2002	1,678
3. Craig Morton, 1977-82	1,594
4. Frank Tripucka, 1960-63	1,277
5. Charley Johnson, 1972-75	970
6. Steve Ramsey, 1971-76	919
7. Jake Plummer, 2003-04	823

CAREER COMPLETIONS, BRONCOS

1. John Elway, 1983-98	4,123
2. Brian Griese, 1998-2002	1,044
3. Craig Morton, 1977-82	907
4. Frank Tripucka, 1960-63	662
5. Charley Johnson, 1972-75	517
6. Jake Plummer, 2003-04	492

CAREER TD PASSES, BRONCOS

1. John Elway, 1983-98	300
2. Craig Morton, 1977-82	74
3. Brian Griese, 1998-2002	71
4. Charley Johnson, 1972-75	52
5. Frank Tripucka, 1960-63	51
6. Jake Plummer, 2003-04	42

CAREER 300-YD. GAMES, BRONCOS

1. John Elway, 1983-98	40
2. Brian Griese, 1998-2002	12
3. Frank Tripucka, 1960-63	5
4t. Charley Johnson, 1972-75	4
4t. Craig Morton, 1977-82	4
5. Steve DeBerg, 1981-83	3
6. Jake Plummer, 2003-04	2

CAREER YARDS OF TOTAL OFFENSE (RUSHING AND PASSING), BRONCOS

1. John Elway, 1983-98	54,882
2. Brian Griese, 1998-2002	12,279
3. Craig Morton, 1977-82	12,155
4. Frank Tripucka, 1960-63	7,651
5. Terrell Davis, 1995-2002	7,607
6. Charley Johnson, 1972-75	7,252
7. Jake Plummer, 2003-04	6,678

RUSHING YARDS BY A QB, BRONCOS

1. John Elway, 1983-98	3,407
2. Brian Griese, 1998-2002	516
3. Jake Plummer, 2003-04	407
4. Norris Weese, 1976-79	362
5. Mickey Slaughter, 1963-66	266

DE TREVOR PRYCE

CAREER SACKS, BRONCOS

1. Simon Fletcher, 1985-95	97.5
2. Karl Mecklenburg, 1983-94	79.5
3. Barney Chavous, 1973-85	75
4. Rulon Jones, 1980-88	73.5
5. Lyle Alzado, 1971-78	64.5
6. Trevor Pryce, 1997-2004	60

MULTIPLE-SACK GAMES, BRONCOS

1. Simon Fletcher, 1985-95	20
2. Barney Chavous, 1973-85	16
3. Paul Smith, 1968-78	15
4. Lyle Alzado, 1971-78	13
5. Trevor Pryce, 1997-04	12

WR JERRY RICE

CAREER GAMES PLAYED, NFL

1. Morten Andersen, 1982-2004	354
2. Gary Anderson, 1982-2004	353
3. George Blanda, 1949-75	340
4. Jerry Rice, 1985-2004	303
5. Bruce Matthews, 1983-2001	296



RECORDS WATCH – WHICH BRONCOS ARE CLIMBING THE CHARTS (as of preseason 2005)

CAREER POINTS, NFL

17.	Jim Bakken, 1963-78	1,380
18.	Fred Cox, 1963-77	1,365
19.	Lou Groza, 1950-67	1,349
20.	Jason Hanson, 1992-2004	1,336
21.	Jerry Rice, 1985-2004	1,256

WR ROD SMITH

CAREER TOUCHDOWNS, BRONCOS

1.	Terrell Davis, 1995-2002	65
2.	Rod Smith, 1995-2004	62
3.	Shannon Sharpe, 1990-98, '02-03	55
4.	Floyd Little, 1967-75	54
5.	Sammy Winder, 1982-90	48

POINTS SCORED, BRONCOS

1.	Jason Elam, 1993-2004	1,442
2.	Jim Turner, 1971-79	742
3.	Rich Karlis, 1982-88	655
4.	David Treadwell, 1989-92	429
5.	Gene Mingo, 1960-64	408
6.	Terrell Davis, 1995-2001	396
7.	Rod Smith, 1995-2004	374

CAREER RECEPTIONS, NFL

16t.	Michael Irvin, 1988-99	750
16t.	Charlie Joiner, 1969-86	750
18.	Andre Rison, 1989-2000	743
19.	Marshall Faulk, 1994-2004	723
20.	Rod Smith, 1995-2004	712

CAREER RECEIVING YARDS, NFL

20.	Andre Rison, 1989-2000	10,205
21.	Shannon Sharpe, 1990-2003	10,060
22.	Drew Hill, 1979-93	9,831
23t.	Rod Smith, 1995-2004	9,772
23t.	Terrell Owens, 1996-2004	9,772

COMBINED YARDAGE (RECEIVING, RUSHING, RETURNS), BRONCOS

1.	Floyd Little, 1967-75	12,157
2.	Rod Smith, 1995-2004	10,855
3.	Rick Upchurch, 1975-83	10,081
4.	Terrell Davis, 1995-2002	8,887
5.	Shannon Sharpe, 1990-99, '02-03	8,448

CAREER PUNT RETURN YARDS, BRONCOS

1.	Rick Upchurch, 1975-83	3,008
2.	Bill Thompson, 1969-81	1,814
3.	Deltha O'Neal, 2000-03	1,325
4.	Glyn Milburn, 1993-95	1,158
5.	Gerald Willhite, 1982-88	1,010
6.	Darrien Gordon, 1997-98	922
7.	Floyd Little, 1967-75	893
8.	Vance Johnson, 1985-91	689
9.	Rod Smith, 1995-2004	645

DENVER BRONCOS 2004 FINAL REGULAR SEASON TEAM STATISTICS (10-6)

Date	W-L	Score	OT	Opponent	Attendance	Rushing	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
09/12	W	34-24		Kansas City	75,939	Droughns	275	1240	4.5	51t	6
09/19	L	6-7		at Jacksonville	69,127	Bell	75	396	5.3	29	3
09/26	W	23-13		San Diego	74,533	Griffin	85	311	3.7	47t	2
10/03	W	16-13		at Tampa Bay	65,341	Plummer	62	202	3.3	22	1
10/10	W	20-17		Carolina	75,072	Hearst	20	81	4.1	11	1
10/17	W	31-3		at Oakland	62,507	Smith	5	33	6.6	14	0
10/25	L	10-23		at Cincinnati	65,806	Watts	5	33	6.6	10	0
10/31	L	28-41		Atlanta	75,083	Sapp	4	32	8.0	18	0
11/07	W	31-13		Houston	74,292	Lelie	3	5	1.7	8	0
11/21	W	34-13		at New Orleans	64,900	Team	534	2333	4.4	51t	13
11/28	L	24-25		Oakland	75,936	Opponents	396	1512	3.8	44	16
12/05	L	17-20		at San Diego	65,395						
12/12	W	20-17		Miami	75,027	Receiving	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
12/19	L	17-45		at Kansas City	77,702	Smith	79	1144	14.5	85t	7
12/25	W	37-16		at Tennessee	68,809	Lelie	54	1084	20.1	58	7
01/02	W	33-14		Indianapolis	75,149	Putzier	36	572	15.9	39	2

	Denver	Opponent
Total First Downs	351	235
Rushing	127	83
Passing	184	130
Penalty	40	22
3rd Down: Made/Att	78/206	65/209
3rd Down Pct.	37.9	31.1
4th Down: Made/Att	7/14	5/14
4th Down Pct.	50.0	35.7
Possession Avg.	32:38	27:23
Total Net Yards	6332	4459
Avg. Per Game	395.8	278.7
Total Plays	1070	918
Avg. Per Play	5.9	4.9
Net Yards Rushing	2333	1512
Avg. Per Game	145.8	94.5
Total Rushes	534	396
Net Yards Passing	3999	2947
Avg. Per Game	249.9	184.2
Sacked/Yards Lost	15/90	38/266
Gross Yards	4089	3213
Att./Completions	521/303	484/272
Completion Pct.	58.2	56.2
Had Intercepted	20	12
Punts/Average	70/40.5	95/44.7
Net Punting Avg.	70/34.3	95/38.2
Penalties/Yards	93/880	120/1062
Fumbles/Ball Lost	23/9	24/8
Touchdowns	42	35
Rushing	13	16
Passing	27	17
Returns	2	2

Score By Periods	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	OT	PTS
Team	102	138	50	91	0	381
Opponents	68	121	67	48	0	304

Scoring	TD	Rush	Rec	Ret	K-PAT	FG	S	PTS
Elam	0	0	0	0	42/42	29/34	0	129
Droughns	8	6	2	0	0	0	0	48
Lelie	7	0	7	0	0	0	0	42
Smith	7	0	7	0	0	0	0	42
Hape	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	24
Bell	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	18
Griffin	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	18
K. Johnson	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	12
Putzier	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	12
Carswell	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	6
Hearst	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
E. Johnson	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	6
Plummer	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
Watts	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	6
Wilson	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	6
Team	42	13	27	2	42/42	29/34	0	381
Opponents	35	16	17	2	31/32	21/26	0	304

2-Pt. Conversions: Team 0-0, Opponents 0-3
 Sacks: Hayward 10.5, E. Johnson 3.0, Palepoi LG 3.0, Palepoi TM 3.0, Coleman 2.5, Fatafehi 2.5, Wilson 2.5, Elliss 2.0, K. Kennedy 2.0, Lynch 2.0, Williams 2.0, Chukwurah 1.0, Herndon 1.0, R. Johnson 1.0, Middlebrooks 1.0, Pope 1.0, Spragan 1.0, Team 38.0, Opponents 15.0

Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Cmp%	Yds/Att	TD	TD%	Int	Int%	Long	Sack/Lost	Rating
Plummer	521	303	4089	58.2	7.85	27	5.2	20	3.8	85t	15/90	84.5
Team	521	303	4089	58.2	7.85	27	5.2	20	3.8	85t	15/90	84.5
Opponents	484	272	3213	56.2	6.64	17	3.5	12	2.5	71t	38/266	78.0

Receiving	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Smith	79	1144	14.5	85t	7
Lelie	54	1084	20.1	58	7
Putzier	36	572	15.9	39	2
Droughns	32	241	7.5	23t	2
Watts	31	385	12.4	28	1
Carswell	22	198	9.0	20	1
Griffin	10	68	6.8	22	1
K. Johnson	9	126	14.0	31	2
Jackson	8	73	9.1	20	0
Hape	8	35	4.4	11	4
Luke	6	52	8.7	12	0
Bell	5	80	16.0	58	0
Hearst	2	20	10.0	15	0
Bailey	1	11	11.0	11	0
Team	303	4089	13.5	85t	27
Opponents	272	3213	11.8	71t	17

Interceptions	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Bailey	3	0	0.0	0	0
Herndon	2	17	8.5	15	0
Wilson	2	17	8.5	10	1
Hayward	1	76	76.0	76	0
E. Johnson	1	32	32.0	32t	1
K. Kennedy	1	21	21.0	21	0
Williams	1	10	10.0	10	0
Lynch	1	2	2.0	2	0
Team	12	175	14.6	76	2
Opponents	20	344	17.2	97	1

Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Net	TB	In	Lg	B
Knorr	54	2243	41.5	34.2	6	12	66	1
Baker LG	24	931	38.8	31.6	1	10	52	0
Baker TM	15	591	39.4	34.4	1	7	48	0
Team	70	2834	40.5	34.3	7	19	66	1
Opponents	95	4250	44.7	38.2	11	36	65	0

Punt Returns	Ret	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Smith	22	8	223	10.1	30	0
Luke	19	8	135	7.1	21	0
Adams	2	1	42	21.0	39	0
Team	43	17	400	9.3	39	0
Opponents	32	11	295	9.2	50	0

Kickoff Returns	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
R. Alexander	19	386	20.3	32	0
Luke	15	306	20.4	32	0
Droughns	14	344	24.6	48	0
Griffin	4	52	13.0	21	0
Sapp	1	34	34.0	34	0
Team	53	1122	21.2	48	0
Opponents	68	1635	24.0	97t	1

Field Goals	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+
Elam	0/0	10/10	7/8	9/12	3/4
Team	0/0	10/10	7/8	9/12	3/4
Opponents	0/0	6/6	7/8	3/5	5/7

Elam: (43G,45G)(44G,22G,51N)(22G,23G,43G)(49G,50G,23G)(32G,33G)(33G)(49N,29G)(52G)(48G, 34G)(32G,43B)(43N,31G)(20G,50G)(27G)(22G,34N,22G,30G)(45G,23G,40G,40G) **Opponents:** (58N,50G)(23G,51G)(28G,30G)(53G,52N)(35G)(53G,34G,35G)(24G,43G,49N)(37N)(24G,36G)(48N)(23G,23G)(32G)(39G)(44G,43G,50G)()

BRONCOS 2004 FINAL REGULAR SEASON DEFENSIVE STATISTICS (10-6)

(based on coaches' film review)

PLAYER	TT	UT	A	S	Yds.	I	Yds.	PD	FF	FR
1 Williams	114	82	32	2.0	13.0	1	10	9	1	0
2 Wilson	109	73	36	2.5	20.0	2	17	4	2	0
3 Kennedy	90	73	17	2.0	15.0	1	21	6	2	1
4 Bailey	84	74	10	0.0	0.0	3	0	13	0	0
5 Herndon	77	64	13	1.0	5.0	2	17	20	3	1
6 Lynch	76	56	20	2.0	17.0	1	2	10	3	0
7 Spragan	65	40	25	1.0	1.0	0	0	3	1	1
8 Hayward	60	45	15	10.5	73.5	1	76	5	1	1
9 Coleman	46	29	17	2.5	14.5	0	0	1	1	1
10 Fatafehi	31	20	11	2.5	22.0	0	0	1	0	1
11 Pope	30	22	8	1.0	2.0	0	0	1	0	0
12 Palepoi	25	17	8	3.0	19.0	0	0	3	0	0
13 E. Johnson	24	16	8	3.0	26.0	1	32	1	0	0
14 Walls	21	18	3	0.0	0.0	0	0	2	1	0
15 R. Johnson	18	11	7	1.0	12.0	0	0	2	1	0
16 Middlebrooks	17	16	1	1.0	3.0	0	0	10	0	1
17 Ferguson	16	15	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	1	0	0
18 Elliss	6	6	0	2.0	11.0	0	0	0	0	0
R. Alexander	6	5	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
20 Chukwurah	4	3	1	1.0	12.0	0	0	1	1	0
21 Holland	2	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	1	0	0
Pryce	2	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	1	0	0
Pierce	2	0	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	925	689	236	38.0	266.0	12	175	95	17	7

SPECIAL TEAMS STATISTICS

PLAYER	TT	UT	A	FF	FR	BK	BP	TD
1 Ferguson	19	13	6	0	0	0	0	0
2 R. Alexander	12	7	5	0	1	0	0	0
3 Brandon	11	8	3	1	0	0	0	0
4 K. Johnson	9	7	2	0	0	0	0	0
5 Williams	8	6	2	0	0	0	0	0
6 N. Jackson	7	5	2	0	0	0	0	0
Middlebrooks	7	4	3	0	0	0	0	0
8 Kennedy	6	4	2	0	0	0	0	0
9 Green	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chukwurah	5	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
11 Bell	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Droughns	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
13 Adams	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leach	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pierce	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Shoate	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
17 Spragan	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Walls	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sapp	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Young	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
21 Baker	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lynch	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Herndon	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
24 Pope	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Smith	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
TEAM	120	87	33	2	4	1	0	0

ADDITIONAL STATISTICS: Smith has recovered 3 of his own fumbles on a punt returns; vs. K. C. (9/12), at Jac. (9/19) and vs. Oak. (11/28)

MISCELLANEOUS TACKLES: Nalen 4, Plummer 4, Foster 3, Droughns 2, Hamilton 2, Lelie 2, Putzier 2, R. Smith 2, K. Johnson 1, Watts 1.

MISCELLANEOUS FUMBLE RECOVERIES: Plummer 6, Carswell 1, Hamilton 1.

MISCELLANEOUS FORCED FUMBLES: None.

DEFENSIVE TOUCHDOWNS: Wilson 7 yd. INT return at N.O. (11-21), E. Johnson 32 yd. INT return vs. Oak (11/28)

TWO-POINT CONVERSION STOPS: Pass Failed (Carr) vs. Hou. (11/7), Pass Failed (Collins) vs. Oak. (11/28), Pass Failed (Collins) vs. Oak. (11/28)

BLOCKED PUNTS: None.

BLOCKED KICKS: Pope blocked an extra point (3rd quarter) vs. Oak. (11/28)

DENVER BRONCOS 2004 POSTSEASON TEAM STATISTICS (0-1)

Date	W-L	Score	OT	Opponent	Attendance	Rushing	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD			
01/09	L	24-49		at Indianapolis (Wild Card)	56,609	Bell	12	49	4.1	15	1			
						Droughns	8	29	3.6	6	0			
						Plummer	1	0	0.0	—	0			
				Denver	Opponent	Team	21	78	3.7	15	1			
Total First Downs				18	27	Opponents	24	76	3.2	11	3			
Rushing				4	7	Receiving	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD			
Passing				14	18	Smith	7	99	14.1	30	1			
Penalty				0	2	Bell	4	32	8.0	14	0			
3rd Down: Made/Att				3/12	7/10	Droughns	4	28	7.0	9	0			
3rd Down Pct.				25.0	70.0	Putzier	3	67	22.3	35t	1			
4th Down: Made/Att				2/2	0/0	Lelie	2	27	13.5	21	0			
4th Down Pct.				100.0	0.0	Hape	2	8	4.0	6	0			
Possession Avg.				30:42	29:18	Carswell	1	15	15.0	15	0			
Total Net Yards				338	529	Watts	1	8	8.0	8	0			
Avg. Per Game				338.0	529.0	Team	24	284	11.8	35t	2			
Total Plays				58	58	Opponents	27	457	16.9	49	4			
Avg. Per Play				5.8	9.1	Interceptions	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD			
Net Yards Rushing				78	76	Herndon	1	0	0.0	—	0			
Avg. Per Game				78.0	76.0	Team	1	0	0.0	—	0			
Total Rushes				21	24	Opponents	1	0	0.0	—	0			
Net Yards Passing				260	453	Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Net	TB	In	Lg	B
Avg. Per Game				260.0	453.0	Baker	4	150	37.5	35.3	0	1	46	0
Sacked/Yards Lost				3/24	1/4	Team	4	150	37.5	35.3	0	1	46	0
Gross Yards				284	457	Opponents	2	76	38.0	38.5	0	2	39	0
Att./Completions				34/24	33/27	Punt Returns	Ret	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TD		
Completion Pct.				70.6	81.8	Adams	1	0	-1	-1.0	-1	0		
Had Intercepted				1	1	Luke	0	1	0	0.0	—	0		
Punts/Average				4/37.5	2/38.0	Team	1	1	-1	-1.0	-1	0		
Net Punting Avg.				4/35.3	2/38.5	Opponents	1	2	9	9.0	9	0		
Penalties/Yards				5/24	4/25	Kickoff Returns	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD			
Fumbles/Ball Lost				1/0	0/0	Sapp	4	86	21.5	25	0			
Touchdowns				3	7	Droughns	2	36	18.0	26	0			
Rushing				1	3	Luke	1	41	41.0	41	0			
Passing				2	4	Adams	1	25	25.0	25	0			
Returns				0	0	Team	8	188	23.5	41	0			
						Opponents	2	54	27.0	36	0			
Score By Periods	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	OT	PTS	Field Goals	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+		
Team	0	3	14	7	0	24	Elam	0/0	0/0	1/1	0/0	0/0		
Opponents	14	21	0	14	0	49	Team	0/0	0/0	1/1	0/0	0/0		
Scoring	TD	Rush	Rec	Ret	K-PAT	FG	S	PTS	Opponents	0/0	0/0	0/0		
Bell	1	1	0	0		0	0	6						
Elam	0	0	0	0	3/3	1/1	0	6						
Putzier	1	0	1	0			0	6						
Smith	1	0	1	0			0	6						
Team	3	1	2	0	3/3	1/1	0	24						
Opponents	7	3	4	0	7/7	0/0	0	49						

2-Pt. Conversions: Team 0-0, Opponents 0-0
 Sacks: Hayward 1.0, Team 1.0, Opponents 3.0

Elam: (33G)
 Opponents: ()

Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Cmp%	Yds/Att	TD	TD%	Int	Int%	Long	Sack/Lost	Rating
Plummer	34	24	284	70.6	8.35	2	5.9	1	2.9	35t	3/24	103.1
Team	34	24	284	70.6	8.35	2	5.9	1	2.9	35t	3/24	103.1
Opponents	33	27	457	81.8	13.85	4	12.1	1	3.0	49	1/4	145.7

BRONCOS 2004 POSTSEASON DEFENSIVE STATISTICS (based on coaches' film review)

PLAYER	TT	UT	A	S	Yds.	I	Yds.	PD	FF	FR
1 Herndon	8	8	0	0.0	0.0	1	0	2	0	0
2 Bailey	7	7	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Williams	7	5	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	1	0	0
4 Alexander	6	6	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	1	0	0
Coleman	6	5	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilson	6	4	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
7 Spragan	5	2	3	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
8 Kennedy	4	3	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Lynch	4	3	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
10 Palepoi	3	2	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
11 Hayward	2	2	0	1.0	4.0	0	0	0	0	0
Pope	2	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
R. Johnson	2	1	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
14 Fatafehi	1	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	63	51	12	1.0	4.0	1	0	4	0	0

SPECIAL TEAMS STATISTICS

PLAYER	TT	UT	A	FF	FR	BK	BP	TD
1 Kennedy	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 Ferguson	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leach	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sapp	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Green	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
TEAM	6	5	1	0	0	0	0	0

MISCELLANEOUS TACKLES: Putzier 1.

MISCELLANEOUS FUMBLE RECOVERIES: None.

MISCELLANEOUS FORCED FUMBLES: None.

DEFENSIVE TOUCHDOWNS: None.

TWO-POINT CONVERSION STOPS: None.

BLOCKED PUNTS: None.

BLOCKED KICKS: None

DENVER BRONCOS FINAL 2004 PRESEASON TEAM STATISTICS (2-3)

Date	W-L	Score	OT	Opponent	Attendance	Rushing	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
08/09	L	17-20		at Washington	22,177	Griffin	42	199	4.7	27	1
08/15	L	6-16		at Buffalo	49,645	Anderson	34	163	4.8	14	1
08/21	W	19-3		at Seattle	47,641	Bell	27	92	3.4	21	1
08/27	W	31-17		Houston	71,256	Hearst	12	62	5.2	9	0
09/02	L	21-33		Arizona	71,986	Galloway	6	29	4.8	16	0

	Denver	Opponent									
Total First Downs	103	84									
Rushing	43	28									
Passing	54	41									
Penalty	6	15									
3rd Down: Made/Att	27/70	24/67									
3rd Down Pct.	38.6%	35.8%									
4th Down: Made/Att	4/5	1/2									
4th Down Pct	80.0%	50.0%									
Possession Avg	30:38	29:22									
Total Net Yards	1747	1343									
Avg. Per Game	349.4	268.6									
Total Plays	332	297									
Avg. Per Play	5.3	4.5									
Net Yards Rushing	632	582									
Avg. Per Game	126.4	116.4									
Total Rushes	145	146									
Net Yards Passing	1115	761									
Avg. Per Game	223.0	152.2									
Sacked/Yards Lost	9/53	13/82									
Gross Yards	1168	843									
Attempts/Completions	178/95	138/77									
Completion Pct	53.4%	55.8%									
Had Intercepted	6	2									
Punts/Average	24/39.3	30/43.0									
Net Punting Avg.	31.9	38.4									
Penalties/Yards	44/380	33/237									
Fumbles/Ball Lost	6/2	9/2									
Touchdowns	9	8									
Rushing	5	4									
Passing	4	2									
Returns	0	2									

Score By Periods	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	OT	PTS					
Team	3	31	16	44	0	94					
Opponents	19	34	20	16	0	89					

Scoring	TD	Rush	Rec	Ret	K-PAT	FG	S	PTS									
Elam	0	0	0	0	5/5	11/11	0	38									
Anderson	2	1	1	0	0/0	0/0	0	12									
Plummer	1	1	0	0	0/0	0/0	0	6									
Putzier	1	0	1	0	0/0	0/0	0	6									
Jackson	1	0	1	0	0/0	0/0	0	6									
Luke	1	0	1	0	0/0	0/0	0	6									
Van Pelt	1	1	0	0	0/0	0/0	0	6									
Bell	1	1	0	0	0/0	0/0	0	6									
Griffin	1	1	0	0	0/0	0/0	0	6									
Adams	0	0	0	0	0/0	0/0	1	2									
Team	9	5	4	0	5/5	11/11	1	94									
Opponents	8	4	2	2	8/8	11/11	0	89									

2-Pt. Conversions: Team 1/4, Opponents: 0/0

Sacks: Chukwurah 3.0, Fatafehi 2.0, Pryce 2.0, Green 1.0, Johnson 1.0, Hayward 1.0, Rutledge 1.0, Spragan 1.0, Holland 1.0, Team: 13.0, Opponents: 9.0

Interceptions	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Middlebrooks	1	15	15.0	15	0
McNeal	1	1	1.0	1	0
Team	2	16	8.0	15	0
Opponents	6	19	3.2	9	1

Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Net	TB	In	Lg	B
Knorr	17	674	39.6	33.1	1	7	55	0
Epstein	7	270	38.6	29.0	1	1	43	0
Team	24	944	39.3	31.9	2	8	55	0
Opponents	30	1289	43.0	38.4	2	11	69	0

Punt Returns	Ret	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Luke	8	6	77	9.6	22	0
Adams	5	3	19	3.8	8	0
Madise	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
Team	14	9	96	6.9	22	0
Opponents	13	4	138	10.6	39	0

Kickoff Returns	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Madise	9	221	24.6	36	0
Droughns	4	109	27.3	46	0
Luke	4	90	22.5	27	0
Alexander	2	56	28.0	34	0
Team	19	476	25.1	46	0
Opponents	23	453	19.7	33	0

Field Goals	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+
Elam	0/0	2/2	6/6	3/3	0/0
Team	0/0	2/2	6/6	3/3	0/0
Opponents	0/0	3/3	3/3	4/4	1/1

Elam: (39G,40G,47G)(34G,30G)(29G,35G,37G,32G)(44G,23G)(
 OPPONENTS: (39G,39G)(31G,25G,42G)(28G)(26G) (45G,47G,57G,47G)

Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Cmp%	Yds/Att	TD	TD%	Int	Int%	Long	Sack/Lost	Rating
Kanell	51	25	388	49.0%	7.6	2	3.9%	0	0.0%	74t	0/0	87.7
Plummer	62	32	336	51.6%	5.4	0	0.0%	4	6.5%	45	3/14	40.8
Mauck	52	28	335	53.8%	6.4	1	1.9%	2	3.8%	24t	6/39	64.2
Van Pelt	5	3	68	60.0%	13.6	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	29	0/0	104.2
Quinn	8	7	41	87.5%	5.1	1	12.5%	0	0.0%	10	0/0	127.6
Team	178	95	1168	53.4%	6.6	4	2.2%	6	3.4%	74t	9/53	67.3
Opponents	138	77	843	55.8%	6.1	2	1.4%	2	1.4%	47	13/82	72.8

BRONCOS FINAL 2004 PRESEASON DEFENSIVE STATISTICS (2-3)
(based on press box statistics)

	PLAYER	TT	UT	A	S	Yds.	I	Yds.	PD	FF	FR
1	Young	20	19	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1	0
2	Williams	18	13	5	0.0	0.0	0	0	1	0	0
3	Brandon	16	13	3	0.0	0.0	0	0	1	0	0
4	Green	14	10	4	1.0	17.0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Chukwurah	13	11	2	3.0	23.0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Shoate	12	11	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	2	0	0
	Hayward	12	9	3	1.0	7.0	0	0	1	0	0
8	R. Alexander	10	9	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	1	0	1
	LeSueur	10	6	4	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Rutledge	9	8	1	1.0	6.0	0	0	0	0	0
	Burton	9	7	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
	Spragan	9	7	2	1.0	5.0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Fatafehi	8	7	1	2.0	2.0	0	0	0	1	0
	Middlebrooks	8	7	1	0.0	0.0	1	15	3	0	0
	Herndon	8	6	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Pope	7	5	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Bailey	6	6	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	2	0	0
	Holland	6	5	1	1.0	1.0	0	0	0	0	0
	Pryce	6	4	2	2.0	14.0	0	0	0	0	0
	R. Johnson	6	3	3	1.0	8.0	0	0	0	0	0
21	K. Kennedy	5	5	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
	Wilson	5	4	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
	Eason	5	3	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Pierce	4	4	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
	Walls	4	4	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	1	1	0
	Ferguson	4	3	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	1	0	0
	Sykes	4	3	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
	Coleman	4	2	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
29	Garner	3	3	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
	Anthony	3	2	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1	1
	McNeal	3	1	2	0.0	0.0	1	1	2	0	0
32	Lynch	2	1	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
33	Israel	1	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mitchell	1	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
	Team	1	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
	Elliss	1	0	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	2	0	0
	TOTALS	257	204	53	13.0	83.0	2	16	17	4	2

SPECIAL TEAMS STATISTICS

	PLAYER	TT	UT	A	FF	FR	BK	BP	TD
1	Ferguson	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
	K. Johnson	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
	LeSueur	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
4	Middlebrooks	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Weaver	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
6	Brandon	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Green	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Knorr	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Rutledge	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Chukwurah	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Young	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
12	Adams	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Alexander	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Anderson	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Galloway	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Israel	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Leach	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Madise	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mitchell	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	N. Jackson	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Putzier	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Burton	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Droughns	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	TEAM	42	32	10	0	0	0	0	0

MISCELLANEOUS TACKLES: Chamberlain 1, Griffin 1, Putzier 1.

MISCELLANEOUS FUMBLE RECOVERIES: Foster 1, Kanell 1.

MISCELLANEOUS SPECIAL TEAMS FUMBLE RECOVERIES: Luke 1.

MISCELLANEOUS FORCED FUMBLES: None.

DEFENSIVE TOUCHDOWNS: None.

TWO-POINT CONVERSION STOPS: None.

BLOCKED PUNTS: None.

BLOCKED KICKS: None.

DENVER BRONCOS 2005 DEPTH CHART

(AS OF MONDAY, AUG. 8, 2005)

Broncos Offense

WR	80	Rod Smith	17	Darius Watts	81	Charlie Adams	14	<u>Todd Devoe</u>
							15	<u>Romar Crenshaw</u>
LT	78	Matt Lepsis	74	Cornell Green	64	<u>Erik Pears</u>		
LG	50	Ben Hamilton	63	Tim Stuber	73	Cameron Spikes		
C	66	Tom Nalen	71	<u>Chris Watton</u>	62	<u>Chris Myers</u>	79	<u>Ben Nowland</u>
RG	65	Cooper Carlisle	77	Dwayne Carswell	69	<u>Zach Wilson</u>		
RT	72	George Foster	67	Anthony Clement	70	Tyson Clabo		
TE	82	Stephen Alexander	88	Jeb Putzier	89	Nate Jackson	86	Patrick Hape
					83	Mike Leach	84	<u>Wesley Duke</u>
WR	85	Ashley Lelie	19	Jerry Rice	87	Triandos Luke	12	B.J. Johnson
QB	16	Jake Plummer	11	<u>Bradlee Van Pelt</u>	13	Danny Kanell	8	Matt Mauck
							9	<u>Chad Frieauf</u>
RB	38	Mike Anderson	26	Tatum Bell	21	Quentin Griffin	33	Ron Dayne
							20	<u>Maurice Clarett</u>
FB	39	Kyle Johnson	37	Cecil Sapp	48	Brandon Miree	36	<u>Kris Briggs</u>

Broncos Defense

LE	98	Courtney Brown	91	Ebenezer Ekuban	92	Marco Coleman	90	Chukie Nwokorie
							71	<u>Aaron Hunt</u>
LT	76	Michael Myers	75	Monsanto Pope	94	Luther Elliss	64	<u>Patrice Majondo-Mwamba</u>
RT	61	Gerard Warren	68	Mario Fatafehi	96	Dorsett Davis	97	Demetris Veal
RE	93	Trevor Pryce	60	John Engelberger	95	Anton Palepoi	99	Raylee Johnson
WLB	52	Ian Gold	58	Terry Pierce	57	Jashon Sykes		
MLB	56	Al Wilson	51	Keith Burns				
SLB	55	D.J. Williams	54	Patrick Chukwurah	53	Louis Green	59	Markus Steele
LCB	24	Champ Bailey	22	<u>Domonique Foxworth</u>	45	Roc Alexander	40	<u>Curome Cox</u>
RCB	35	Lenny Walls	27	<u>Darrent Williams</u>	41	<u>Karl Paymah</u>	28	Jeff Shoate
SS	25	Nick Ferguson	31	Jeremy LeSueur	29	<u>Brandon Browner</u>		
FS	47	John Lynch	42	Sam Brandon	32	Chris Young		

Broncos Specialists

P	10	Todd Sauerbrun				
K	1	Jason Elam	3	<u>Paul Ernster</u>		
KO	10	Todd Sauerbrun	3	<u>Paul Ernster</u>		
PR	27	<u>Darrent Williams</u>	87	Triandos Luke	81	Charlie Adams
KR	27	<u>Darrent Williams</u>	45	Roc Alexander	87	Triandos Luke
PC	83	Mike Leach	86	Patrick Hape		
KC	83	Mike Leach	78	Matt Lepsis		
H	10	Todd Sauerbrun	13	Danny Kanell	3	<u>Paul Ernster</u>

Rookie and First-Year players underlined
[injured players]

BRONCOS PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Patrick Chukwurah (chuk-WER-uh)
Tyson Clabo (CLAY-boh)
Maurice Clarett (clur-ETT)
Curome Cox (KER-ome)
Todd Devoe (deh-VOH)
Ebenezer Ekuban (EK-you-BAHN)
Jason Elam (EE-lum)
Mario Fatafehi (fah-tah-FAY-hee)
Chad Frieauf (FREE-hoff)
Ashley Lelie (luh-LEE)
Jeremy LeSueur (luh-SER)

Triandos Luke (tree-AN-dus)
Brandon Miree (my-REE)
Ben Nowland (NAW-land)
Chukie Nwokorie (CHOO-kee wah-KOR-ee)
Anton Palepoi (AN-TAWN PAL-a-poy)
Erik Pears (PEERS)
Jeb Putzier (putz-EER)
Jeff Shoate (SHOTE)
Jashon Sykes (JAY-shon)
Demetris Veal (du-MEE-trin)

Denver Broncos 2005 Alphabetical Roster

(updated 8/8/05)

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	NFL Exp.	College	High School Hometown	How Acq.	2004 P-S-DNP-INA
81	Adams, Charlie	WR	6-2	190	10/23/79	3	Hofstra	Mechanicsburg, Pa.	FA-'04	4-0-0-3
45	Alexander, Roc	CB	5-10	190	9/23/81	2	Washington	Colorado Springs, Colo.	CFA-'04	16-1-0-0
82	Alexander, Stephen	TE	6-4	250	11/7/75	8	Oklahoma	Chickasha, Okla.	UFA(Det)-'05	16-15-0-0
38	Anderson, Mike	RB	6-0	230	9/21/73	6	Utah	Winnsboro, S.C.	D6-'00	0-0-0-0
24	Bailey, Champ	CB	6-0	192	6/22/78	7	Georgia	Folkston, Ga.	T(Was)-'04	16-16-0-0
26	Bell, Tatum	RB	5-11	213	3/2/81	2	Oklahoma State	Dallas, Texas	D2a-'04	14-0-0-2
42	Brandon, Sam	S	6-2	200	7/5/79	4	UNLV	Riverside, Calif.	D4-'02	9-0-0-7
36	Briggs, Kris	RB	5-11	242	4/17/81	1	Southern Methodist	Carthage, Texas	FA-'05	0-0-0-0
98	Brown, Courtney	DE	6-4	285	2/14/78	6	Penn State	Alvin, S.C.	FA-'05	2-2-0-0
29	Browner, Brandon	CB	6-4	221	8/2/84	R	Oregon State	Sylmar, Calif.	CFA-'05	0-0-0-0
51	Burns, Keith	LB	6-2	235	5/16/72	12	Oklahoma State	Alexandria, Va.	UFA(TB)-'05	16-0-0-0
65	Carlisle, Cooper	G/T	6-5	295	8/11/77	6	Florida	McComb, Miss.	D4b-'00	16-3-0-0
77	Carswell, Dwayne	T	6-3	290	1/18/72	12	Liberty	Jacksonville, Fla.	CFA-'94	15-14-0-0
54	Chukwurah, Patrick	LB	6-1	250	3/1/79	5	Wyoming	Irving, Texas	FA-'04	14-0-0-2
70	Clabo, Tyson	G/T	6-6	314	10/17/81	2	Wake Forest	Knoxville, Tenn.	CFA-'04	0-0-0-2
20	Clarett, Maurice	RB	5-11	234	10/29/83	R	Ohio State	Youngstown, Ohio	D3c-'05	0-0-0-0
67	Clement, Anthony	T	6-8	320	4/10/76	8	Louisiana-Lafayette	Cecilia, La.	FA-'05	16-8-0-0
92	Coleman, Marco	DE	6-3	270	12/18/69	14	Georgia Tech	Dayton, Ohio	UFA(Phi)-'04	16-16-0-0
40	Cox, Curome	CB	6-1	199	2/28/81	1	Maryland	Washington, D.C.	FA-'04	0-0-0-0
15	Crenshaw, Romar	WR	6-0	185	9/22/80	1	S.E. Oklahoma State	Broken Bow, Okla.	CFA-'04	0-0-0-0
96	Davis, Dorsett	DT	6-5	305	1/24/79	4	Mississippi State	Cleveland, Miss.	D3-'02	0-0-0-0
33	Dayne, Ron	RB	5-10	245	3/14/78	6	Wisconsin	Berlin, N.J.	UFA(NYG)-'05	14-2-0-2
14	Devoe, Todd	WR	6-2	198	4/5/80	1	Central Missouri State	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.	FA-'05	0-0-0-0
84	Duke, Wesley	TE	6-5	225	6/21/81	R	Mercer	Norcross, Ga.	CFA-'05	0-0-0-0
91	Ekuban, Ebenezer	DE	6-3	275	5/29/76	7	North Carolina	Bowie, Md.	T(Cle)-'05	16-11-0-0
1	Elam, Jason	K	5-11	200	3/8/70	13	Hawaii	Ft. Walton Beach, Fla.	D3b-'93	16-0-0-0
94	Elliss, Luther	DT	6-5	318	3/22/73	11	Utah	Mancos, Colo.	FA-'04	8-0-0-5
60	Engelberger, John	DE	6-4	268	10/18/76	6	Virginia Tech	Springfield, Va.	T(SF)-'05	16-15-0-0
3	Ernster, Paul	P/K	6-0	217	1/26/82	R	Northern Arizona	Glendale, Ariz.	D7-'05	0-0-0-0
68	Fatafehi, Mario	DT	6-2	300	1/27/79	5	Kansas State	Honolulu, Hawaii	FA-'03	16-16-0-0
25	Ferguson, Nick	S	5-11	201	11/27/74	6	Georgia Tech	Miami, Fla.	FA-'03	16-1-0-0
72	Foster, George	T	6-5	338	6/9/80	3	Georgia	Macon, Ga.	D1-'03	16-16-0-0
22	Foxworth, Dmonique	CB	5-11	180	3/27/83	R	Maryland	Catonsville, Md.	D3b-'05	0-0-0-0
9	Friehauf, Chad	QB	6-6	211	8/31/82	R	Colo. School of Mines	Brush, Colo.	CFA-'05	0-0-0-0
52	Gold, Ian	LB	6-0	223	8/23/78	6	Michigan	Belleville, Mich.	FA-'05	16-13-0-0
74	Green, Cornell	T	6-6	315	8/25/76	6	Central Florida	St. Petersburg, Fla.	UFA(TB)-'04	0-0-3-13
53	Green, Louis	LB	6-3	228	9/23/79	2	Alcorn State	Vicksburg, Miss.	FA-'03	6-0-0-0
21	Griffin, Quentin	RB	5-7	195	1/12/81	3	Oklahoma	Houston, Texas	D4a-'03	6-4-0-1
50	Hamilton, Ben	G/C	6-4	283	8/18/77	5	Minnesota	Minneapolis, Minn.	D4a-'01	16-16-0-0
86	Hape, Patrick	TE	6-4	262	6/6/74	9	Alabama	Killen, Ala.	UFA(TB)-'01	16-5-0-0
71	Hunt, Aaron	DE	6-2	265	6/19/80	1	Texas Tech	Denison, Texas	FA-'05	0-0-0-0
89	Jackson, Nate	TE	6-3	235	6/4/79	3	Menlo	San Jose, Calif.	T(SF)-'03	12-0-0-0
12	Johnson, B.J.	WR	5-11	207	8/4/82	2	Texas	Grand Prairie, Texas	CFA-'04	0-0-0-0
39	Johnson, Kyle	FB	6-0	242	12/15/78	3	Syracuse	Woodbridge, N.J.	FA-'03	14-3-0-2
99	Johnson, Raylee	DE	6-3	272	6/1/70	13	Arkansas	Fordyce, Ark.	FA-'04	14-1-0-2
13	Kanell, Danny	QB	6-3	218	11/21/73	8	Florida State	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.	FA-'03	0-0-16-0
83	Leach, Mike	TE/LS	6-2	245	10/18/76	6	William & Mary	Jefferson Township, N.J.	FA-'02	16-0-0-0
85	Lelie, Ashley	WR	6-3	200	2/16/80	4	Hawaii	Honolulu, Hawaii	D1-'02	16-16-0-0
78	Lepis, Matt	T	6-4	290	1/13/74	9	Colorado	Conroe, Texas	CFA-'97	16-16-0-0
31	LeSueur, Jeremy	S	6-0	204	10/5/80	2	Michigan	Holly Springs, Miss.	D3-'04	0-0-0-0
87	Luke, Triandos	WR	5-10	195	12/24/81	2	Alabama	Phenix City, Ala.	D6a-'04	10-0-0-6
47	Lynch, John	S	6-2	220	9/25/71	13	Stanford	Del Mar, Calif.	FA-'04	15-15-0-1
64	Majondo-Mwamba, Patrice*	DL	6-4	293	7/29/79	R	Texas Tech	Republic of Congo	CFA-'05	0-0-0-0
8	Mauck, Matt	QB	6-1	213	2/12/79	2	Louisiana State	Jasper, Ind.	D7a-'04	0-0-0-2
48	Miree, Brandon	RB	5-11	237	4/14/81	2	Pittsburgh	Cincinnati, Ohio	D7b-'04	0-0-0-0
62	Myers, Chris	OL	6-4	300	9/15/81	R	Miami	Miami, Fla.	D6-'05	0-0-0-0
76	Myers, Michael	DT	6-2	300	1/20/76	8	Alabama	Vicksburg, Miss.	T(Cle)-'05	16-7-0-0
66	Nalen, Tom	C	6-3	286	5/13/71	12	Boston College	Foxboro, Mass.	D7c-'94	16-16-0-0
79	Nowland, Ben**	C	6-2	298	5/27/80	1	Auburn	St. Augustine, Fla.	FA-'05	0-0-0-0
90	Nwokorie, Chukie	DE	6-3	285	7/10/75	6	Purdue	West Lafayette, Ind.	FA-'05	0-0-0-0
95	Palepoi, Antton	DE	6-3	283	1/19/78	4	UNLV	Salt Lake City, Utah	FA-'04	11-0-0-3*
41	Paymah, Karl	CB	6-0	200	11/29/82	R	Washington State	Culver City, Calif.	D3a-'05	0-0-0-0
64	Pears, Erik	T	6-8	305	6/25/82	R	Colorado State	Denver, Colo.	CFA-'05	0-0-0-0
58	Pierce, Terry	LB	6-1	251	6/21/81	3	Kansas State	Fort Worth, Texas	D2-'03	15-0-1-0
16	Plummer, Jake	QB	6-2	212	12/19/74	9	Arizona State	Boise, Idaho	UFA(Ari)-'03	16-16-0-0
75	Pope, Monsanto	DT	6-3	300	1/27/78	4	Virginia	Hopewell, Va.	D7b-'02	16-15-0-0
93	Pryce, Trevor	DE	6-5	286	8/3/75	9	Clemson	Winter Park, Fla.	D1-'97	2-1-0-14
88	Putzier, Jeb	TE	6-4	256	1/20/79	4	Boise State	Eagle, Idaho	D6-'02	16-5-0-0
19	Rice, Jerry	WR	6-2	200	10/13/62	21	Mississippi Valley State	Crawford, Miss.	FA-'05	17-14-0-0
37	Sapp, Cecil	RB	5-11	229	12/23/78	3	Colorado State	Miami, Fla.	CFA-'03	5-0-0-4
10	Sauerbrun, Todd	P	5-10	215	1/4/73	11	West Virginia	East Setauket, N.Y.	T(Car)-'05	16-0-0-0
28	Shoate, Jeff	CB	5-10	189	3/23/81	2	San Diego State	San Diego, Calif.	D5-'04	7-0-0-9
80	Smith, Rod	WR	6-0	200	5/15/70	11	Missouri Southern	Texarkana, Ark.	CFA-'94	16-16-0-0
73	Spikes, Cameron	G	6-4	313	11/6/76	7	Texas A&M	Bryan, Texas	UFA(Ari)-'05	16-8-0-0
59	Steele, Markus	LB	6-3	240	7/24/79	4	Southern California	Bedford, Ohio	FA-'05	0-0-0-0
63	Stuber, Tim	G	6-5	315	2/2/78	3	Colorado State	Northglenn, Colo.	FA-'04	0-0-0-2
57	Sykes, Jashon	LB	6-2	236	9/25/79	3	Colorado	Los Angeles, Calif.	CFA-'02	3-0-0-13
11	Van Pelt, Bradlee	QB	6-2	220	7/3/80	1	Colorado State	Santa Barbara, Calif.	D7c-'04	0-0-0-0
97	Veal, Demetrin	DT	6-2	288	8/11/81	3	Tennessee	Paramount, Calif.	FA-'04	0-0-0-3
35	Walls, Lenny	CB	6-4	195	9/26/79	4	Boston College	San Francisco, Calif.	CFA-'02	7-1-1-3
61	Warren, Gerard	DT	6-4	325	7/25/78	5	Florida	Raiford, Fla.	T(Cle)-'05	13-13-0-3
71	Watton, Chris	C/G	6-3	305	10/6/77	1	Baylor	Sioux Falls, S.D.	W-'05	0-0-0-0
17	Watts, Darius	WR	6-2	190	12/19/81	2	Marshall	Atlanta, Ga.	D2b-'04	16-2-0-0
27	Williams, Darrent	CB	5-8	188	9/27/82	R	Oklahoma State	Fort Worth, Texas	D2-'05	0-0-0-0
55	Williams, D.J.	LB	6-1	242	7/20/82	2	Miami	Concord, Calif.	D1-'04	16-14-0-0
56	Wilson, Al	LB	6-0	240	6/21/77	7	Tennessee	Jackson, Tenn.	D1-'99	16-16-0-0
69	Wilson, Zach**	G	6-5	302	10/14/79	1	Southern California	Lakewood, Calif.	FA-'05	0-0-0-0
32	Young, Chris	S	6-0	210	1/23/80	3	Georgia Tech	Senoia, Ga.	D7a-'02	10-0-0-6
Reserve/Non-Football Injury List										
69	Alexander, P.J.	G	6-4	297	12/23/78	3	Syracuse	Tallahassee, Fla.	FA-'03	5-0-11-0
Reserve/NFL Europe Injury List										
71	Renteria, D.J.	DT	6-2	300	1/15/81	1	New Mexico	Roswell, N.M.	FA-'04	0-0-0-0
Exempt/Left Squad										
79	Sewell, Josh	C/G	6-2	288	7/26/81	1	Nebraska	Lincoln, Neb.	D6b-'04	0-0-0-0

Head Coach: Mike Shanahan (11th year). **Assistant Coaches:** Gary Kubiak (Offensive Coordinator), Larry Coyer (Defensive Coordinator), Ronnie Bradford (Special Teams), Tim Brewster (Tight Ends), Jacob Burney (Defensive Line/Ends), Troy Calhoun (Asst. to the Head Coach), Rick Dennison (Offensive Line), Kirk Doll (Linebackers), Thomas McGaughey (Special Teams Asst.), Pat McPherson (Quarterbacks), Andre Patterson (Defensive Line/Tackles), Jim Ryan (Defensive Asst.), Greg Saporta (Asst. Strength & Conditioning), Bob Slowik (Defensive Asst.), Ryan Slowik (Defensive Asst.), Cedric Smith (Asst. Strength & Conditioning), Jimmy Spencer (Asst. Defensive Backs), Bobby Turner (Running Backs), Rich Tuten (Strength & Conditioning), Steve Watson (Wide Receivers).

KEY: CFA-college free agent; D-drafted; FA-acquired as free agent; RFA-acquired as restricted free agent; UFA-acquired as unrestricted free agent; T-trade; W-waivers. Palepoi was with Seattle (1 game). *Majondo-Mwamba was assigned by the NFL to the International Practice Squad. He cannot see regular season game action this season. ** Ben Nowland and Zach Wilson are NFL Europe exemptions.

Denver Broncos 2005 Numerical Roster

(updated 8/8/05)

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	NFL Exp.	College	High School Hometown	2004 How Acq.	P-S-DNP-INA
1	Jason Elam	K	5-11	200	35	13	Hawaii	Ft. Walton Beach, Fla.	D3b-'93	16-0-0-0
3	Paul Ernerster	P/K	6-0	217	23	R	Northern Arizona	Glendale, Ariz.	D7-'05	0-0-0-0
8	Matt Mauck	QB	6-1	213	26	2	Louisiana State	Jasper, Ind.	D7a-'04	0-0-0-2
9	Chad Frieheauf	QB	6-6	211	22	R	Colo. School of Mines	Brush, Colo.	RFA-'05	0-0-0-0
10	Todd Sauerbrun	P	5-10	215	32	11	West Virginia	East Setauket, N.Y.	T(Car)-'05	16-0-0-0
11	Bradlee Van Pelt	QB	6-2	220	25	1	Colorado State	Santa Barbara, Calif.	D7c-'04	0-0-0-0
12	B.J. Johnson	WR	5-11	207	23	2	Texas	Grand Prairie, Texas	CFA-'04	0-0-0-0
13	Danny Kanell	QB	6-3	218	31	8	Florida State	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.	FA-'03	0-0-16-0
14	Todd Devoe	WR	6-2	198	25	1	Central Missouri State	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.	FA-'05	0-0-0-0
15	Romar Crenshaw	WR	6-0	185	24	1	S.E. Oklahoma State	Broken Bow, Okla.	CFA-'04	0-0-0-0
16	Jake Plummer	QB	6-2	212	30	9	Arizona State	Boise, Idaho	UFA(Ari)-'03	16-16-0-0
17	Darius Watts	WR	6-2	190	23	2	Marshall	Atlanta, Ga.	D2b-'04	16-2-0-0
19	Jerry Rice	WR	6-2	200	42	21	Mississippi Valley State	Crawford, Miss.	FA-'05	17-14-0-0
20	Maurice Claret	RB	5-11	234	21	R	Ohio State	Youngstown, Ohio	D3c-'05	0-0-0-0
21	Quentin Griffin	RB	5-7	195	24	3	Oklahoma	Houston, Texas	D4a-'03	6-4-0-1
22	Domonique Foxworth	CB	5-11	180	22	R	Maryland	Catonsville, Md.	D3b-'05	0-0-0-0
24	Champ Bailey	CB	6-0	192	27	7	Georgia	Folkston, Ga.	T(Was)-'04	16-16-0-0
25	Nick Ferguson	S	5-11	201	30	6	Georgia Tech	Miami, Fla.	FA-'03	16-1-0-0
26	Tatum Bell	RB	5-11	213	24	2	Oklahoma State	Dallas, Texas	D2a-'04	14-0-0-2
27	Darrent Williams	CB	5-8	188	22	R	Oklahoma State	Fort Worth, Texas	D2-'05	0-0-0-0
28	Jeff Shoate	CB	5-10	189	24	2	San Diego State	San Diego, Calif.	D5-'04	7-0-0-9
29	Brandon Browner	CB	6-4	221	21	R	Oregon State	Sylmar, Calif.	CFA-'05	0-0-0-0
31	Jeremy LeSueur	S	6-0	204	24	2	Michigan	Holly Springs, Miss.	D3-'04	0-0-0-0
32	Chris Young	S	6-0	210	25	3	Georgia Tech	Senoia, Ga.	D7a-'02	10-0-0-6
33	Ron Dayne	RB	5-10	245	27	6	Wisconsin	Berlin, N.J.	UFA(NYG)-'05	14-2-0-2
35	Lenny Walls	CB	6-4	195	25	4	Boston College	San Francisco, Calif.	CFA-'02	7-1-1-3
36	Kris Briggs	RB	5-11	242	23	1	Southern Methodist	Carthage, Texas	FA-'05	0-0-0-0
37	Cecil Sapp	RB	5-11	229	26	3	Colorado State	Miami, Fla.	CFA-'03	5-0-0-4
38	Mike Anderson	RB	6-0	230	31	6	Utah	Winnsboro, S.C.	D6-'00	0-0-0-0
39	Kyle Johnson	FB	6-0	242	26	3	Syracuse	Woodbridge, N.J.	FA-'03	14-3-0-2
40	Curome Cox	CB	6-1	199	24	1	Maryland	Washington, D.C.	FA-'04	0-0-0-0
41	Karl Paymah	CB	6-0	200	22	R	Washington State	Culver City, Calif.	D3a-'05	0-0-0-0
42	Sam Brandon	S	6-2	200	26	4	UNLV	Riverside, Calif.	D4-'02	9-0-0-7
45	Roc Alexander	CB	5-10	190	23	2	Washington	Colorado Springs, Colo.	CFA-'04	16-1-0-0
47	John Lynch	S	6-2	220	33	13	Stanford	Del Mar, Calif.	FA-'04	15-15-0-1
48	Brandon Miree	RB	5-11	237	24	2	Pittsburgh	Cincinnati, Ohio	D7b-'04	0-0-0-0
50	Ben Hamilton	G/C	6-4	283	27	5	Minnesota	Minneapolis, Minn.	D4a-'01	16-16-0-0
51	Keith Burns	LB	6-2	235	33	12	Oklahoma State	Alexandria, Va.	UFA(TB)-'05	16-0-0-0
52	Ian Gold	LB	6-0	223	26	6	Michigan	Belleville, Mich.	FA-'05	16-13-0-0
53	Louis Green	LB	6-3	228	25	2	Alcorn State	Vicksburg, Miss.	FA-'03	6-0-0-0
54	Patrick Chukwurah	LB	6-1	250	26	5	Wyoming	Irving, Texas	FA-'04	14-0-0-2
55	D.J. Williams	LB	6-1	242	23	2	Miami	Concord, Calif.	D1-'04	16-14-0-0
56	Al Wilson	LB	6-0	240	28	7	Tennessee	Jackson, Tenn.	D1-'99	16-16-0-0
57	Jashon Sykes	LB	6-2	236	25	3	Colorado	Los Angeles, Calif.	CFA-'02	3-0-0-13
58	Terry Pierce	LB	6-1	251	24	3	Kansas State	Fort Worth, Texas	D2-'03	15-0-1-0
59	Markus Steele	LB	6-3	240	26	4	Southern California	Bedford, Ohio	FA-'05	0-0-0-0
60	John Engelberger	DE	6-4	268	28	6	Virginia Tech	Springfield, Va.	T(SF)-'05	16-15-0-0
61	Gerard Warren	DT	6-4	325	27	5	Florida	Raiford, Fla.	T(Cle)-'05	13-13-0-3
62	Chris Myers	OL	6-4	300	23	R	Miami	Miami, Fla.	D6-'05	0-0-0-0
63	Tim Stuber	G	6-5	315	27	3	Colorado State	Northglenn, Colo.	FA-'04	0-0-0-2
64	Patrice Majondo-Mwamba*	DL	6-4	293	26	R	Texas Tech	Republic of Congo	RFA-'05	0-0-0-0
64	Erik Pears	T	6-8	305	23	R	Colorado State	Denver, Colo.	CFA-'05	0-0-0-0
65	Cooper Carlisle	G/T	6-5	295	27	6	Florida	McComb, Miss.	D4b-'00	16-3-0-0
66	Tom Nalen	C	6-3	286	34	12	Boston College	Foxboro, Mass.	D7c-'94	16-16-0-0
67	Anthony Clement	T	6-8	320	29	8	Louisiana-Lafayette	Cecilia, La.	FA-'05	16-8-0-0
68	Mario Fatafehi	DT	6-2	300	26	5	Kansas State	Honolulu, Hawaii	FA-'03	16-16-0-0
69	Zach Wilson**	G	6-5	302	25	1	Southern California	Lakewood, Calif.	FA-'05	0-0-0-0
70	Tyson Clabo	G/T	6-6	314	23	2	Wake Forest	Knoxville, Tenn.	CFA-'04	0-0-0-2
71	Aaron Hunt	DE	6-2	265	25	1	Texas Tech	Denison, Texas	FA-'05	0-0-0-0
71	Chris Watton	C/G	6-3	305	27	1	Baylor	Sioux Falls, S.D.	W-'05	0-0-0-0
72	George Foster	T	6-5	338	25	3	Georgia	Macon, Ga.	D1-'03	16-16-0-0
73	Cameron Spikes	G	6-4	313	28	7	Texas A&M	Bryan, Texas	UFA(Ari)-'05	16-8-0-0
74	Cornell Green	T	6-6	315	28	6	Central Florida	St. Petersburg, Fla.	UFA(TB)-'04	0-0-3-13
75	Monsanto Pope	DT	6-3	300	27	4	Virginia	Hopewell, Va.	D7b-'02	16-15-0-0
76	Michael Myers	DT	6-2	300	29	8	Alabama	Vicksburg, Miss.	T(Cle)-'05	16-7-0-0
77	Dwayne Carswell	T	6-3	290	33	12	Liberty	Jacksonville, Fla.	CFA-'94	15-14-0-0
78	Matt Lepsis	T	6-4	290	31	9	Colorado	Conroe, Texas	CFA-'97	16-16-0-0
79	Ben Nowland**	C	6-2	298	25	1	Auburn	St. Augustine, Fla.	FA-'05	0-0-0-0
80	Rod Smith	WR	6-0	200	35	11	Missouri Southern	Texarkana, Ark.	CFA-'94	16-16-0-0
81	Charlie Adams	WR	6-2	190	25	3	Hofstra	Mechanicsburg, Pa.	FA-'04	4-0-0-3
82	Stephen Alexander	TE	6-4	250	29	8	Oklahoma	Chickasha, Okla.	UFA(Det)-'05	16-15-0-0
83	Mike Leach	TE/LS	6-2	245	28	6	William & Mary	Jefferson Township, N.J.	FA-'02	16-0-0-0
84	Wesley Duke	TE	6-5	225	24	R	Mercer	Norcross, Ga.	CFA-'05	0-0-0-0
85	Ashley Lelie	WR	6-3	200	25	4	Hawaii	Honolulu, Hawaii	D1-'02	16-16-0-0
86	Patrick Hape	TE	6-4	262	31	9	Alabama	Killen, Ala.	UFA(TB)-'01	16-5-0-0
87	Triandos Luke	WR	5-10	195	23	2	Alabama	Phenix City, Ala.	D6a-'04	10-0-0-6
88	Jeb Putzier	TE	6-4	256	26	4	Boise State	Eagle, Idaho	D6-'02	16-5-0-0
89	Nate Jackson	TE	6-3	235	26	3	Menlo	San Jose, Calif.	T(SF)-'03	12-0-0-0
90	Chukie Nwokorie	DE	6-3	285	30	6	Purdue	West Lafayette, Ind.	FA-'05	0-0-0-0
91	Ebenezer Ekuban	DE	6-3	275	29	7	North Carolina	Bowie, Md.	T(Cle)-'05	16-11-0-0
92	Marco Coleman	DE	6-3	270	35	14	Georgia Tech	Dayton, Ohio	UFA(Phi)-'04	16-16-0-0
93	Trevor Pryce	DE	6-5	286	30	9	Clemson	Winter Park, Fla.	D1-'97	2-1-0-14
94	Luther Elliss	DT	6-5	318	32	11	Utah	Mancos, Colo.	FA-'04	8-0-0-5
95	Anton Palepoi	DE	6-3	283	27	4	UNLV	Salt Lake City, Utah	FA-'04	11-0-0-3*
96	Dorsett Davis	DT	6-5	305	26	4	Mississippi State	Cleveland, Miss.	D3-'02	0-0-0-0
97	Demetrin Veal	DT	6-2	288	23	3	Tennessee	Paramount, Calif.	FA-'04	0-0-0-3
98	Courtney Brown	DE	6-4	285	27	6	Penn State	Alvin, S.C.	FA-'05	2-2-0-0
99	Raylee Johnson	DE	6-3	272	35	13	Arkansas	Fordyce, Ark.	FA-'04	14-1-0-2

Reserve/Non-Football Injury List

69	P.J. Alexander	G	6-4	297	27	3	Syracuse	Tallahassee, Fla.	FA-'03	5-0-11-0
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Reserve/NFL Europe Injury List

71	D.J. Renteria	DT	6-3	300	24	1	New Mexico	Roswell, N.M.	FA-'04	0-0-0-0
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Exempt/Left Squad

79	Josh Sewell	C/G	6-2	288	24	1	Nebraska	Lincoln, Neb.	D6b-'04	0-0-0-0
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Head Coach: Mike Shanahan (11th year). **Assistant Coaches:** Gary Kubiak (Offensive Coordinator), Larry Coyer (Defensive Coordinator), Ronnie Bradford (Special Teams), Tim Brewster (Tight Ends), Jacob Burney (Defensive Line/Ends), Troy Calhoun (Asst. to the Head Coach), Rick Dennison (Offensive Line), Kirk Doll (Linebackers), Thomas McGaughey (Special Teams Asst.), Pat McPherson (Quarterbacks), Andre Patterson (Defensive Line/Tackles), Jim Ryan (Defensive Asst.), Greg Saporta (Asst. Strength & Conditioning), Bob Slowik (Defensive Backs), Ryan Slowik (Defensive Asst.), Cedric Smith (Asst. Strength & Conditioning), Jimmy Spencer (Asst. Defensive Backs), Bobby Turner (Running Backs), Rich Tuten (Strength & Conditioning), Steve Watson (Wide Receivers).

KEY: CFA-college free agent; D-drafted; FA-acquired as free agent; RFA-acquired as restricted free agent; UFA-acquired as unrestricted free agent; T-trade; W-waivers. Palepoi was with Seattle (1 game). *Majondo-Mwamba was assigned by the NFL to the International Practice Squad. He cannot see regular season game action this season. **Ben Nowland and Zach Wilson are NFL Europe exemptions.

HOW THE BRONCOS ARE BUILT

Updated 8/2/05

Year	Draft/College Free Agent	Trades	Free Agents/Waivers
1993 9-7 (3rd AFC West)	K Jason Elam (3b)		
1994 7-9 (4th AFC West)	C Tom Nalen (7c) T Dwayne Carswell (CFA) WR Rod Smith (CFA)		
1995 8-8 (4th AFC West)			
1996 13-3 (1st AFC West)			
1997 12-4 (2nd AFC West) Super Bowl Champs	DT Trevor Pryce (1) T Matt Lepsis (CFA)		
1998 14-2 (1st AFC West) Super Bowl Champs			
1999 6-10 (5th AFC West)	LB Al Wilson (1)		
2000 11-5 (2nd AFC West)	G/T Cooper Carlisle (4b) RB Mike Anderson (6)		
2001 8-8 (3rd AFC West)	C Ben Hamilton (4a)		TE Patrick Hape*** (UFA-Tampa Bay)
2002 9-7 (2nd AFC West)	WR Ashley Lelie (1) DT Dorsett Davis (3) S Sam Brandon (4) TE Jeb Putzier (6) S Chris Young (7a) DT Monsanto Pope (7b) WR Charlie Adams (CFA) LB Jashon Sykes (CFA) CB Lenny Walls (CFA)		FB Kyle Johnson** TE/LS Mike Leach**
2003 10-6 (2nd AFC West)	T George Foster (1) LB Terry Pierce (2) RB Quentin Griffin (4a) RB Cecil Sapp (CFA)	TE Nate Jackson (S.F.)**	DT Mario Fatafehi** S Nick Ferguson** LB Louis Green** QB Danny Kanell** QB Jake Plummer*** (UFA-Arizona)
2004 10-6 (2nd AFC West)	LB DJ. Williams (1) RB Tatum Bell (2a) WR Darius Watts (2b) S Jeremy LeSueur (3) CB Jeff Shoate (5) WR Triandos Luke (6a) QB Matt Mauck (7a) RB Brandon Miree (7b) QB Bradlee Van Pelt (7c) CB Roc Alexander (CFA) G/T Tyson Clabo (CFA) WR Romar Crenshaw (CFA) WR B.J. Johnson (CFA)	CB Champ Bailey (Was)**	LB Patrick Chukwurah** DE Marco Coleman*** (UFA-Philadelphia) CB Curome Cox** DT Luther Elliss** T Cornell Green*** (UFA-Tampa Bay) DE Raylee Johnson** S John Lynch** DT D.J. Renteria** DE Anton Palepoi** G Tim Stuber** DT Demetris Veal**
2005	CB Darrent Williams (2) CB Karl Paymah (3a) CB Domonique Foxworth (3b) RB Maurice Clarett (3c) OL Chris Myers (6) P/K Paul Ernster (7) CB Brandon Browner (CFA) TE Wesley Duke (CFA) T Erik Pears (CFA) QB Chad Frieheauf (CFA) DL Patrice Majondo-Mwamba (CFA)	DE Ebenezer Ekuban (Cle)** DE John Engelberger (SF)** DT Michael Myers (Cle)** P Todd Sauerbrun (Car)** DT Gerard Warren (Cle)**	TE Stephen Alexander*** (UFA-Detroit) DE Courtney Brown** RB Kris Briggs** LB Keith Burns*** (UFA-Tampa Bay) T Anthony Clement** RB Ron Dayne*** (UFA-N.Y. Giants) WR Todd Devoe** LB Ian Gold** (D2a-2000) DE Aaron Hunt** (D6-2003) C Ben Nowland** DE Chukie Nwokorie** WR Jerry Rice** G Cameron Spikes*** (UFA-Arizona) LB Markus Steele** C/G Chris Watton** G Zach Wilson**

Number in parenthesis after draft choice indicates the round in which the player was taken.

CFA – indicates player was a rookie free agent when he joined the Broncos.

** – indicates player was an NFL veteran or had been in other camps before joining the Broncos.

*** – indicates player was an unrestricted free agent who had not been released by previous team.

(year) – indicates a player who had a previous tenure with the club, and the year it began.

DENVER BRONCOS 2004-05 TRANSACTIONS — by date/by player
(Updated August 2, 2005)

BY DATE

12/30/03	Signed WR MarTay Jenkins to future contract Signed DT Thomas Pittman to future contract Signed QB Tory Woodbury to future contract		Placed CB Jermaine Chatman on reserve/injured list (left hand) Placed WR B.J. Johnson on reserve/injured list (left ankle)	11/30/04	Placed CB Lenny Walls on reserve/injured (right shoulder) Signed LB Louis Green from practice squad Signed CB Curome Cox to practice squad
12/31/03	Signed G Calvin Collins to future contract Signed S Ron Israel to future contract Signed T Jamain Stephens to future contract		Waived DE Luis Almanzar Waived RB Antonio Beard Waived WR Atnaf Harris Waived S Ron Israel	12/1/04	Signed CB Curome Cox to practice squad
1/6/04	Signed WR Atnaf Harris to future contract		Waived LB Riall Johnson Waived DT Brandon Kennedy Waived G Tyler Lenda	12/7/04	Placed WR Nate Jackson on reserve/injured (left ankle)
1/7/04	Signed DT Luis Almanzar to future contract		Waived QB Mike Quinn Waived TE O.J. Santiago Waived T Jamain Stephens Waived CB Scott Turner	12/8/04	Re-signed WR Charlie Adams
1/13/04	Signed LB Patrick Chukwurah to future contract		Placed CB Jeremy LeSueur on reserve/injured list (hernia)	12/9/04	Waived P Micah Knorr Claimed P Jason Baker off Waivers (IND)
2/9/04	Signed RB Antonio Beard		Waived LB Cornelius Anthony Waived LB Charles Burton Waived TE Byron Chamberlain Waived G Tyson Clabo Waived WR Romar Crenshaw Waived DT Nick Eason Waived P Hayden Epstein Waived RB Ahmaad Galloway Waived DE Randy Garner Waived LB Louis Green Waived DE Bryant McNeal Waived DE Clint Mitchell Waived DT Thomas Pittman Waived LB Johnny Rutledge Waived RB Cecil Sapp Waived C/G Josh Sewell Waived G Shannon Snell Waived QB Bradlee Van Pelt Waived G/C Chris Watton Waived TE Jed Weaver	12/17/04	Placed CB Willie Middlebrooks on reserve/injured (right knee) Placed DT Luther Elliss on reserve/injured (lower back)
2/17/04	Signed P Hayden Epstein	9/5/04		12/18/04	Signed DT Demetrian Veal
2/24/04	Re-signed LB Al Wilson			12/21/04	Waived DT Darius Holland Signed G Tyson Clabo from practice squad Signed DT D.J. Renteria to practice squad
3/2/04	Placed WR Ed McCaffrey on reserve/retired list Waived T Ephraim Salaam			12/22/04	Signed G Tim Stuber Signed WR Grant Mattos to practice squad DE Bryant McNeal signed to Tampa Bay's active roster
3/4/04	Acquired CB Champ Bailey and a 2004 second-round (41 st overall) draft choice from Washington in exchange for RB Clinton Portis			12/28/04	Placed RB Garrison Hearst on reserve/injured (left hand) Signed RB Johnathan Reese
3/10/04	Signed QB Mike Quinn (UFA-Houston) Re-signed CB Scott Turner (UFA)			1/7/05	Signed RB Kris Briggs to future contract Signed WR Todd Devoe to future contract Signed DE Randy Garner to future contract Signed G Reese Hicks to future contract Signed TE Mike Pinkard to future contract Signed LB Markus Steele to future contract
3/11/04	Signed DE Marco Coleman (UFA-Philadelphia) Re-signed TE Mike Leach			1/8/05	Signed QB Matt Mauck from practice squad Waived RB Johnathan Reese
3/12/04	Signed WR Willie Jackson			1/10/05	Signed RB Antonio Beard to future contract Signed CB Curome Cox to future contract Signed WR Romar Crenshaw to future contract Signed WR Grant Mattos to future contract Signed DT D.J. Renteria to future contract Signed TE Keith Willis to future contract
3/15/04	Re-signed CB Jimmy Spencer (UFA) Signed CB Reggie Stephens			1/19/05	Signed DE Chukie Nwokorie to future contract
3/19/04	Re-signed RB Reuben Droughns (UFA) Signed TE Jed Weaver (UFA-San Francisco) Signed DE Raylee Johnson	9/6/04	Signed WR Romar Crenshaw to practice squad Signed DT Nick Eason to practice squad Signed LB Louis Green to practice squad Signed DE Bryant McNeal to practice squad Signed RB Cecil Sapp to practice squad Signed C/G Josh Sewell to practice squad Signed QB Bradlee Van Pelt to practice squad Signed TE John Paul Foschi to practice squad	1/26/05	Signed P/K Mark Mariscal to future contract
3/22/04	Signed DE Raylee Johnson			1/27/05	Signed G/C Josh Sewell to future contract
3/23/04	Signed S John Lynch			1/31/05	Signed QB Bradlee Van Pelt to future contract
3/24/04	Signed DT Luther Elliss			2/24/05	Released G Dan Neil
3/25/04	Signed RB Garrison Hearst	9/7/04		3/3/05	Traded a 2005 fourth round pick to Cleveland in exchange for DT Gerard Warren Signed LB Ian Gold Signed DE Aaron Hunt Re-signed G Ben Hamilton (UFA) Re-signed TE Jeb Putzier (RFA) Re-signed LS/TE Mike Leach (UFA)
3/26/04	Signed T Cornell Green (UFA-Tampa Bay)	9/11/04	Waived DT Darius Holland Signed LB Louis Green from practice squad	3/10/05	Re-signed TE Jeb Putzier (RFA) Re-signed LS/TE Mike Leach (UFA)
4/9/04	Traded CB Deltia O'Neal, a 2004 first round (24 th overall) pick and a 2004 fourth round (117 th overall) pick to Cincinnati in exchange for a 2004 first round (17 th overall) selection	9/13/04	Signed DT Darius Holland Waived LB Louis Green Signed LB Louis Green to practice squad	3/11/05	Waived P/K Mark Mariscal Signed P/K Jeff Crowell Signed P/K Tyler Fredrickson
4/15/04	Re-signed TE Patrick Hape (UFA) Signed TE O.J. Santiago (UFA-Oakland)	9/15/04	Waived TE John Paul Foschi from practice squad Signed RB Antonio Beard to practice squad	3/18/05	Re-signed P/K Jason Baker (UFA) Re-signed G/T Cooper Carlisle (UFA)
4/26/04	Waived QB Tory Woodbury	9/20/04	Acquired DT Ellis Johnson from Atlanta in exchange for a 2005 conditional draft pick	3/25/05	Signed TE Stephen Alexander (UFA-Detroit) Signed LB Keith Burns (UFA-Tampa Bay)
4/28/04	Signed G Tyson Clabo (rookie free agent)	9/22/04	Waived QB Matt Mauck Signed DE Anton Palepoi	3/30/05	Traded RB Reuben Droughns to Cleveland in exchange for DE Ebenezer Ekuban and DT Michael Myers Signed DE Courtney Brown
5/3/04	Signed CB Roc Alexander (rookie free agent) Signed WR Romar Crenshaw (rookie free agent)	9/24/04	Signed QB Matt Mauck to practice squad Waived DT Nick Eason from practice squad	4/1/05	Signed RB Ron Dayne (UFA-N.Y. Giants) Re-signed DT Luther Elliss (UFA) Re-signed TE Patrick Hape (UFA) Re-signed DT Monsanto Pope (RFA)
5/7/04	Signed WR B.J. Johnson (rookie free agent) Signed DT Brandon Kennedy (rookie free agent) Signed G Shannon Snell (rookie free agent)	10/2/04	Activated DT Ellis Johnson from exempt/commissioner permission to 53-man roster	4/6/05	Re-signed DT Dorsett Davis (RFA)
5/10/04	Waived QB Steve Beuerlein	10/4/04	Waived WR Charlie Adams	4/15/05	Re-signed CB Lenny Walls (RFA)
5/11/04	Signed LB Johnny Rutledge	10/11/04	Moved WR Adrian Madise from reserve/suspended to exempt/commissioner permission list	4/19/05	Re-signed DE Marco Coleman (UFA)
5/14/04	Signed TE Byron Chamberlain	10/18/04	Waived WR Adrian Madise Waived CB Jermaine Chatman from reserve/injured list	4/21/05	Re-signed DE Anton Palepoi (RFA)
6/2/04	Waived DT Daryl Gardener	10/26/04	NFL placed TE Dwayne Carswell on reserve/suspended list	4/26/05	Signed T Anthony Clement Signed CB Brandon Browner (rookie free agent) Signed Wesley Duke (rookie free agent) Signed T Erik Pears (rookie free agent) Waived RB Antonio Beard Waived TE Keith Willis
6/9/04	Waived G Calvin Collins	10/27/04	TE Dwayne Carswell reinstated from reserve/suspended list by NFL	5/3/05	Re-signed S Sam Brandon (RFA)
6/11/04	Signed WR Triandos Luke (draft choice)			5/12/05	Signed QB Chad Frieauff (rookie free agent) Waived TE Mike Pinkard
6/14/04	Signed LB Charles Burton Signed DE Randy Garner Signed G Tyler Lenda				
7/27/04	Signed WR Darius Watts Signed CB Jeremy LeSueur Signed CB Jeff Shoate Signed C Jeff Sewell Signed QB Matt Mauck Signed RB Brandon Miree Signed QB Bradlee Van Pelt Waived S Jarious Jackson Waived WR MarTay Jenkins Waived CB Reggie Stephens				
7/28/04	Waived LB John Mobley				
7/30/04	Signed CB Reggie Stephens				
7/31/04	Placed DT Dorsett Davis on reserve/injured list (left finger)				
8/12/04	Signed CB Jermaine Chatman				
8/16/04	Placed RB Brandon Miree on reserve/injured list (left thumb) Waived CB Reggie Stephens				
8/17/04	Signed LB Cornelius Anthony Waived WR Willie Jackson				
8/23/04	Signed LB Riall Johnson				
8/31/04	Placed CB Jimmy Spencer on reserve/retired list Placed RB Mike Anderson on reserve/injured list (groin)	11/17/04	Waived RB Kris Briggs from practice squad Signed G Tyson Clabo to practice squad		

5/19/05 Traded P Jason Baker and a 2006 seventh round pick to Carolina in exchange for P Todd Sauerbrun
 5/23/05 Signed G Cameron Spikes (UFA – Arizona)
 Waived DE Randy Garner
 6/1/05 Signed WR Jerry Rice FA
 6/3/05 Placed G P.J. Alexander on reserve/non-football injury list
 6/14/05 Signed G Zach Wilson (RFA)
 Assigned Patrice Majondo-Mwamba by NFL as Intl. Practice Squad Player
 7/15/05 Traded CB Willie Middlebrooks to San Francisco in exchange for DE John Engelberger
 7/25/05 Waived P/K Jeff Crowell. Waived P/K Tyler Fredrickson. Waived G Reese Hicks.
 7/27/05 Waived WR Grant Mattos
 7/30/05 Placed DT D.J. Renteria on reserve/NFL Europe injury list
 7/31/05 Placed C/G Josh Sewell on Exempt/Left Squad list. Signed C Ben Nowland
 8/2/05 Claimed C/G Chris Watton off Waivers

BY PLAYER

ADAMS, Charlie — WR
 10/2/04 Waived
 12/8/04 Re-signed
ALEXANDER, P.J. — G
 6/3/05 Placed on reserve/non-football injury list
ALEXANDER, Roc — CB
 5/3/04 Signed (rookie free agent)
ALEXANDER, Stephen — TE
 3/25/05 Signed (UFA-Detroit)
ALMANZAR, Luis — DT
 1/7/04 Signed to future contract
 8/31/04 Waived
ANDERSON, Mike — RB
 8/31/04 Placed on reserve/injured list (groin)
ANTHONY, Cornelius — LB
 8/17/04 Signed
 9/5/04 Waived
BAILEY, Champ — CB
 3/4/04 Acquired from Washington with a 2004 second-round (41st overall) draft choice for RB Clinton Portis
BAKER, Jason — P
 12/9/04 Claimed off Waivers (Indianapolis)
 3/18/05 Re-signed (UFA)
 5/19/05 Traded to Carolina for P Todd Sauerbrun
BEARD, Antonio — RB
 2/9/04 Signed
 8/31/04 Waived
 9/15/04 Signed to practice squad
 1/10/05 Signed to future contract
 4/26/05 Waived
BEUERLEIN, Steve — QB
 5/10/04 Waived
BRANDON, SAM — S
 5/3/05 Re-signed (RFA)
BRIGGS, Kris — RB
 10/27/04 Signed to practice squad
 11/17/04 Waived from practice squad
 1/7/05 Signed to future contract
BROWN, Courtney — DE
 3/30/05 Signed
BROWNER, Brandon — CB
 4/26/05 Signed (rookie free agent)
BURNS, Keith — LB
 3/25/05 Signed (UFA-Tampa Bay)
BURTON, Charles — LB
 6/14/04 Signed
 9/5/04 Waived
CARLISLE, Cooper — G/T
 3/18/05 Re-signed (UFA)
CARSWELL, Dwayne — T
 10/11/04 Placed on reserve/suspended list by NFL
 10/26/04 Reinstated by NFL from reserve/suspended list
CHAMBERLIN, Byron — TE
 5/14/04 Signed

9/5/04 Waived
CHATMAN, Jermaine — CB
 8/12/04 Signed
 8/31/04 Placed on reserve/injured list (left hand)
 10/11/04 Waived from reserve/injured list
CHUKWURAH, Patrick — LB
 1/13/04 Signed to future contract
CLABO, Tyson — G/T
 4/28/04 Signed (rookie free agent)
 9/5/04 Waived
 11/17/04 Signed to practice squad
 12/21/04 Signed from practice squad
CLEMENT, Anthony — T
 4/26/05 Signed
COLEMAN, Marco — DE
 3/11/04 Signed (UFA-Philadelphia)
 4/19/05 Re-signed (UFA)
COLLINS, Calvin — G
 12/31/03 Signed to future contract
 6/9/04 Waived
COX, Curome — CB
 12/1/04 Signed to practice squad
 1/10/05 Signed to future contract
CRENSHAW, Romar — WR
 5/3/04 Signed (rookie free agent)
 9/5/04 Waived
 9/6/04 Signed to practice squad
 1/10/05 Signed to future contract
CROWELL, Jeff — P/K
 3/11/05 Signed
 7/25/05 Waived
DAYNE, Ron — RB
 4/1/05 Signed (UFA-N.Y. Giants)
DAVIS, Dorsett — DT
 7/31/04 Placed on reserve/injured list (left finger)
 4/6/05 Re-signed (RFA)
DEVOE, Todd — WR
 1/7/05 Signed to future contract
DROUGHNS, Reuben — RB
 3/19/04 Re-signed (UFA)
 3/30/05 Traded to Cleveland for DE Ebenezer Ekuban and DT Michael Myers
DUKE, Wesley — TE
 4/26/05 Signed (rookie free agent)
EASON, Nick — DT
 9/5/04 Waived
 9/6/04 Signed to practice squad
 9/24/04 Waived
EKUBAN, EBENEZER — DE
 3/30/05 Acquired from Cleveland with DT Michael Myers in exchange for RB Reuben Droughns
ELLISS, Luther — DT
 3/24/04 Signed
 12/17/04 Placed on reserve/injured (lower back)
 4/1/05 Re-signed (UFA)
ENGELBERGER, John — DE
 5/23/05 Acquired from San Francisco in exchange for CB Willie Middlebrooks
EPSTEIN, Hayden — P
 2/17/04 Signed
 9/5/04 Waived
FOSCHI, John Paul — TE
 9/7/04 Signed to practice squad
 9/15/04 Waived
FREDRICKSON, Tyler — P/K
 3/11/05 Signed
 7/25/05 Waived
FRIEHAUF, Chad — QB
 5/12/05 Signed (rookie free agent)
GALLOWAY, Ahmaad — RB
 9/5/04 Waived
GARDENER, Daryl — DT
 6/2/04 Waived
GARNER, Randy — DE
 6/14/04 Signed
 9/5/04 Waived
 1/7/05 Signed to future contract
 5/23/05 Waived
GOLD, Ian — LB
 3/3/05 Signed

GREEN, Cornell — T
 3/26/04 Signed (UFA-Tampa Bay)
GREEN, Cornell — T
 9/5/04 Waived
 9/6/04 Signed to practice squad
 9/11/04 Signed
 9/13/04 Waived and re-signed to practice squad
GREEN, Louis — LB
 9/5/04 Waived
 9/6/04 Signed to practice squad
 9/11/04 Signed from practice squad
 9/11/04 Waived; re-signed to practice squad
 11/30/04 Signed from practice squad
GRIFFIN, Quentin — RB
 10/27/04 Placed on reserve/injured list (right knee)
HAPE, Patrick — TE
 4/15/04 Re-signed (UFA)
 4/1/05 Re-signed (UFA)
HARRIS, Atnaf — WR
 1/6/04 Signed to future contract
 8/31/04 Waived
HEARST, Garrison — RB
 3/25/04 Signed
 12/28/04 Placed on reserve/injured (left hand)
HICKS, Reese — G
 1/7/05 Signed to future contract
HOLLAND, Darius — DT
 9/11/04 Waived
 9/13/04 Signed
 12/21/04 Waived
HUNT, Aaron — DE
 3/3/05 Signed
ISRAEL, Ron — S
 12/31/03 Signed to future contract
 8/31/04 Waived
JACKSON, Jarious — QB
 7/27/04 Waived
JACKSON, Nate — TE
 12/7/04 Placed on reserve/injured list (left ankle)
JACKSON, Willie — WR
 3/12/04 Signed
 8/17/04 Waived
JENKINS, MarTay — WR
 12/30/03 Signed to future contract
 7/27/04 Waived
JOHNSON, B.J. — WR
 5/7/04 Signed (rookie free agent)
 8/31/04 Placed on reserve/injured list (left ankle)
JOHNSON, Ellis — DE
 9/20/04 Acquired in a trade from Atlanta in exchange for a 2005 conditional draft pick
 10/2/04 Activated from exempt/commissioner permission to 53-man roster
JOHNSON, Raylee — DE
 3/22/04 Signed
JOHNSON, Riall — LB
 8/23/04 Signed
KENNEDY, Brandon — DT
 5/7/04 Signed (rookie free agent)
 8/31/04 Waived
KNORR, Micah — P
 2/9/04 Waived
LEACH, Mike — LS/TE
 3/11/04 Re-signed (UFA)
 3/10/05 Re-signed (UFA)
LENDIA, Tyler — G
 6/14/04 Signed
 8/31/04 Waived
LeSUEUR, Jeremy — S
 7/27/04 Signed
 9/5/04 Placed on reserve/injured list (hernia)
LUKE, Triandos — WR
 6/11/04 Signed
LYNCH, John — S
 3/23/04 Signed
MADISE, Adrian — WR
 10/4/04 Moved from reserve/suspended to exempt/commissioner permission list
 10/11/04 Waived

MARISCAL, Mark — P/K

1/26/05 Signed to future contract
3/11/05 Waived

MATTOS, Grant — WR

12/22/04 Signed to practice squad
1/10/05 Signed to future contract
7/27/05 Waived

MAUCK, Matt — QB

7/27/04 Signed
9/22/04 Waived
9/24/04 Signed to practice squad
1/8/05 Signed from practice squad

McNEAL, Bryant — DE

9/5/04 Waived
9/6/04 Signed to practice squad
12/22/04 Signed to Tampa Bay's active roster

MIDDLEBROOKS, Willie — CB

12/17/04 Placed on reserve/injured (right knee)
7/15/05 Traded to San Francisco in exchange for DE John Engelberger

MIREE, Brandon — RB

7/27/04 Signed
8/16/04 Place on reserve/injured list (left thumb)

McCaffrey, Ed — WR

3/2/04 Placed on reserve/retired list

MITCHELL, Clint — DE

9/5/04 Waived

MOBLEY, John — LB

7/28/04 Waived

MAJONDO-MWAMBA, Patrice — DL

6/14/05 Assigned by NFL to the Int'l. Practice Squad

MYERS, Michael — DT

3/30/05 Acquired from Cleveland with DE Ebenezer Ekuban in exchange for RB Reuben Droughns

NEIL, Dan — G

2/24/05 Released

NOWLAND, Ben — C

7/31/05 Signed

NWOKORIE, Chukie — DE

1/19/05 Signed to future contract

O'NEAL, Deltha — CB

4/9/04 Traded to Cincinnati along with a 2004 first round (24th overall) pick and a 2004 fourth round (117th overall) pick, in exchange for the Bengals 2004 first round (17th overall) selection

PALEPOI, Anton — DE

9/22/04 Signed
4/21/05 Re-signed (RFA)

PEARS, Erik — T

4/26/05 Signed (rookie free agent)

PINKARD, Mike — TE

1/7/05 Signed to future contract
5/12/05 Waived

PITTMAN, Thomas — DT

12/30/03 Signed to future contract
9/5/04 Waived

POPE, Monsanto — DT

4/1/05 Re-signed (RFA)

PORTIS, Clinton — RB

3/4/04 Traded to Washington for CB Champ Bailey and a 2004 second-round (41st overall) draft choice

PUTZIER, Jeb — TE

3/10/05 Re-signed (RFA)

QUINN, Mike — QB

3/10/04 Signed (UFA-Houston)
8/31/04 Waived

REESE, Johnathan — RB

12/28/04 Signed
1/8/05 Waived

RENERIA, D.J. — DT

12/21/04 Signed to practice squad
1/10/05 Signed to future contract
7/30/05 Placed on reserve/NFL Europe injury list

RICE, Jerry — WR

6/1/05 Signed

RUTLEDGE, Johnny — LB

5/11/04 Re-signed

9/5/04 Waived

SALAAM, Ephraim — T

3/2/04 Waived

SANTIAGO, O.J. — TE

4/15/04 Signed (UFA-Oakland)
8/31/04 Waived

SAPP, Cecil — RB

9/5/04 Waived
9/6/04 Signed to practice squad
10/27/04 Signed

SAUERBRUN, Todd — P

5/19/05 Acquired from Carolina for P Jason Baker and a 2006 seventh round pick

SEWELL, Josh — C

7/27/04 Signed
9/5/04 Waived
9/6/04 Signed to practice squad
12/7/05 Signed to future contract
7/31/05 Placed on exempt/left squad list

SHOATE, Jeff — CB

7/27/04 Signed

SNELL, Shannon — G

5/7/04 Signed (rookie free agent)
9/5/04 Waived

SPENCER, Jimmy — CB

3/15/04 Re-signed (UFA)
8/31/04 Placed on reserve/retired list

SPIKES, Cameron — G

5/23/05 Signed (UFA-Arizona)

STEELE, Markus — LB

1/7/05 Signed to future contract

STEPHENS, Jamain — T

12/31/03 Signed to future contract
8/31/04 Waived

STEPHENS, Reggie — CB

3/15/04 Signed
7/27/04 Waived
7/30/04 Signed
8/16/04 Waived

STUBER, Tim — G

12/22/04 Signed

TURNER, Scott — CB

3/10/04 Re-signed (UFA)
8/31/04 Waived

VAN PELT, Bradlee — QB

7/27/04 Signed
9/5/04 Waived
9/6/04 Signed to practice squad
1/31/05 Signed to future contract

VEAL, Demetris — DT

12/18/04 Signed

WALLS, Lenny — CB

11/30/04 Placed on reserved/injured list (right shoulder)
4/21/05 Re-signed (RFA)

WARREN, Gerard — DT

3/3/05 Acquired from Cleveland for a 2005 fourth-round pick

WATTON, Chris — C/G

9/5/04 Waived
8/2/05 Claimed off Waivers (Tampa Bay)

WATTS, Darius — WR

7/27/04 Signed

WEAVER, Jed — TE

3/19/04 Signed (UFA-San Francisco)
9/5/04 Waived

WILLIS, Keith — TE

1/10/05 Signed to future contract

WILSON, Al — LB

2/24/04 Re-signed

WILSON, Zach — G

6/14/05 Signed

WOODBURY, Tory — QB

12/30/03 Signed to future contract
4/26/04 Waived

2005 DENVER BRONCOS



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Filling in

After again being erased early from the playoffs, the Broncos hope they have positioned themselves nicely for this season

By Jeff Legwold, Rocky Mountain News

July 28, 2005

Virtually every time Denver Broncos coach Mike Shanahan was asked during the off-season about what, exactly, he planned to do with a team that has ended the past two seasons with dismal playoff losses in Indianapolis, he would narrow his gaze and inevitably say, "There's always missing pieces."

And during the past four months, the Broncos have been the league's most active trading partner (five deals with four teams), they have acquired four defensive linemen who played on a 4-12 Cleveland Browns team last season, and they lost their leader in sacks (Reggie Hayward) and two starters in their secondary (Kelly Herndon and Kenoy Kennedy) during free agency.

Yet the Broncos believe they are better for it all. And starting today, when the team's players report for training camp, they will take the first step toward proving that.

Already positioned with plenty of picks in the 2006 draft, including two in the first round, Shanahan takes a veteran team into the 2005 season, one that includes a likely future Hall of Famer in Jerry Rice, one he hopes is ready to do what the past six have not.

Win a playoff game and, as he puts it, "put yourself in a position where you can do something special."

With that in mind, the *Rocky Mountain News* takes a position-by-position look at the Broncos' 2005 edition.

Quarterback

- **Starter:** Jake Plummer.

- **Backups:** Danny Kanell, Matt Mauck, Bradlee Van Pelt, Chad Frieauf.

- **The lowdown:** Folks can win both sides of an argument with Plummer's play in 2004, which is his jump-off point this season. Those with the optimism of orange-colored glasses can say he took every snap, threw every pass for a 10-win playoff team; that he set a franchise record with 4,089 passing yards and tied a franchise record - both are held by a guy named Elway - with 27 touchdowns. And those who continually rub their temples about the Broncos starter point to the 20 interceptions - it tied for the most among NFL starters - and the occasional drift from the reasonable side of the street, like the right-hander's left-handed toss for an interception against the Chiefs. Either way, Shanahan continues to be in Plummer's corner but also has thrown the "it's time to win playoff games" gauntlet at Plummer's feet. Kanell will have to fight off the kids (Mauck and Van Pelt) to keep his spot.

- **Good to know:** Only nine of Plummer's 27 touchdown passes last season came in the six games against divisional opponents.

The tally: three in two games against Kansas City, four in two games against Oakland and two in two games against San Diego.

Running back

- **Starters:** Tatum Bell (RB), Mike Anderson (RB), Kyle Johnson (FB).
- **Backups:** Quentin Griffin (RB), Ron Dayne (RB), Maurice Clarett (RB), Kris Briggs (RB), Brandon Miree (FB), Cecil Sapp (FB).
- **The lowdown:** Other than front-row seats for U2, this could be one of the most hotly contested spots of the summer. Bell and Anderson head into camp on top of the pyramid, but Bell already battled some nagging injuries in his rookie season in 2004, as well as a slight penchant for letting a big play slip through his fingers with an ill-timed fumble or dropped pass. Anderson will be 32 years old Sept. 21 and he missed all of last season because of two torn left groin muscles. So there might be carries to be had if someone wants to come get them. Griffin, who entered last season as the starter, believes he again can be, even coming off right knee surgery. Dayne and Clarett will push as well. Fullback also is crowded, with coaches high on Miree and Sapp after Johnson was the starter in 2004.
- **Good to know:** Anderson is the only back on the Broncos roster who has posted a 1,000-yard rushing season in the NFL and he only has one - 1,487 yards in 2000.

Receiver

- **Starters:** Rod Smith, Ashley Lelie.
- **Backups:** Darius Watts, Jerry Rice, Triandos Luke, Charlie Adams, Romar Crenshaw, B.J. Johnson, Todd Devoe.
- **The lowdown:** They gave this position a long look in the draft but then chose, in large part, to stand pat. The key to their plan is Watts' development. Lelie became a 1,000-yard receiver for the first time last season (1,084) and is the big-play threat. But Watts (31 catches last season), is the reason they did not add a receiver in the draft. They like his footwork and speed but want more consistency from him catching the ball. Rice was added with the hope he could add pop in the scoring zone because Lelie is not as consistent in the short- to midrange routes as he needs to be. Smith still leads the group, but the Broncos are banking on the status quo, and that is a bit of a risk for a team in search of more touchdowns.
- **Good to know:** Lelie had the highest yards-per-catch average (20.1) in the NFL of any receiver with more than 16 receptions, but it was Smith who had the Broncos' two longest touchdowns catches in 2004 - 85 and 80 yards.

Tight end

- **Starter:** Jeb Putzier.
- **Backups:** Stephen Alexander, Patrick Hape, Nate Jackson, Mike Leach, Wesley Duke.
- **The lowdown:** Personnel executives around the league believe the best matchup for an offense to win these days is an accomplished tight end on most any linebacker. That is why the Broncos matched a \$12.5 million offer from the New York Jets to keep Putzier, a restricted free agent. The Broncos believe Putzier has the size-and-speed combination to be a 50-, 60-catch receiver. He has to be a more consistent blocker, though, or the Broncos will continue to take him out of the lineup inside the opponents' 20-yard line. Alexander is a proven veteran and likely will play as the blocker/receiver combination Dwayne Carswell did last season. Hape can play fullback as well, which helps his cause, and Leach has been the team's long snapper, which helps his. Jackson has moved inside from receiver and has drawn raves. But it is crowded, and he will have to do what he can to get some attention. Duke is a former basketball player who has not played football since high school. He is a project likely headed for the practice squad if he can show enough progress.

- **Good to know:** Putzier was held without a catch in only two games last season, and four of Hape's eight catches went for touchdowns.

Offensive line

- **Starters:** Matt Lepsis (LT), Ben Hamilton (LG), Tom Nalen (C), Cooper Carlisle (RG), George Foster (RT).
- **Backups:** Dwayne Carswell (T), Anthony Clement (T), Cornell Green (T), Erik Pears (T), Chris Myers (G), Cameron Spikes (G), Tim Stuber (G), Tyson Clabo (G), Zach Wilson (G), Josh Sewell (C).
- **The lowdown:** The Broncos were dangerously thin here but made some late moves in free agency, most notably picking up Clement, who has been an NFL starter. They still are thin, particularly in some of their backup spots, especially because P.J. Alexander will miss the season because of a left knee injury. An injury to Nalen would cause the most havoc. The Broncos then likely would move Hamilton inside to center - he will play there when Nalen retires - and move a younger player into Hamilton's guard spot. The starters are a savvy group, though, and set a franchise record last season when they allowed only 15 sacks.
- **Good to know:** The Broncos did not allow a sack in eight games last season on their way to the franchise record. The Chiefs (six), Bengals (three) and Chargers (two) were the only teams to have more than one in a game.

Defensive line

- **Starters:** Courtney Brown (DE), Gerard Warren (DT), Monsanto Pope (DT), Trevor Pryce (DE).
- **Backups:** Marco Coleman (DE), Ebenezer Ekuban (DE), John Engelberger (DE), Chukie Nwokorie (DE), Anton Palepoi (DE), Raylee Johnson (DE), Demetrin Veal (DE), Aaron Hunt (DE), Michael Myers (DT), Luther Ellis (DT), Mario Fatafehi (DT), Dorsett Davis (DT), D.J. Renteria (DT), Patrice Majondo-Mwamba (DL).
- **The lowdown:** This will be Darwin-esque training camp for these guys and only the strongest will survive. That said, there are plenty of question marks to go around - everything from injuries to subpar play. But the Broncos are hoping to glean a versatile rotation from this group. They like the idea of Pryce and Brown lining up at the ends, but both missed 14 games in the regular season in 2004 because of back and left foot injuries. That is why the Broncos also have made an attempt to have injury insurance at each spot. In that light, Engelberger could be an intriguing pickup because he has started 58 games. Michael Myers, too, is a solid, durable player who could end up in the lineup a great deal if those in front of him falter.
- **Good to know:** Engelberger had the most sacks last season of any defensive lineman on the Broncos roster, with six.

Linebacker

- **Starters:** D.J. Williams (strong side), Al Wilson (middle), Ian Gold (weak side).
- **Backups:** Terry Pierce, Keith Burns, Markus Steele, Patrick Chukwurah, Louis Green, Jashon Sykes.
- **The lowdown:** As soon as free agency started, Shanahan jumped at the opportunity to bring back Gold. With all the three- and four-receiver sets the Broncos are facing, Shanahan was looking for more speed in the middle of zone coverages. Wilson, though he did not make the Pro Bowl, quietly recorded his best season, from a technical standpoint, in 2004, and Williams is a Pro Bowl trip waiting to happen. The guy who lost the most in the Gold signing was Pierce, who might have had an opportunity to start had the Broncos stood pat. Pierce has the tools, he just has not quite put it all together at this point. Chukwurah, who played as a situational pass rusher last season at defensive end, likely will see those snaps dry up because of the crowd working in the defensive line.
- **Good to know:** The Broncos allowed more than 100 rushing yards seven times last season and lost four

of those games. Three of those losses were on the road.

Defensive back

- **Starters:** Champ Bailey (CB), Lenny Walls (CB), John Lynch (S), Nick Ferguson (S).

- **Backups:** Roc Alexander (CB), Domonique Foxworth (CB), Jeff Shoate (CB), Karl Paymah (CB), Darrent Williams (CB), Brandon Browner (CB), Curome Cox (CB), Chris Young (S), Jeremy LeSueur (S).

- **The lowdown:** The Broncos are hoping for safety in numbers here. For two consecutive seasons, a banged-up secondary has then been battered by the Indianapolis Colts to conclude the Broncos' brief postseason appearances. The team's first three picks in the April draft were cornerbacks. Of the three, Foxworth is the most ready to play and Shanahan continues to say Alexander, the chief victim of Peyton Manning as a rookie in January, has rebounded well. Ferguson will replace the departed Kennedy at safety. LeSueur, a third-round pick in 2004, was moved to safety from cornerback during the off-season after missing last season while recovering from a sports hernia. LeSueur was playing as the team's nickel (fifth defensive back) during some minicamp drills.

- **Good to know:** Two of the three leading tacklers among the defensive backs in 2004 no longer are with the team. Kennedy led Denver's defensive backs with 90 tackles, then left for Detroit in free agency. Kelly Herndon, who, with 77 tackles, was third among Broncos defensive backs signed with Seattle during free agency after the Broncos did not match his offer.

Specialists

- **Starters:** Jason Elam (PK), Paul Ernster (KO), Todd Sauerbrun (P).

- **Backups:** None.

- **The lowdown:** The suspense here is whether Shanahan makes the rare decision to keep three kickers. As reliable as Elam is, the Broncos do not want to use him to kick off. Likewise for Sauerbrun. That would leave the rookie Ernster, who routinely was piling up the touchbacks in the team's minicamps, to take the kickoff duties. It is no small decision for this team, given how much field position the Broncos surrendered last season by being unable to place a kickoff where they wanted to. In the return game, the Broncos are hoping Darrent Williams can fix their problems. He will get first crack at kickoff and punt returns.

- **Good to know:** The Broncos had only two punt returns of at least 21 yards after September last season. Smith had one (21 yards) and Luke had the other (21).

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The Champ of self-improvement

Off-season review has Bailey striving for, yes, perfection

By Jeff Legwold, Rocky Mountain News
August 3, 2005

ENGLEWOOD - He knows it's coming. No time off, no breaks, no chance for escape.

Champ Bailey knows the critic is waiting. And the critic is unblinking, unrelenting and without remorse.

Right there in the mirror.

"I want to be the best corner in the league," said Bailey, the Denver Broncos' shutdown cornerback. "I don't want to give up a touchdown. Hell, I don't want to give up a completion. I want to be perfect. Perfect technique, perfect positioning, perfect footwork.

"That's it, that's my expectation level. So whatever people say about any of it, I'm way past that. It doesn't bother me because I don't want to just be good, I want to be perfect, I want to dominate every play I can, so that's how I come to work every day, to see how close I can get."

This is Bailey, a high-performance player who is about lofty standards and strong words.

He was the keystone in the Broncos' off-season plans last year - so coveted that coach Mike Shanahan shipped Clinton Portis, a two-time 1,500-yard rusher, to the Washington Redskins to get Bailey; so coveted the Broncos signed him to a nine-year, \$63 million deal.

And with the trade and the deal and all the talk about the long-needed shutdown cornerback who was on his way to the Broncos defense, expectations for Bailey were well over a mile high.

"That's just Champ," Broncos safety John Lynch said. "People have seen what he can do and they always seem to hope for amazing things."

But a not-so-funny thing happened during Bailey's first tour in Denver. He found quarterbacks weren't trying to avoid him; they were seeking him out and had plenty of time in the face of an inconsistent pass rush (38 sacks, but only seven against playoff teams) to pick out their targets.

And the league power brokers, in search of more scoring and more offense, clamped down enforcement of the rules book in 2004 to limit contact with receivers and already have told the on-field officials to keep those clamps on this season.

"When players select him to the Pro Bowl like they did last year, it gives you an idea of what they think about him," Shanahan said. "Champ just wants to shut everybody down every game. But there is no corner without the proper pass rush that can stop the top receivers now. It's just impossible.

"Hopefully, this year we're going to put more pressure on the quarterback to give those receivers less time to get down the field."

Rodolfo Gonzalez © News

Champ Bailey often was standing alone against the opponent's top receiver last season, and it is those situations in which the shutdown cornerback hopes to make even more plays this season.

When the Broncos did leave a defensive back alone to fend for himself in man-to-man coverage last season, it usually was Bailey. That's why, while often facing the best receiver on the field, Bailey was thrown at by opposing passers more often than any other Broncos defensive back in 2004, according to a review of game video.

That was especially true down the stretch, from the Broncos' Oct. 25 loss in Cincinnati to the end of the season. Quarterbacks, schooled to avoid double coverage, continually went after the five-time Pro Bowl selection.

"That's just the life of a man-to-man cornerback," Indianapolis Colts coach Tony Dungy said earlier this off-season. "We looked at it before the playoff game against Denver and he had hundreds of passes where he was in man coverage. You give up 10, 15 catches, it isn't the 485 other plays people remember, it's those 10, 15 plays.

"He understands that, though. The guys who don't understand that are going to have a hard time adjusting to life in the NFL."

So, while many might remember Chad Johnson's two receptions of at least 50 yards in the Broncos' *Monday Night Football* loss in Cincinnati, or Oakland's Jerry Porter finishing with 135 yards and three touchdowns in a prime-time Denver snowstorm, or then-rookie Michael Clayton in Tampa leaving a sprawling Bailey behind for a touchdown after a collision, just know Bailey remembers, too.

He said he looked at it all when the 2004 season was said and done. As is his way, Bailey simply hit the fast forward on what went right, then stared, rewound and stared again at what went wrong.

"Of course you always want to play better, and that's always been my key," Bailey said. "But I said it earlier, after minicamp, that I wouldn't trade tough times for the world. . . . I learn from my mistakes. I wouldn't trade the bad days for nothing at all, I really wouldn't.

"Last year, I think I was consistent for a period of time in there, but then I had my little falloffs. I can't be like that if I want to be the top corner in this league. I always strive to be perfect. Anything less and I'm not really satisfied with it."

So, the critic is 27 years old now. That's grizzled for an NFL defensive back, especially one with plenty of trophies for his individual work, including All-Pro and Pro Bowl honors in 2004.

Bailey has made no secret he is about the big trophy now, the one that gets hoisted when only one team remains. He was the first of the Broncos to look at the eclectic mix of veterans and rookies the team has assembled and proclaim the team had the talent to "win it all."

He made that pronouncement in June and hasn't backed away in August.

"No, I'm more confident now that I've watched us practice," Bailey said. "I just want to win championships. Individual things are great, and you want to win those, but that championship is what I'm looking for. I still say this is our year."

legwoldj@RockyMountainNews.com or 303-892-2359

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August 06, 2005

Bell struggling to pry job from Anderson

By [FRANK SCHWAB THE GAZETTE](#)

ENGLEWOOD - The only time in training camp that Tatum Bell has worked as Denver Broncos' top tailback was Thursday morning — and only because Mike Anderson took the practice off.

Bell has not hurt his chances of being the Broncos' starting tailback for the season opener on Sept. 11, but he hasn't convinced the coaches to move him ahead of Anderson, either.

The two have split time with the starting offense through camp, but always with Anderson going in first.

Bell said he's not worried about being behind Anderson on the depth chart. However, it is a little surprising that the second-year player hasn't passed Anderson for even one practice.

"I'm just trying to do everything I got to do right," Bell said. "If (Anderson) slips, I'm right there. He has no room for slipping."

Broncos offensive coordinator Gary Kubiak said he's been happy with Bell in camp. Kubiak was especially pleased Bell has been in every practice; Bell suffered finger, rib, hamstring and shoulder injuries as a rookie last year.

"I'm real pleased with his work and I'm real pleased he's been on the field every day, no nicks or bumps," Kubiak said. "He's doing great."

Bell's problem is that Anderson has not given an inch. Anderson, who rushed for 1,487 yards in 2000, has waited for another chance to start at tailback and he won't fade away quietly.

"He's looking good right now," Bell said.

"Mike Anderson is making everybody raise their level of play, and Tatum is in there battling," Kubiak said. "The whole camp" will determine who starts, he said.

Bell said he hasn't lost any confidence. Bell said his coaches have told him he's doing a good job.

"I'm making all the right reads, I'm catching the ball like I'm supposed to, I'm blocking, I'm doing all the little things I need to do to push (Anderson)," Bell said.

Bell is already ahead of schedule compared to last season, when he held out for a few days at the beginning of camp and suffered a broken finger during his first day of practice.

The battle between Bell and Anderson will be ultimately decided in preseason games, Denver's coaches have said. Bell said he thinks he's keeping the pressure on Anderson with Denver's first preseason game Aug. 13 in Houston.

"I know I'm right around the corner, right in his hip," Bell said. "If he slips up, I'm right there to take this job."

CONTACT THE WRITER: 476-4891 or fschwab@gazette.com

NEXT

Denver at Houston, 6 p.m. Aug. 13, CBS, 740/850 AM

Article Last Updated: 7/31/2005 01:25 AM

broncos

Bell running well despite life's turns

Speedy Broncos running back has converted his greatest loss into gain

By Mike Klis
Denver Post Staff Writer
DenverPost.com

Football fans from Stillwater, Okla., to Denver know him as Tatum Bell.

It was a name that took some getting used to. For most of his life, the fast, athletic, rambunctious kid from the Dallas suburbs was known as Tatum Jones.

Don't even start with the notion Bell's life may forever change if he manages to beat out Mike Anderson in the training camp competition for the glamorous role of Broncos' No. 1 running back.

Burying his 47-year-old mother, moving in with the father he barely had heard about, hanging out with a younger brother he never had heard about and changing his identity from Tatum Jones to Tatum Bell - all at the age of 14 - will shake up a young man's life.

"It was kind of hard on me at first," Bell said. "But my dad took me under his wing, helped me become a man, picked up where my mom left off."

When 87 Broncos players snap on their helmets and hustle through top-speed, highly intense, two-a-day workouts today at their Dove Valley training complex, backgrounds won't mean much.

Bell's dual upbringings won't tug on coach Mike Shanahan's heartstrings as he chooses his starting running back before the season opener Sept. 11 at Miami. Then again, Bell's childhood may explain the perspective he brings to the competition.

"I think it's going to be me at the end, but I'm no cocky person," Bell said. "I'm not one to run my mouth because it hasn't been pronounced. If Coach sits me down and says, 'You're the starter,' that's when I'll hold my head up high. But until then, I'm going to keep working and keep trying to push all the other running backs."

For starters, Bell is the backup. Anderson opened camp as the No. 1 running back, and not just as a professional courtesy to veterans. He was going to be the Broncos' starting tailback last season until he tore two groin muscles in the final exhibition game and missed the season. And even if he is about to turn 32, Anderson figures to be the best blocker and short-yardage option among running back candidates who also include Quentin Griffin, Ron Dayne and Maurice Claret.

"Mike Anderson to me is the guy who has looked the best in camp," quarterback Jake Plummer said. "He has the experience and him back from his injury, good things should happen with him."

Not that Bell, 24, didn't score some points with the quarterback last season. A rookie holdout a year ago today, Bell eventually signed a \$3.715 million contract that included a guaranteed \$1.72 million bonus. He then so badly mangled a finger during his first Broncos practice, surgery was required.

In Game 13 on Dec. 12, Bell finally got his chance - and rushed for 123 yards against Miami. Late in that game, though, Bell suffered a separated shoulder and finished the season playing in a harness.

"That showed me a lot," Plummer said. "To see a young kid do that shows me he's tough, willing to give it up for the team."

Shanahan's take on Bell: "I think everybody knows he has the 1,500-yard ability. Because of his speed, he's able to break a touchdown run every time he touches the ball. The question is, can he stay healthy? Can he be a complete back?"

"Now you compare that to Mike Anderson, who knows his strengths and weaknesses. He knows defenses. He is an excellent blocker. He does whatever you ask him to do."

"Worst day" ahead

Meaning no disrespect to Anderson and the rest, Bell has dealt with tougher challenges. Tony Bell and Vanessa Jones were dating until Tatum's arrival forced them to make a life decision. Tony said they mutually agreed to go separate ways.

Tatum was still in diapers, 10 months old, and home with Grandma when Mom visited some college friends in Houston for a New

Year's Eve celebration. A car accident that night left her paralyzed.

"She was a Jane Doe for a while there," said grandmother Doris. "She didn't have any identification on her. All she had was a piece of paper with a number on it that she put in her pocket. It was my number. The doctor just took a chance and called it."

"When she came out of it, she completely changed her ways. She devoted the rest of the life to the boy," she said.

Tatum never knew his mom any other way than in a wheelchair. Eventually, an electric wheelchair, much to Tatum's delight. Doris said Tatum often took Mom's wheelchair for a spin in the back alley. It was the thrill of riding vehicles at an early age that later got Tatum in trouble with Dad.

"He instilled some discipline I really didn't have," Tatum said. "Mom didn't really let me get away with stuff, but I was spoiled. My dad was a little more tough love."

Pneumonia eventually claimed Mom's life and began a new world for Tatum. The 10-year anniversary of his mother's death is Aug. 11.

"I broke down, bad," he said. "It was the worst day of my life."

A change of address

His biological father attended the funeral, talked to relatives and, against the wishes of both Tatum and grandma Doris, exercised his legal right to custody and moved his son 30 minutes to DeSoto, Texas.

"I was married; I had a home," Tony Bell said.

Indeed, not only is Tony married to Terry, they had a son T.J., who followed Tatum to Oklahoma State, where he is now a freshman defensive back. Tony continues to draw a good living as a Teamsters city truck driver.

"I just thought I had a better situation to offer him and it was time for me to step up," Tony said.

Tatum was rebellious at first. Of particular concern was his penchant for underage driving. One day, Tony and Terry carpooled to work, leaving the truck in the garage. It rained that day and when the Bells got home, they saw the truck parked safely, showroom dry.

"Only problem was, there were wet tracks rolling into the garage," Tony said. "He and his brother went for a drive, then wiped it dry after they got back."

If only 14-year-olds could think of everything.

"If he was driving, that's because his mother taught him how to drive when he was no more than 12 years old," Doris said.

Tony showed no mercy in punishing his son. Guess what? Every time Tatum returns home, he visits his grandmother and stays with Tony and Terry, whom he has long called "Mom."

Tatum can be anywhere, though, and think of his late mother. Before she died, Vanessa Jones wrote her son a letter, saying she hoped he would fulfill his dream of one day playing in the NFL.

"I've still got that letter," Bell said. "Everything happens for a reason. I'm not happy my mom passed, but it did help me get to know my dad. It kind of worked out because that discipline he put on me helped me. My momma set the groundwork, and my daddy finished it off. I know my momma's happy."

Staff writer Mike Klis can be reached at 303-820-5440 or mklis@denverpost.com.



Safety knows its time to step up

**Matt Schuman, (Bio) schuman@greeleytrib.com
August 6, 2005**

BY MATT SCHUMAN

schuman@greeleytrib.com

ENGLEWOOD -- Sam Brandon realizes time may be running out.

It has been a roller coaster ride for the Denver Broncos free safety since he was drafted four years ago out of the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

Unheralded coming out of college, Brandon made an impact on the Broncos his first two seasons. He played in all 16 games both years, starting two games as a rookie and 10 games in his sophomore campaign with Denver when he recorded a team-high 10 solo tackles in Denver's AFC Wild Card game against Indianapolis.

Yet last year, Brandon's stock fell. He played in only nine games and didn't have any starts. He was declared inactive for seven games. He also found himself in trouble off the field as he was arrested July 4 by Douglas County deputies on suspicion of misdemeanor assault and misdemeanor criminal mischief for allegedly hitting and choking his girlfriend but was released on a \$5,000 personal recognizance bond.

The Broncos signed Brandon this offseason, but only to a one-year tender offer worth a reported \$656,000.

Brandon knows he has a lot to prove this season if he wants to remain with the Broncos. Still, Brandon isn't blaming anyone but himself for his performance a season ago.

"I was just not playing up to my ability," said Brandon, who had two interceptions of backup quarterback Bradlee Van Pelt in Friday morning's practice. "I know I can do better and I know I can contribute. I let everybody down out here and don't like that. I am a positive guy and I want to be out there and contribute."

That may not be easy. Brandon is currently the backup to John Lynch at the free safety spot but may be looking over his shoulder at second-year safety Jeremy LeSueur out of Michigan and rookie cornerback Brandon Browner out of Oregon State, who is seeing time at safety.

Denver Broncos defensive coordinator likes what he has seen from both young players.

"The Browner kid is remarkably similar to (starting cornerback) Lenny Walls when you look at them," Larry Coyer said. "He has great cover abilities as well as the ability to play safety. So he is a kid we have to look at."

Despite the competition, Brandon is confident he can turn around his disappointing season of a year ago and live up to the potential he showed his first two seasons. Brandon isn't looking back.

"You can't look every minute in the rearview mirror," Brandon said. "You have got to look ahead and see what's in front of you. There are great things in front of me, I have just got to keep going and work hard to get there."

Before his time in Denver runs out.

Rocky Mountain News

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Carlisle guardedly optimistic

With Neil released, attention is shifted to the sixth-year pro

By Lee Rasizer, Rocky Mountain News

August 1, 2005

Cooper Carlisle's most notable NFL achievement to date might have more to do with pass-catching than blocking.

A combination tackle/guard, Carlisle hung around for three seasons with the Denver Broncos, mostly playing special teams, then lined up as an eligible receiver in a September 2003 game against the San Diego Chargers.

The Chargers never knew what hit them as Carlisle's 6-yard touchdown gave him the distinction of being the first Broncos offensive lineman in 17 seasons to score a touchdown.

Considerable attention again is being foisted on Carlisle nearly two years later, and perhaps for the first time since that spotlight moment.

Since then, Carlisle has started some important games because of injury, including the AFC wild-card playoff loss in January against the Indianapolis Colts and against the Colts in December 2003 that clinched an AFC wild-card berth.

Yet the sixth-year pro still could manage to be an afterthought because he might slip into a reserve role.

The scenario has changed this off- season. The release of right guard Dan Neil has created an opening, and like George Foster's entry into the starting lineup last year, it has made Carlisle a focal point on the offensive line heading into the season.

"There's a little more pressure," Carlisle said. "But I'm excited about it."

Neil was a virtual fixture in the lineup for seven seasons and built a reputation as a hard-nosed, intense competitor. He was accused by opponents of crossing ethical lines. His departure mainly was the result of mounting left knee problems and a sports hernia that required surgery, as well as salary-cap concerns.

It leaves a considerable hole to fill, with center Tom Nalen the only link on the line to Denver's Super Bowl-winning teams in the 1997 and 1998 seasons.

Left tackle Matt Lepsis, who entered the league with Neil in 1997, said not seeing his former teammate in the huddle and in meetings has been "weird."

But he expressed faith in Carlisle, who, listed at 6-foot-5 and 295 pounds, is taller and heavier than the player he is expected to replace.

"I don't think anyone's like Dan Neil," Lepsis said. "Dan's got a different kind of style - he's 'Dirty Dan.' But Cooper's got a mean streak. He's a tough guy. He'll be fine."

Carlisle came close to never getting his latest opportunity.

An unrestricted free agent in the off-season, he had given the Baltimore Ravens a verbal agreement to sign with them. The contract was in the mail when Carlisle received a call from Broncos coach Mike Shanahan in a last-ditch effort to convince the guard to stay.

More than that, Denver increased the financial stake with a two-year offer for \$2 million, including a \$500,000 signing bonus.

Carlisle is reticent to speak about the situation but said, "A lot of factors played into it," including opportunity, adding the decision to shun the Ravens was "tough."

"I think he's got enough common sense after we stepped up and paid a similar price to what Baltimore paid that he knew the situation here," Shanahan said. "He knew he'd come in and be the starter and people would have to beat him out, where with Baltimore, you're never sure."

Carlisle, who turns 28 on Aug. 11, was expected to be challenged by P.J. Alexander for a starting spot. But Alexander tore his left anterior cruciate ligament during an off-the-field mishap in May, ending his season.

The Broncos remain thin at guard, with Dwayne Carswell, a converted tight end, behind Carlisle. Only Cameron Spikes among the reserve guards has appeared in an NFL game, and he is with the third team, making Carlisle's signing, in hindsight, imperative.

The upside for Carlisle this season is he can concentrate on one position. He began his career playing both tackle spots and guard. At times, he would play both positions during game-week preparations.

"It's been sort of a long process," he said.

Carlisle's versatility was a strength then; the goal now is to insert him at right guard, leave him alone and allow him to use his abilities to run, cut and redirect. It also probably means his pass-catching days are over.

"He's a prime example of a guy that just kept plugging and got a chance," offensive coordinator Gary Kubiak said. "And now he's got a big-time chance to become a starter in this league for a number of years. We're counting on him."

rasizerl@RockyMountainNews.com

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broncos

Rookie role consuming Clarett

Running back from Ohio State adapting to NFL lifestyle with Broncos after long layoff

By Bill Williamson
Denver Post Staff Writer
DenverPost.com

Maurice Clarett was standing in a hallway at his new sanctuary, minding his business and eating cookies when Broncos defensive end Marco Coleman - who entered the NFL when Clarett was 8 years old and free of any controversial clouds - busted through the door.

Coleman introduced Clarett to his 8-year-old son, Kenneth.

"Don't mind him," Coleman said to his son. "He's just a rookie."

Clarett laughed. He has finally made it to rookie status in the NFL, and the benign "just a rookie" suits him just fine as he works into his life in pro football. For the former Ohio State star, it has been a long road to get to this point as a reserve running back for the Broncos.

Clarett is preparing for his second full week of training camp. The third-round draft pick was held out of Thursday's and Saturday's practices because of a groin injury. With the team off Sunday, Clarett said he expects to be practicing today.

While Clarett is looking forward to two days of working against the Houston Texans this week in preparation for Saturday night's preseason opener at Reliant Stadium, he said he is learning to see every day as part of a process.

"Really, I'm just trying to be patient and not rush too much," Clarett said. "That's the biggest thing about all this."

Clarett last played football in the 2002 season, when, as a freshman, he led the Buckeyes to the national championship. He had to sit out the past two years because of his well-documented issues with Ohio State and the NCAA.

Clarett prefers to talk about the future, not the past. Ohio State and his unique contract have been off-limits. Hours before the Broncos reported to training camp July 28, Clarett signed a nearly unheard-of deal that had no signing bonus. Clarett, however, could make up to \$7 million during his four-year contract if he performs well.

"I appreciate just talking about what's ahead," he said.

Clarett said he doesn't feel rusty after the long layoff, but said he does need to improve.

"It's just the repetitions and getting going," Clarett said. "I feel like I'm headed in the right direction. I still have a lot to learn, but it's coming.

"I make mistakes, but the other running backs like Mike Anderson and Tatum Bell help me. We're all competing, but they're helping me out, too."

Clarett likely will see playing time in the second half of preseason games, at least early. The Broncos are loaded at tailback with Anderson, Bell, Ron Dayne and Quentin Griffin getting significant looks. Like Terrell Davis and Bell before him, Clarett likely will have to make his mark on special teams.

"Whatever it takes," he said.

The Broncos wanted to see Clarett show more energy early in practice, but coach Mike Shanahan said Clarett is making progress. Clarett had his strongest day of practice last Wednesday before suffering the injury.

"He's getting better, and that's what you want to see from a young guy," Shanahan said. "All of this is new to these rookies, so it'll take time."

For the 5-foot-11, 234-pound Clarett, it's all about patience.

"Really, I'm just happy to be playing again," Clarett said. "I'm wearing a Denver Broncos helmet and that what's important right

now."

Staff writer Bill Williamson can be reached at 303-820-5450 or bwilliamson@denverpost.com.

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So far, ex-Browns fitting in

Four former Cleveland linemen in Broncos' camp

By Ryan Thorburn, Camera Sports Writer

July 31, 2005

ENGLEWOOD — News: Andre Patterson is hired by Mike Shanahan in February as a defensive line coach.

Cynical view: He might as well have "general manager" added to his job description with the Denver Broncos.

Patterson spent the past two seasons coaching the defensive line in Cleveland. The Broncos spent his first offseason here acquiring ex-Browns: signing Courtney Brown and trading for Gerard Warren, Ebenezer Ekuban and Michael Myers.

The new guy knows what you're thinking. Nepotism?

"I really believe the Broncos would have went after these guys whether I was here or not," Patterson said. "But we're going to always be tied together, and I understand that. If they play well, then everybody will think I'm a genius. If they don't play well, everybody will think I'm an idiot."

Three days into training camp is a bit premature to make a judgment, either way. But three of the Cleveland Four are currently running with the first-team defense. Had the team traded Trevor Pryce, all four would likely be starters in Denver at this early stage.

At the end of the 2004 season, the Broncos' starting front four consisted of Marco Coleman (left end), Mario Fatafeh (left tackle), Monsanto Pope (right tackle) and Reggie Hayward (right end). In the aftermath of another humiliating playoff loss at Indianapolis, Shanahan and his staff decided to let Hayward, the team's sack leader with 101/2, leave via free agency, then focus on bringing some talented bodies in to challenge their existing D-linemen.

Patterson says all he did was make a suggestion about where to find some once-promising talent in need of a fresh start. A month later, four of his former players were on the roster.

"I got to read everything that was coming in, and I was being portrayed in a total different way then what really went down," Patterson explained. "When Mike Shanahan hired me here I told Mike, 'There's over \$30 million tied up in the defensive line in Cleveland. If they're truly going to go to a 3-4 defense there's no way they can afford to keep that much money tied up on the defensive line. They're going to have to let some of those guys go.'"

"And so Mike talked to (general manager) Ted Sundquist, and Ted got with his people, and they made highlight tapes of every guy that touched the field for me in Cleveland."

Sure enough, new Browns head coach Romeo Crennel decided to switch to a 3-4 defense. And, sure enough, the Browns were suddenly ready to rid themselves of high-priced linemen from the worst rushing defense in the NFL.

After watching more Browns lowlights than should be allowed by law, the Broncos braintrust was sold enough to:

- Trade a fourth-round draft pick to Cleveland for Warren, who was the third player taken in the 2001 draft.
- Trade the Broncos leading rusher, Reuben Droughns, to Cleveland for Ekuban and Myers.
- Sign Brown to a free-agent contract 16 days after the former No. 1 overall pick had been released by the Browns.

Associated Press

Courtney Brown is one of four former Browns acquired by the Broncos in the offseason.

Patterson admits to signing off on the four ex-Broncos and later recruiting each them to Dove Valley, but says the personnel decisions were made by Shanahan and Sundquist. He's just the new defensive line coach.

"I don't know if they would have got all four of them without me being here, but I really believe they would have went after these guys because of what they had at the defensive line," Patterson said.

The Broncos believe that Brown and Ekuban are capable of having monster seasons, as long as they stay healthy. They believe Warren will be able to blend in and thrive in his role here without the pressure of having to be a team leader. They believe Myers, the "throw-in" in the Droughns deal, is an underrated player who will be an upgrade inside.

Besides, when Peyton Manning leaves the field two years in a row without a scratch on him, what have you got to lose?

"So I do not get caught up in what other people think about those guys," Shanahan said, "I was trying to get those guys a year ago, and I could not get them. So we will see how they fit in our system and how well they play once they get started."

The group has helped the defense get off to a strong start in July. Patterson's unit has been dominating the offensive line so far in practice, which has helped create a plethora of turnovers.

"Getting those guys from Cleveland was a steal for us," Al Wilson said. "And I truly appreciate them because it makes my job a lot easier."

There are a total of 18 defensive linemen in camp competing for nine, maybe 10 roster spots. Some of them are big-name veterans (Marco Coleman, Raylee Johnson, Luther Elliss), some of them are disappointing draft picks (Dorsett Davis, Aaron Hunt), and some of them are free-agent longshots (D.J. Renteria, Chukie Nwokorie, Demetrin Veal).

But it's obvious up front that the Broncos are counting most heavily on the former Cleveland players to rock this season.

"I'll put it to you this way, if my career has to be on the line, these are the four guys that I would want it to be on the line with," Patterson said. "Because I know they can play."



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Dawning of a New Dayne

By [Mishka Char](#)

Date: Jul 30, 2005

The starting running back position is stacked with competition from familiar names, as well as a few that may not be so familiar. One of those new faces belongs to a guy Denver Broncos fans may not know at all, Ron Dayne.

Ron Dayne

Following day one of training camp, one of the biggest questions we all face is who will be the starting running back for the [Denver Broncos](#) 2005-2006 season. It is no secret that the team has had one of the best running back systems in the past decade. Between 1995 and 2004, the Broncos had more rushing yards than any other NFL team with a total of 22,483 yards.

Denver is a virtual running back factory, stemming through the last decade, and this system continues to produce top-quality running backs. The system the Broncos have consistently works, and no other team in the league has come close to duplicating what the Broncos have done with backs.

The starting running back position is stacked with competition from familiar names as well as a few that may not be so familiar in Bronco country. One of those new faces belongs to a guy Bronco fans may not know at all, [Ron Dayne](#). Dayne is a sixth year man out of the University of Wisconsin. As a senior, Dayne won the Heisman Trophy as college football's best player. Dayne was signed as a free agent by the Broncos this off- season. Originally selected by the [New York Giants](#) in the first round of the 2000 NFL draft; Dayne in his rookie season, was the third leading rusher among rookies with 770 yards. The top rookie rusher during Dayne's rookie season was future Bronco teammate [Mike Anderson](#) who had 1,487 yards.

Training camp kick-off is the first time Dayne was able to showcase his abilities to Bronco fans. Dayne did not disappoint. Speed, agility, and the ability to break several tackles during the afternoon session, Dayne showed there was no question he is right in the thick of the running back competition.

Field time put Dayne in a near euphoric state. Dayne's happy with the changes and excited about coming into a system where he will be given an opportunity to play. During five years as a New York Giant, he didn't get as much playing time as he wanted. Dayne said about being a Bronco "to come here and be given an opportunity is great!" Dayne also said he was glad to be able to finally play some football.

Dayne considers himself "more of a power back, while Tatum (Bell) and Quentin (Griffin) are more like quick and flashy guys. Mike (Anderson) is more a guy who does a little bit of everything. Maurice (Clarett) is more of a power back too." Ron Dayne not only brings his ability as a

power back, but also his ability to find open holes, which is another reason Dayne will contribute to the Broncos offense this season.

The competition for the starting running back job has been friendly so far. Dayne said, "We all have different things we bring to the team. So it's going to be really hard to see what comes down in the end. Right now, we're all out there having fun, helping each other out, just working hard."

No need to fear Bronco fans, the future of the Bronco running backs is once again as promising as it has ever been. Ron Dayne will help continue the tradition of success the Broncos have had with their running game.

Dianne Harrison and Brian Tippet also contributed to this article

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Exclusively at Broncos Update.com

Article Last Updated: 8/03/2005 02:16 AM

jim armstrong

Dayne looks like Broncos' style

By Jim Armstrong
Denver Post Sports Columnist
DenverPost.com

The Heisman Trophy ought to be arriving from New Jersey any day now. So what will Ron Dayne do with it after it gets here?

"I don't know, I'll probably just let my kids mess with it," Dayne said. "I'll put it in a spot and let it sit there. It's too heavy to keep moving around. It must weigh 60 pounds."

That's nothing compared to the weight of its burden. You win the Heisman on Saturdays, they expect big things from you on Sundays.

"I don't really look at it like that, but a lot of people do," Dayne said. "That's how they look at you: 'Oh, there's the

Heisman winner. He must be some kind of player.'"

Back when he wore a younger man's shoulder pads, Dayne was that kind of player. During his days at the University of Wisconsin, he ran for an NCAA-record 6,397 yards. But then things started to go wrong, beginning on draft day 2000 when the New York Giants picked him with the 11th selection in the first round.

Five years later, as he picks up the pieces of his career at Broncos training camp, he still wonders why the Giants drafted him when they already had an emerging star in Tiki Barber.

"The system wasn't a fit for me," he said. "There were a lot of cutbacks. You'd cut across the field, do this, do that, like you see Tiki do. It's not like what we have here. One cut and you go. There aren't too many moves."

The man has a point. Broncos running backs have two things in common: They run for all kinds of yardage, and they don't dance. They take a pitch, make a cut and roll. One-stop shopping, NFL style.

Dayne said he believes it's the perfect fit for his running style, and the Broncos' coaches concur. To wit: When Dayne was looking for a home, the Broncos called him, not vice versa. The phone call came after Mike Shanahan and running backs coach Bobby Turner watched video of Dayne tearing it up behind a Wisconsin offensive line that uses zone blocking schemes similar to the ones made famous by the Broncos.

"I didn't even know they were interested," Dayne said. "I was supposed to go to Tampa on a Thursday, but they called and rescheduled it for Monday. Then, an hour or two later, Denver called. I'm like, 'Denver? All right, let's go!' I was sick when I came out here, but I was so happy. I couldn't believe it. They wanted to give me an opportunity to play, and that's all you can ask for."

Playing time was something in short supply his final two years in New York. He ran for 1,888 yards in his first three seasons, 770 as a rookie, but spent the 2003 season on the inactive list and had 52 carries in 2004.

These days, Dayne finds himself on the opposite end of the spectrum from Terrell Owens. T.O. is so dissatisfied with his \$49 million contract, he threatened to hold out of training camp. Dayne? He's slugging it out for 1 percent of Owens' deal - one year for the NFL minimum of \$480,000 - but couldn't wait to get to camp.

"It feels like I'm starting over," he said. "I've been in the league five years, but I'm not beat up. I feel fresh. I kind of like it, not knowing where I stand. In New York, I knew I didn't have a chance. No matter what I did, I was going to be second or third string. Here, they're giving me an opportunity."

Only time will tell where it leads, but make no doubt, Dayne has a chance to make the roster. It seems when he departed New York, he left his baggage behind. All those reports about a weight problem? Dayne says they were fiction from the beginning, that he never once was fined for being overweight. And for the record, he says, at 27, he's faster and stronger than ever. He weighs 238 pounds, 7 below his listed playing weight.

"Ron Dayne has come in and really helped himself," Shanahan said. "He has helped himself in the offseason conditioning program by really getting into great shape. He's got some natural running skills. It will be interesting to see how he does in game situations."

We're left to connect the dots in these matters, but if camp ended today, Dayne would figure to be on the roster. Question is, if he

makes it, how much will he play? Sure, Tatum Bell projects as the starter at tailback, but history tells us that doesn't necessarily mean much.

Four times during the Shanahan era a Broncos tailback has gone into training camp as a backup only to finish the season with 1,000-plus yards. It began in 1995, when Terrell Davis won the job from Glyn Milburn and ran for 1,117 yards. The list includes Olandis Gary and Anderson, afterthought draft choices who went for 1,000-plus as rookies, and Reuben Droughns, a converted fullback who ran for 1,240 yards last season after Quentin Griffin's knee injury.

For now, Dayne will have to be content with catching the eyes of coaches and teammates. Ask longtime middle linebacker Al Wilson about Dayne, and a smile crosses his face.

"Ron Dayne looks good, man," Wilson said. "He definitely looks good. I'll tell you what. You don't win the Heisman Trophy just to win it. There's got to be something there."

Staff writer Jim Armstrong can be reached at 303-820-5452 or jmarmstrong@denverpost.com.

Devoe fighting for a Spot

By [Broncos Update Staff](#)

Date: Aug 2, 2005

The battle at wide receiver is a fierce one for the Denver Broncos. With the top three positions all, but filled by Rod Smith, Ashley Lelie, and Darius Watts, there remains a log jam for the final two or three spots. Todd Devoe is fighting for one of these.

On any morning at the Denver Bronco's training camp at Dove Valley, you can look up at the clear blue sky and find hawks circling around, almost like they are waiting for the weak to slow down just enough to pick them off. When you take a look around camp there's a battle for a starting job in almost every position; and the ones who don't make the cut are swept away, almost as if they slowed down and the circling hawks got them.

One of the positions where there is a fierce battle is the wide receiver position. With the top three positions all, but filled by [Rod Smith](#), [Ashley Lelie](#), and [Darius Watts](#), there remains a log jam for the final two or three spots. [Jerry Rice](#) was personally asked by Shanahan not to quit; that basically means there are only two spots not filled, and that's if the Broncos decide to carry six wide receivers. And since they might carry three kickers, three quarter backs, and enough defensive lineman to break through the Great Wall of China if need be, some positions will have to sacrifice spots. The wide receiver position is one of those spots.

[Todd Devoe](#) is one of the remaining five receivers fighting for the chance to wear the orange and blue. Devoe was an undrafted free agent out of Central Missouri State University, where in his senior year he led the team in receiving with 58 catches, 1045 yards, and 12 touchdowns in 2002. After college, Devoe spent time on Miami, Tennessee, and Baltimore's practice squads. Devoe also spent some time in what is the NFL's developmental league, NFL Europe. Devoe played for the Cologne Centurions in 2004, where he set team records in career touchdowns, individual touchdowns, and most points in a single game.

Devoe, a big guy at 6'2", 189lbs, fits the trendy mold in NFL wide receivers, big and tall. He doesn't have blazing speed, but in camp has demonstrated the ability to catch the ball consistently. When Devoe was asked how he thought he was performing in camp he said, "I'm real hard on myself, the more I look at myself the more improvement I know I need." When also asked what he thought he needed to do to make the team he responded, "I just need to go out and play football."

Most of the experts think that Devoe is a long shot to make the team. He has to show he's better than [Triandos Luke](#), a 6th round draft pick by the Broncos in 2004; [Charlie Adams](#), a guy who was with the team last year; and two first year players in, [B.J. Johnson](#) and [Romar Crenshaw](#).

Hopefully for Devoe's sake, when he looks to the sky after the cuts are made, it's to see what the weather's going to be like, and not to see whether or not he needs the nearest gopher hole to hide in.

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Rocky Mountain News

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Adaptation is his specialty

Former San Francisco DE Engelberger sees opportunity in Denver

By Jeff Legwold, Rocky Mountain News

August 6, 2005

Joe Mahoney © News

ENGLEWOOD - He always has been ready to move it seems, ready to get up and go, just see what there is to see.

Learning the Broncos defense has been the biggest challenge for defensive end John Engelberger, who hopes to step in and help with Courtney Brown out.

There was the time in England. Oh, and the two times in Germany. Then there were the two times in Texas and the three moves in Virginia.

So John Engelberger just knows how it is to be new. Knows what it's like to pack up and move on. What it's like to walk into a room full of unfamiliar faces to start all over again.

"We were a military family - my dad was in the Army, my mom would just work a government job on base," Engelberger said. "We moved around all the time, so I was pretty used to being in a new place every couple years. It was difficult when you're a kid, moving every couple years, but now that I'm older, looking back on it, I'm glad I did it.

"I understand that was how my dad supported us, that's how he made a living. And I feel like it prepared me for things."

It prepared him for things such as being a starting defensive end for four of his five years with the San Francisco 49ers only to find himself knocked down the depth chart by a coaching change and then shipped to the Denver Broncos in July.

The 49ers wanted former Denver cornerback Willie Middlebrooks, and when San Francisco didn't want to surrender a draft pick to get him, the Broncos tossed Engelberger's name out and a trade was made.

"I'm glad to be here," Engelberger said. "I didn't really know the trade was going down until (49ers coach) Mike Nolan called me just before it happened. There was always kind of talk it could happen because things were changing on defense. They had already told me I had to learn both linebacker and defensive end. So, I was just doing what I had to do to learn both positions when they said, 'You're on your way to Denver.' "

Nolan was hired to try to clear the rubble from the 49ers' 2-14 season, and one of his first orders of business was to change the team's defense from a more traditional 4-3 - four linemen, three linebackers - to a 3-4.

And for a 268-pound defensive end such as Engelberger, that probably meant far less playing time because the 49ers believed he was too small to play end in the new defense and too heavy to play at the outside linebacker spot.

"So, I'm definitely pretty happy with the way things turned out, going from a 2-14 team, where the situation was pretty bad, to go to a team like the Denver Broncos," Engelberger said. "The Broncos win a lot of games, it seems like, every single year."

In the next month, Engelberger will get an even bigger opportunity for playing time than he expected. With Courtney Brown out for at least three to four weeks after dislocating his left elbow Thursday, Engelberger and Marco Coleman probably will get most of the work in Brown's left defensive end spot in the starting

defense.

Coleman probably will handle more of the early downs, while Engelberger will play as the pass rusher. And because of a right wrist injury that required surgery this off-season, the Broncos training camp practices have been Engelberger's first opportunities to get back on the field since he started 16 games for San Francisco last season.

"I'm just trying to learn the playbook right now," Engelberger said. "It's a lot more difficult than the defense in San Francisco. There are a lot more coverages and other things to remember."

The soft-spoken Engelberger - a former teammate at Virginia Tech, Corey Moore, once described Engelberger's play as "silent, but violent" - also has tried to get to know his new teammates while living in the hotel the Broncos use during training camp.

The only Broncos player or coach Engelberger knew when he arrived was tight end Nate Jackson, who was in 49ers training camp in 2002 before being released.

Jackson said the attention-shy Engelberger now is just trying to fit in.

"I wouldn't necessarily think he's too quiet," Jackson said. "It's hard to come to a new team, especially after we're all done with off-season workouts. He only knows one guy. . . . I don't think he's going to come around hollering and screaming. I think he's just trying to feel it out and let his playing do the talking for a while and go from there."

Engelberger says he won't even search for a place to live until "I'm sure I make the team or not."

"But I feel like I'm ready to go," Engelberger said. ". . . Yeah, I'm surprised to be here, but that doesn't mean I'm not happy about it. Hopefully, the Broncos will think I was worth it. I want to show them I am, that's for sure."

Engelberger's numbers

• Broncos defensive end John Engelberger was a starter in four of his five seasons in San Francisco.

Year	Played/starts	Tackles	Sacks
2000	16/13	34	3
2001	15/14	30	4
2002	15/0	11	0
2003	16/16	29	4.5
2004	16/16	44	6

legwoldj@RockyMountainNews.com or 303-892-2359

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Broncos happy to strike Gold again

After year in Tampa, popular LB returns to Denver

By **Ryan Thorburn, Camera Sports Writer**

August 1, 2005

Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD — Ian Gold wasn't wearing a Peyton Manning jersey or holding up a giant foam finger with a Colts logo on it.

Now that Ian Gold is back in a Bronco uniform, Denver arguably has one of the top corps of linebackers in the NFL.

But after feeling slighted by the Broncos last year, the temporary Tampa Bay linebacker wasn't shedding tears while watching Denver's 49-24 postseason loss at Indianapolis from a distance.

Gold wouldn't wish that kind of public embarrassment on Al Wilson and other friends on his former team.

Still, it feels good to know that you are missed.

"When we played Denver it was good to see the guys, but I definitely wanted to beat them," Gold said when asked where his heart was during the 2004 season. "Even the playoffs, I wanted to see them lose. That's just the nature of the game."

In the NFL, money is as much a part of the game as winning or losing. And after the 2003 campaign, negotiations between Gold and the Broncos on a new contract were unsuccessful.

The Broncos felt that Gold, who had suffered a serious knee injury on special teams during the season, was asking for too much money, and he eventually had to settle for a back-loaded contract with the Buccaneers. Meanwhile, Mike Shanahan and his staff filled the void nicely by drafting D.J. Williams in the first round.

"What did I learn about myself? I think the most important thing that I've learned is that you can't lose faith," Gold said. "You've got to keep the faith. And as long as you work hard and keep that faith, everything's going to work out for you."

During the 2004 season, Gold admittedly felt like a fish out of water, playing on the strong side of the defense in Tampa, where perennial Pro Bowl selection Derrick Brooks roams the weak side. Back in Denver, Williams was flourishing, and finished his rookie season with a team-high 114 tackles.

"My experience in Tampa was, I'd say life-changing," Gold said. "I got a chance to play with a different group of guys, I got a chance to go down there and learn from one of the best at my position in Brooks. I feel like I learned a lot from him and was kind of a sponge."

Jon Gruden cut a number of veteran players, including Gold, in March to manage his salary cap. Two days later, the Broncos kissed and made up with the linebacker they had lost, presenting him with a five-year, \$22.5 million contract that included an \$8.5 million signing bonus.

Now the Broncos have Williams on the strong side, and Gold back where they think he belongs, on the other side of Al Wilson.

"It's a pretty good situation," defensive coordinator Larry Coyer said. "It's really nice to have Ian Gold back. ... Ian is bullet fast, he's tenacious, he gets after your butt, and he's going to compete."

It's not like Gold didn't compete in Tampa. Despite playing a new position on a surgically repaired knee, he finished with 120 total tackles — including 70 unassisted — and had an interception.

The pewter and red pants just never looked right on Gold.

"I knew that my heart was here, and I knew how Shanahan felt, and knew how the guys upstairs felt," Gold said. "I just knew that it was going to be a matter of me proving to everybody in this one year that I'm away that I can still perform at a high level."

Perhaps the reason Gold never completely got over the Broncos was the fact that Keith Burns joined him on the one-year hiatus. The vocal veteran proved to be a good listener in Tampa.

"I'm an outgoing person, so it's easy for me to adjust to a lot of circumstances," said Burns, who is also back on the Broncos' roster, signing three weeks after Gold. "Ian really didn't know that many people down there, but he always had me to lean on if he needed anything, or to talk about stuff like the game itself getting frustrating for him. ..."

"I think last year was different for him, it was humbling. I think he has matured and it helped him grow up a lot to see that sometimes you may think the grass is greener on the other side and actually it's not."

With Gold back in the fold, the Broncos have arguably the top starting linebacking trio in the league. They're certainly the strength of Coyer's defense.

"If we can stay healthy, we can definitely be the best in the business," Wilson said. "It doesn't feel like Ian left. It feels as if he took a nice little break, but it feels good to have him back."



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Lelie cops get-tough attitude

Mr. Nice Guy might be a thing of the past

By Lee Rasizer, Rocky Mountain News
August 2, 2005

ENGLEWOOD - It has become glaringly obvious to Ashley Lelie that he has anger-management issues.

The issue isn't one of controlling his emotions but, instead, conjuring up some.

In other words, it's time to stop being Mr. Nice Guy on the field and start busting some heads - or, at least, carry that kind of attitude into every practice and game.

The personality profile doesn't quite mesh with Lelie's normally laid-back demeanor. The dark side of his psyche in the past has surfaced only when he has been victim of a perceived cheap shot, inspiring his rage.

But playing with a chip on his shoulder might ultimately be the key to transforming Lelie from one of the NFL's best deep targets to an all-around threat and among the elite at his position.

Taking that step has just as much to do with Lelie improving his production on short and intermediate routes and becoming a factor in the red zone.

Actually, those issues are intertwined.

Upon his arrival in March for the Broncos' off-season conditioning program, Lelie requested a video breaking down all of his underneath routes last season.

The video did not include any of his seven touchdown receptions of 30 or more yards, which helped him lead the league in average per catch (20.1). Instead, Lelie got shots of him doing the dirty work of a receiver - the short slants, shallow crosses, 10-yard comebacks and red-zone snaps.

A pattern emerged.

"I wasn't as physical as I needed to be with contact and fighting for the ball with the underneath stuff," Lelie said.

It was worse than that, truth be told.

"Most of it was watching myself getting beat up," he said.

Defensive backs began to show respect only for Lelie's deep speed, particularly as the season progressed.

"Either they backed up all the way off or really tried to get in my face and be super, super physical," he noted.

Rodolfo Gonzalez © News

After seeing himself struggle last season on shorter routes, Broncos receiver Ashley Lelie took a different approach in the off-season. During training camp so far, Lelie has been much more aggressive.

Watching himself getting thrown around at times was hard.

And it made Lelie simmer.

He began to think about all the problems he had with technique or not reading the coverage correctly that perhaps shaved maybe 600 yards in potential yards after the catch, making his first 1,000-yard season seem like less of an accomplishment. It made him even more annoyed.

The transformation in personality the receiver now hopes for officially had taken root, with the video serving as a motivational tool behind Lelie's entire preparation for training camp.

"It made me hungrier to want to get out here to show everybody I can do everything," he said.

First stop, weight room

Just as important, it convinced him he would have to get stronger to face that challenge.

The decision to hit the weight room hard coincided with the natural development of Lelie's 25-year-old body.

It yielded significant results, too, even if he never will mold himself into a hulking figure at a lanky 6-foot-3.

An example of the gains he made could be seen in the bench press. Whereas he previously could do a single repetition, or maybe two, lifting 225 pounds, this off-season he was doing three sets of 225 seven or eight times.

"He's worked his (expletive) off," Broncos quarterback Jake Plummer said.

Lelie also gained 5 pounds, bringing his weight to about 205.

"Honestly, this year he's grown up," fellow receiver Rod Smith said. "He just grew up as far as this business and as far as understanding what we expect and what he can get out of himself. And he knows he can get a little more."

More catches. More yardage.

More fired up.

Gaining strength is fine, but it's how Lelie applies it that counts.

During the Broncos' morning practice Monday, he was aligned in the slot during red-zone drills. His assignment was to take an angle to strong-side linebacker D.J. Williams and cut him off on a running play.

At the snap, Williams bolted toward the line of scrimmage with an aggressive charge. Lelie met him, got his pads low . . .

And was sent off-kilter into the direction of the backfield.

The result wasn't the point. More important was Lelie's attitude to get his nose in the action and fight, manufactured or not.

'Out of character'

"That's probably the hardest thing," Lelie said. "Everything on the field kind of comes easy for me except being cocky and super-aggressive and that's something I've got to work on because it's out of my character."

. . . But it's an aggressive, violent game and you can't be in the game just cool, calm and relaxed; you have to be aggressive and violent, so I've got to get that in me."

Something else Lelie needs is a dose of confidence from Plummer and the coaching staff to get the shorter and intermediate routes sent his way more often.

"We've asked him to do it but definitely not as much as we've asked a guy like Rod to do it," offensive coordinator Gary Kubiak said. "Everybody has their strengths. But it's our fault as coaches, too. We've got to get him in there making those tough plays underneath."

That lack of trust to look for Lelie anywhere but downfield has perhaps manifested itself most near the goal line.

Lelie made only one red-zone catch among his career-best 54 receptions last season, but, as he explained after watching the breakdown tape, there were only about five opportunities in that area for him to catch passes all season.

That was the embarrassing part. Not the lack of catches but the lack of confidence to go his way in money time.

"It's Rod or a running back or a tight end and the other guys are a decoy," Lelie said. "And that's not cool."

The skills are there

So far in training camp, Lelie has been called upon to run a slew of 5-yard slants, 7-yard outs and the like. The Broncos have been pleased by his progress, particularly in the mechanics of running those kinds of routes, and have noticed the intense focus Lelie has shown.

"He's so talented," receivers coach Steve Watson said. "Obviously, you don't change people's personalities, but with somebody as talented as he is, he can be as good as there is."

Back off Lelie now and "eventually teams are going to get sick of him catching the 5-, 6-yarders," Plummer said.

Get in Lelie's face and his improved strength could allow him a smoother release off the line in bump coverage and create more opportunities for receptions.

"He can play the inside game," Smith said. "He's a basketball player. So he's used to posting up and body positioning and all that. And I think now with him putting on a little bit of weight and being a lot stronger, he's going to be able to have that physical presence in the middle."

Not that the Broncos want to remove the long bomb from the equation because Lelie is one of the league's best at that facet.

Not only that, Lelie's ability to get deep helps stretch defenses and clear many of the underneath routes for Smith and the tight ends. Or he can burn the blitz in man coverage.

Lelie had such a chance Monday with cornerback Domonique Foxworth covering man-to-man, but the ball was overthrown.

"The one thing that's kind of starting to scare me is I haven't caught one long ball yet this whole camp," Lelie said with a laugh. "I haven't had too many opportunities, but I have had some. But a lot of the underneath stuff is really coming along. And I'm really liking how I'm reading defenses and stuff like that."

Perhaps somebody needs to get kicked in the shin or blindsided to get that ire up again.

Publish Date: 8/1/2005

LeSueur learning on the fly

Broncos safety enjoys challenge of new position

*By Pat Graham
The Daily Times-Call*

ENGLEWOOD — There are the good moments when Jeremy LeSueur is glad he was switched to safety.

Like when the Denver Broncos' second-year player correctly read the eyes of quarterback Jake Plummer and intercepted a pass during training camp drills.

But then there are those forgettable times that make him miss being a cornerback.

Like when he had cleat marks on his chest from when rookie running back Maurice Clarett stomped all over him.

LeSueur is going to have up-and-down days. That's an occupational hazard of learning a new position in this league. It wasn't until two months before camp was set to begin he even found out about the position change. The Broncos asked him to switch and he willingly accepted.

What was his choice? Say no and suffer the consequences?

"I have no problem with the move," said LeSueur, who missed all of last season due to a sports-related hernia injury. "It's going good. I'm coming along good."

Moving cornerbacks over to safety isn't unprecedented. Denver's Nick Ferguson was a cornerback at Georgia Tech before being shuffled to safety. Third-year player Chris Young, a fellow Yellow Jacket himself, followed the exact same path as Ferguson.

"If you're going to make the ultimate safety, you might play him at corner in college for a couple of years because you'd get those cover skills," safety John Lynch said. "Playing cornerback helps you tremendously."

It worked out well for Hall of Famer Ronnie Lott. He was a cornerback at USC before San Francisco converted him. All he did was revolutionize the position.

Former Denver safety Mike Harden can offer LeSueur tips on making the switch as well. Harden played cornerback for the Wolverines. He's also LeSueur's cousin.

"You look around and there are a lot of guys who've made the switch," Lynch said.

So far, LeSueur has shown promise. He's also in the running for the nickel position, a spot Kelly Herndon filled before injuries forced him to become a cover corner last season. Herndon has since moved on to Seattle.

"Kelly left some big shoes to fill, but I like the way Jeremy's approaching this," Lynch said.

Who knows? If the LeSueur switch works out, maybe defensive backs coach Bob Slowik will suggest moving Champ Bailey to safety?

“I don’t think coach Slowik will allow that, right coach?” Ferguson said as Slowik walked by.

“No, no,” Slowik answered. “I’m going to leave that position to Nick Ferguson.”

If LeSueur wants to follow the same road as Ferguson, he needs to learn how to smack people. The Clarets of the world can’t plow him into the turf. Being a hitter is the primary prerequisite for a safety.

“If you’re not used to being a physical guy, it’s going to be a harder transition,” Ferguson said. “Jeremy’s a smart guy; he’ll get that part down.”

If not for the hernia injury, LeSueur may have never been converted. Maybe things would’ve been different?

The Broncos struggled with depth in the secondary last season — they were forced to start undrafted rookie free agent Roc Alexander in the playoff game against Indianapolis and so they drafted cornerbacks Darrent Williams, Karl Paymah and Domonique Foxworth in this year’s draft. The Broncos now had depth at cornerback, and LeSueur had to be relocated.

He might have ended up being a good corner, too. While at Michigan, LeSueur had four interceptions and 27 pass deflections. During his senior year, he earned all-Big Ten Conference honors.

Not that he minds the switch.

“I just want to play,” he said.

This could’ve been a tip. The 2004 NFL.com draft analysis of LeSueur read like this: “Has good upper body muscle development with broad shoulders. ... Better hitter than tackler, but will show no hesitation coming up and making the stop at the line of scrimmage in run support.”

The description sounded like that of a safety.

“He’s doing a really nice job,” Lynch said. “He’s learning the craft.”

That’s easy when you have Lynch and Ferguson as mentors.

“I’m always asking for their advice,” LeSueur said. “They tell me to learn, pay attention and ask questions.

“It’s going good so far, but it’s going to take time.”

Article Last Updated: 8/06/2005 10:29 PM

broncos

Lynch poised to tackle season head-on, cleanly

By Mike Klis
Denver Post Staff Writer
DenverPost.com

Only seven players were selected by the NFL to participate in the league's popular United Way commercials this year. Broncos fans might find it peculiar John Lynch was among the chosen seven.

The same league that so harshly treated the Broncos safety at the close of last season, issuing him a written warning while throwing the book at him for his head-rattling hit on Indianapolis Colts tight end Dallas Clark, now wants to erect Lynch as the paragon of NFL pride?

Of all the nerve.

"It's over," said NFL spokesman Greg Aiello. "There's no lingering effect. Players aren't singled out. Anything that happened in the past with John will not carry over. Now if there's a situation moving forward that may require disciplinary action, previous history will be taken into account when it comes to assessing discipline. But the officials aren't going to be looking for John Lynch."

Twice a first-team all-pro, Lynch is confident he will be treated as one. He wants to believe he will be free to separate a receiver from the ball without fear of automatic retribution. But as a product of Stanford, he's no fool.

He's made the adjustment. Almost all of his 1,049 tackles have been made with the shoulder pads, anyway. Given the circumstances, Lynch vows to eliminate the exceptions.

"I think once you show up on their radar, they might look at you more," Lynch said. "People ask if I'm going to change my style of play and the answer is no. But I have made a concerted effort not to have a head-to-head. I've already made that effort and I'll continue to make it. But what I want to emphasize is, I've played this game clean my entire career and I have too much respect for the game and the people that play it not to."

Love-hate relationship

In Lynch's United Way spots, which Broncos fans will see frequently this season, viewers are urged to support children left behind by military parents serving in Iraq.

The Operation Purple camp program estimates 135,000 children are home while dad or mom are away on tour of duty.

"They did some research and found that everyone has loved these United Way commercials in the past, but they didn't motivate people to go out and do anything," Lynch said. "So that was the focus of these commercials, to inspire people."

Off the field, Lynch embodies what the NFL wishes to represent. He is cordial and accessible, a rare celebrity who instantly remember names. He is a husband and father of three. His humanitarian résumé consists of two pages for every one of his on-field accomplishments.

Yet what irks Lynch and the Broncos is how the NFL threatened to stain his on-field legacy last season by essentially branding him as a reckless headhunter, just as they were preparing to play the Colts in a first-round playoff game.

"In every way but one thing, I love what this league stands for," Lynch said. "I'd call myself a friend with the commissioner. I just don't happen to agree with the league on this. To me it's unconscionable what they're doing. They're taking the game and they're trying to change it."

The incident has been replayed over and over again, first by the on-field officials, then on the sports programming highlights. It was the final regular-season game at Invesco Field at Mile High and Lynch lambasted Clark after the Colt hauled in a pass.

The collision was fierce, and Lynch's helmet rammed Clark as the ball jarred loose for a fumble.

The Colts challenged the ruling, and the next thing Lynch knows, the play is ruled incomplete and the officials are marching off 15 yards.

When the confusion was presented to the NFL office, which by then was equipped with the knowledge Clark suffered a concussion,

Lynch was hit with a \$75,000 fine.

"In my opinion, the fine was a complete joke," Broncos coach Mike Shanahan said. "It looked like the ball was caught. If he hung on to the ball, it would have been perfect. Even the officials said they couldn't tell. And the NFL fines him."

Stiff as the fine was - the league noted Lynch had been fined for three previous hits, or \$7,500 each, since 2001 - it wasn't the worst of the punishment. Along with the fine, Lynch received a letter from NFL disciplinarian Gene Washington that not only warned of steeper penalties if the infraction were repeated, but said the league would remind officials to eject the safety if he made a similar hit in the upcoming playoff game against the Colts.

"Sure, the letter bothered us," said NFL union leader Gene Upshaw, "but I'm not sure that letter was ever presented to the officials. I'm not saying it wasn't; I'm just saying I don't know that it was."

Washington didn't return telephone calls to The Denver Post.

Back to the future

As Lynch and the Broncos prepare for a new season, is the controversial hit on Clark yesterday's news?

"I never felt, going back to when I was playing, that any player was ever targeted," said Upshaw, whose Hall of Fame playing career began in 1967. "I know the players involved always believe they are, but I don't feel that way. All you have to do is look at Rodney Harrison and Darren Woodson. Things calmed down with them."

Harrison was fined \$111,000 for his helmet-to-helmet hit on then-Raiders receiver Jerry Rice in 2002 but hasn't been penalized near that much since. Woodson, who has retired, was penalized \$75,000 for a hit in 2002, but fined only \$7,500 for a preseason hit in 2003.

The NFL is too proud to admit any possibility it compromised the integrity of fair competition when Washington issued his written threat to Lynch during playoff week. But perhaps through its United Way commercials, the NFL has extended an olive branch, if not an apology, to Lynch.

"I've been pleased that they've gone out of their way to say, 'Hey, this is the decision we made, but we still love you and we think you're good for the league,'" Lynch said. "And I say to them, 'You have a funny way of showing it sometimes.'"

Mike Klis can be reached at 303-820-5440 or mklis@denverpost.com.

Football no longer a foreign language for rookie

Pat Graham

The Daily Times-Call

ENGLEWOOD – The same time every afternoon, Denver Broncos rookie defensive lineman Patrice Majondo-Mwamba sneaks outside on the patio to place a cell phone call.

He sits down in the shade and carries on a lengthy conversation. Sometimes he speaks in French; other times, in one of the two Swahili dialects.

“Since I moved to the States, my cell bill is a lot,” Majondo-Mwamba said.

That’s understandable: His mom, Alphonise, lives in Brussels, Belgium, and his father, Leon, resides in the Republic of Congo in Africa. He also has a brother living in Canada, another in Belgium, and a fiancée, Deborah Smith, in Monterrey Bay, Calif.

Every day, he checks in with his mom and dad at lunch. Given the time differences, it’s the only time he’s sure they’ll be awake.

“I just tell them how I’m doing,”

Majondo-Mwamba said.

Majondo-Mwamba is the only player certain to make the Broncos’ roster. He can’t be cut.

Majondo-Mwamba was assigned to Denver by the league as an international practice squad player.

Teams in the AFC West and NFC South will each carry an international player on their practice squad roster for the duration of the season.

“They get the chance to experience the speed of the NFL, to develop their skills, and to face physical and mental challenges in an NFL environment,”

NFL Europe League director of operations Mike Chan said on NFL.com.

Majon-

do-Mwamba is the prototype player for the program, since he’s been playing football for only five years.

Growing up in Kin-

shasa, the capital city of the Republic of Congo, and then going to boarding school in Belgium, Majondo-Mwamba didn’t have time for sports.

“School is pretty hard back home,” he said.

In 1998, he watched his first football game: Texas against Nebraska.

“It was so violent,” he recalled.

Not long after, Majondo-Mwamba decided to move from Belgium to attend Georgia Tech since his cousin, Loliki Bongo-wanga, already lived in Atlanta. That’s when football entered the picture. Bongo-wanga was trying out for a local community college, and that got Majondo-Mwamba thinking: why not try football? He didn’t know a thing about the game, but it looked fun.

He even approached former Yellow Jackets coach George O’Leary about playing for him.

“He said, ‘There is no way. It’s a pretty high division,’” Majondo-Mwamba said. “He told me to go to a junior college.”

So he did just that. Majondo-Mwamba, with his cousin in tow, headed out west to play at Hartnell Community College in Salinas, Calif. Majondo-Mwamba redshirted his freshman year, and then showed he was a fast learner. In his first year of organized football, he had 67 tackles and 11 assists. He was named to the JUCO Top 100 list.

Oregon State, California and Texas Tech all showed interest in him. Majondo-Mwamba and Bongo-wanga, who was named the California Junior College Player of the Year in 2000, selected the Red Raiders, thanks to Bongo-wanga. Years earlier, while living in Brussels, he watched Texas Tech play and remembered the Red Raiders when they began recruiting the cousins. But Bongo-wanga’s career would be cut short due to a ruptured Achilles.

Majondo-Mwamba was a backup at Texas Tech, but he ended his career in memorable fashion. He recorded the only sack of his career when he tackled former Cal quarterback Aaron Rogers for a 1-yard loss in the 2004 Pacific Life Holiday Bowl.

That figured to be the end of his brief football career. But then the NFL approached him about its international program, now in its second year, and he jumped at the chance to join Denver.

“I see this as a redshirt year,” said Majondo-Mwamba, who played four games

with the Rhein Fire of NFL Europe this spring. "I have a year to impress the coaches somehow. I'd like to stay here."

Denver defensive line coach Andre Patterson can see talent hidden behind the inexperience. He thinks Majondo-Mwamba has potential.

"He's paying attention and trying to grasp what's going on," Patterson said. "But he has to learn things that kids growing up playing in the yard at a little age just know about the game. He doesn't know the game yet. I'm trying to teach him all the basic fundamentals of the game."

Majondo-Mwamba has never shied away from hard work. He's been taking a crash course in Football 101 the past five years. After a conversation with quarterback Jake Plummer the other night, he realized he still has lots to learn.

"The quarterback was telling me how long he's done things," Majondo-Mwamba said. "I was explaining my situation. I'm still learning. This is a little harder than I thought."

Rocky Mountain News

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Consider Myers a hidden talent

Tackle is confident he'll be more than trade afterthought

By Jeff Legwold, Rocky Mountain News
July 30, 2005

He is The Other Guy.

Michael Myers says he's glad to have ended up with a winning franchise.

He is the player to be named. The player tucked away at the end of a conversation between Broncos general manager Ted Sundquist and Cleveland general manager Phil Savage about the March trade that sent running back Reuben Droughns to the Browns and defensive end Ebenezer Ekuban to Denver.

"I wanted a draft pick, too. That's what we were asking for, we wanted a little more," Sundquist said. "Then Michael's name came up."

He is a guy named Michael Myers, a defensive tackle who has been somewhat lost in the blizzard of new faces from different places dotting the Broncos roster during this training camp.

But it also is Myers who has lined up with the starting defense in the first on-field work of two-a-days in this training camp. He is an eighth-year veteran glad to be where he is - no matter what it took to get there.

"I always fly up under the radar," Myers said. "You've got first-rounders coming in. I'm just the fourth guy, the utility guy, who can play every position. Every time I get a chance to play, I take advantage of it."

"This is the way I like it. No fussing. I just play."

When the Broncos shipped Droughns, their leading rusher in 2004 with 1,240 yards, to Cleveland for Ekuban, they wanted some insurance as well. Ekuban was coming off surgery on his left shoulder and right knee, and Denver was asking for something else to compensate for the possibility that Ekuban's recovery might not go as planned.

Savage, who is trying to dig the Browns out of their current mess, was adamant he did not want to surrender a draft pick, so he surrendered a potential starter instead.

Broncos coach Mike Shanahan repeatedly has said he likes Myers' ability to play both defensive tackle spots to go "with plenty of experience that can help us."

And Myers certainly likes the idea of being with a team that isn't trying to reconstruct itself. He was in Dallas when the Cowboys moved back to Square One in firing Dave Campo and hiring Bill Parcells.

And he was in Cleveland this past season when Butch Davis walked away from the Browns, citing stress, as the team hired former New England Patriots defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel.

"I was thinking about it, and I didn't want to start over rebuilding again," Myers said. "They were rebuilding in Dallas; going up (to Cleveland), they were rebuilding there. This is my eighth year, I'm trying to win now, man. I'm tired of all that building."

Myers said he never got to meet with Crennel to see what his role might have been in the Browns' switch to a 3-4 defense (three linemen, four linebackers) from the 4-3 last year because the Broncos finished the deal

that brought Myers to Denver on March 30.

Myers said he was scheduled to meet with Crennel the next day.

"So, no, I never really got to sit down with him," Myers said. "I was ready to go talk, but then they called and said, 'You're traded.' That's OK. I'm happy to be right here."

And among those players who came to Denver in the Broncos' retooling of their defensive line this off-season, most of the attention has been directed toward Myers' former Cleveland teammates - Ekuban, Courtney Brown and Gerard Warren, all former No. 1 picks.

But Broncos defensive line coach Andre Patterson, who was Myers' position coach in Cleveland last season, has said people shouldn't forget Myers in that mix. He has started 33 games in his career with his best season coming with Dallas in 2001 (67 tackles, 3.5 sacks).

This past season, he started seven games with the Browns, finishing with 51 tackles - the second-highest total of his career - to go with a sack.

"I've done it before. I've been a starter in Dallas and Cleveland," Myers said. "It ain't no big deal to me, I just want the opportunity to win and get back to the playoffs. I haven't been to the playoffs in five years.

"So this is a great thing for me. I can come here and be a part of a team that's winning. Man, I'm too old to watch another team start over. It couldn't have worked out better."

Low-key

- Defensive tackle Michael Myers calls himself the "fourth guy" as one of four former Cleveland Browns defensive linemen on the Broncos roster. But his career totals stack up with the other three, all of whom are former first-round picks:

Pos. Player (year in league) Tackles Sacks DT Michael Myers (eighth) 268 11.5

DT Gerard Warren (fifth) 247 16.5

DE Courtney Brown (sixth) 226 17.0

DE Ebenezer Ekuban (seventh) 186 20.5

legwoldj@RockyMountainNews.com or 303-892-2359

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broncos

Nalen gearing up for possibly last season

Broncos center to make big decision at season's end

By Bill Williamson
Denver Post Staff Writer
DenverPost.com

Never one to toot his own horn, center Tom Nalen - nasty and reliable on the field, leery and under the radar off it - is heading into what he said could be his final season.

Doom and gloom is as big a part of Nalen's bag of goods as his media silence, his untamed mane and unrelenting, knock-you-on-your-south-side playing style. Nalen, 34, has thought every season year could be his last since he rose from the the Broncos' practice squad in 1994.

But this year actually might be.

"I'd be lying if I didn't say I didn't think about it," Nalen said. "I don't have a contract for next year. I don't know what's going to happen."

The five-time Pro Bowl selection will make his decision at season's end, a choice based strictly on health. He said he feels fine in training camp and finished last season feeling as strong as he had in years.

"It could be that I just retire and disappear for good," Nalen said. "I want to be healthy for my family. My wife's biggest fear is that I'm not healthy. I want to raise my family."

If Nalen does play after this season, he would like it to be with the Broncos, who made him a seventh-round draft choice in 1994. After being waived that September, he was brought back four days later and put on the practice squad with receiver Rod Smith. Both became key figures on the Broncos' two Super Bowl championship teams.

Nalen said he would play only on the East Coast near his Massachusetts home if he went elsewhere.

Broncos general manager Ted Sundquist said it's premature to talk about this being Nalen's final year with the team.

"Tom was the anchor to our championship teams," Sundquist said. "We all know what he has meant to the success of the running game in the Mike Shanahan era."

Still, Nalen knows in the age of the salary cap, a veteran player in his free-agency year has no guarantees. He was one of a core group of veterans who restructured their contracts this season to enable the Broncos to sign players in the offseason.

Nalen said he continues to love the game. He just doesn't like showing it.

Sarcastic and with a dry wit that would make Dennis Miller jealous, Nalen can be an engaging character. He fell right in line with then-offensive line coach Alex Gibbs' mandate that his players not talk to the media. It's a tradition Nalen and his linemates uphold during the season.

Nalen granted interviews Wednesday. He said during the season it's easier for him to concentrate on football and not risk saying something the opponent can use. He vows to "disappear" when his playing days are over.

His lone after-football aspiration is to play with his kids and live in Massachusetts, in a town he won't reveal. His post-football life will more closely resemble that of friend Gary Zimmerman, who is living a quiet life in Oregon, than former linemate Mark Schlereth, a high-profile TV and radio analyst.

"You won't be able to find me," said Nalen, who'll occasionally venture to Fenway Park to watch his beloved Red Sox.

Nalen's linemates, who were surprised their anchor spoke on the record, believe what he says. Left tackle Matt Lepsis considers himself a good friend of Nalen's, but doesn't expect to hear from him in retirement.

"I believe him when he said he'd go away," Lepsis said with a chuckle. "When he leaves, I'll probably never talk to him again."

Agent Brad Blank said Nalen is a low-maintenance client who he'll likely next hear from in September when Nalen tells him he made the Broncos' final roster - and will sound surprised when he does.

Whether Nalen is entering his final season, one thing is certain. Sometime in the future he'll be back when he goes into the team's Ring of Fame. What will Nalen do about that fuss?

"I'll cross that bridge when I come to it," he said after a long pause. "I don't know if I'll be worthy of it."

Rocky Mountain News

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Nalen can see finish line with Broncos

Center expects this year to be his last with team

By Lee Rasizer, Rocky Mountain News
August 4, 2005

ENGLEWOOD - Tom Nalen's public speaking engagements are like birthdays, once-a-year events. And on Wednesday, it was the media's rare turn to discover what the five-time Pro Bowl center is thinking.

They might have been famous last words, since he won't be talking again any time soon.

Nalen said it's his belief that his 12th season with the Denver Broncos likely is his final one, even though he's still having fun playing football, and retirement isn't something he wants to consider.

"I'm a free agent after the year. I doubt I'll be back here, and I don't want to play anywhere else. So you can draw your own conclusions," he said.

Nalen later backtracked a bit, saying that if he was to go elsewhere, "It would have to be the East Coast somewhere," close to his family in Foxboro, Mass.

But forced to leave the Broncos, family considerations likely would keep him in Denver, where he anchored the offensive line for the organization's two Super Bowl champions. At this juncture, Nalen also can't envision himself wearing another team's colors.

"It kind of taints your career. If you play 12 years somewhere and one somewhere else, it's not me," he said.

Nalen, 34, is held in as high regard within the organization as many past stars.

He was a first-team All-Pro selection twice and the league's lineman of the year in 2003. His five Pro Bowl selections are the most by any offensive lineman in Broncos history, and during the past decade he has helped anchor a running attack that has become almost as synonymous with the franchise as John Elway.

But Nalen said the team's plan to shift Ben Hamilton from guard to center and sign or develop a guard to take Hamilton's place is the scenario he expects for 2006. The timing fits because the final three years of Nalen's contract already have voided because he has played more than 20 percent of snaps in a single season.

But general manager Ted Sundquist insisted no decision regarding Nalen has been made.

"Tom's been an integral part of our team for a long time, and his play has directly affected our success over the years. I see no reason why that won't continue to be the case; we'll evaluate everyone's play at the end of this season as we always do and put together our plans for 2006," Sundquist said.

Nalen is coming off what he, and some NFL personnel men, consider a down season. Yet he's still considered one of the best centers in the league.

Nalen has had his share of injuries, with eight in his 11 seasons. But he rarely has been out of the lineup, starting 16 games eight times since Denver took him in the seventh round of the 1994 draft. Seven times he

has completed 100 percent of workouts in the Broncos' off-season program.

His only major in-season setback was a torn left anterior cruciate ligament in October 2002 that also required a microfracture procedure to repair. Hamilton, a college center, replaced Nalen for the final nine games of the season and Denver went 4-5.

Hamilton, a college center, eventually will return to his natural spot. He'll be patient, until, as he expects, Nalen leaves on his own terms.

"He's playing well and if he wants to stay here, he's going to play here as long as he wants to stay here," Hamilton said. "Whatever he decides, he decides, and I'll be playing guard until then. He's playing great and helping us win games, so I'm happy with the situation now."

Nalen made it clear that should the Broncos fail to retain him next off-season in free agency, he could be content with his accomplishments, particularly if he can remain healthy this season, and especially if Denver can recapture the playoff form it once enjoyed before six seasons without a postseason victory.

"I definitely want to win a Super Bowl. It's been awhile. And once you taste it, I think, you want to get back to it, because it's a great feeling," he said.

Then again, if his career did end after his 12th season, he's not sure how he'd spend his time.

"At this point, I'm not qualified to do anything else. It's what I do," he said. "I feel like I play at a decent level most years and I have fun at my job. It's a fun job. Training camp's certainly not fun, but hanging out with the guys on the team, there's no other job, other than the military, where you can get away with the things that we do, being politically incorrect and all that. And I get six months every year to hang out with my family."

The Broncos are bringing back the same line this season, other than Cooper Carlisle replacing Dan Neil at right guard. Any future changes are just speculation now.

Nalen's goal now is to "end the year healthy, and go from there."

"If I feel good at the end of the year, I'd like to play more," he said.

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He paid his Pryce

Broncos defender expects a revival after back surgery

By Lee Rasizer, Rocky Mountain News

July 30, 2005

The low point for Trevor Pryce came last December.

He already had undergone back surgery two months earlier, enduring several stages of rehabilitation leading up to that procedure while carrying the nagging - and ultimately correct - feeling he was headed under the knife anyway.

He had done a second round of rehabilitation trying to return by the end of the season but was feeling discouraged by the results. Yet somehow, Pryce also managed to convince himself that perhaps he might be able to gut out a few games for the Denver Broncos, despite the numbness he still was experiencing in his right leg.

It was at that moment that humiliation hit.

Against the Indianapolis Colts in the regular-season finale, the four-time Pro Bowl selection played and ended up merely hanging on for dear life.

"They snapped the ball, and I was like, 'What am I doing out here?' " he recalled. "And I was playing over a rookie who can't play."

Seven months later, Pryce can chuckle at the memory, because he's feeling rejuvenated, not even close to his old self.

Better.

Maybe it's because more time has passed since a procedure called a microlumbar discectomy to relieve pressure on his sciatic nerve. It could be that the frequent full-body acupuncture treatments he has received this off-season, loosening up his entire body and allowing him to sleep better, have helped. Or perhaps it's because he has dropped to about 280 pounds, his lightest weight as a pro.

Whatever the reasons, Pryce is firmly convinced that any problems are behind him and he is primed for a return to his pre-surgery form.

"Just like I knew then I needed surgery, I know now there's nothing wrong with my back anymore," he said.

In fact, he's more concerned now with his latest position switch, to the weak-side, or open, defensive end.

"I think right now I'm actually in better shape than I've ever been," Pryce said. "I actually think I run faster now than I did at 23 or 25. I wasn't that fast when I was younger. I was too . . . big. It's different. I feel like I'm in my prime, actually."

Pryce has gone through the various drills, weightlifting and sled work to build endurance and stamina through the Broncos' off-season program but has yet to experience the three-week stretch of two-a-day

Rodolfo Gonzalez © News

Denver Broncos defensive end Trevor Pryce feels fortunate to walk out of the shadows each morning after a 2004 season full of uncertainty and pain. Sensing a personal rejuvenation after surgery, Pryce welcomes the challenge of another position switch and a healthy return to the field — and to allay the doubts that resulted in his briefly being placed on the trading block.

practices, nor has he been tested under game conditions.

But Brett Fischer, who runs a Phoenix rehabilitation clinic and has had numerous pro athletes as clients, including baseball's Randy Johnson, football's Daryl Gardener and several PGA Tour veterans, said that Pryce's positive post-surgery vibe bodes well, particularly given Pryce's level of pro experience.

"Nine years in, I take their word for it most times," Fischer said. "These guys know their bodies, and I'm encouraged he said that. . . . He hasn't hit anybody, but you can tell how your back feels just getting up."

Charles Haley, Joe Johnson and Tony Casillas are a few NFL defensive linemen in recent years who have returned strong from the surgical procedure Pryce underwent Sept. 22. Steve McNair won an MVP award, Troy Aikman a Super Bowl and Desmond Howard a Super Bowl MVP after their recoveries at other positions.

Former Broncos guard Mark Schlereth had disk surgery in 1997 and made the Pro Bowl the subsequent year. But his wasn't a complete success story. Schlereth still experiences back problems, struggling some nights to reach the bathroom from his bed.

He predicted that Pryce won't always feel as free and easy as he claims he does.

"Any time you operate on somebody's back, you're going to have some issues," Schlereth said. "Now, can you deal with those issues? Certainly. Can you play at a high level? Certainly. But there are going to be some times when his back will really bother him and it'll probably affect his play a little bit. If he went through the whole season and never had it flare up or bother him, that'd be great, but from my experience, when they operate on your back, it's forever altered.

"I anticipate Trevor coming back and playing really well. I

really believe that. But you can't open up your back and operate and not have some repercussions."

There already might have been one big one.

When Pryce's salary-cap figure became too bloated this off-season, the team put him on the trading block. His uncertain health might have contributed to the lack of a deal.

The Broncos' asking price and a desire to rework Pryce's contract in the event of a trade also were factors.

At one point, Pryce was convinced his Broncos career was over, saying at the time that getting placed on the market "is not something you come back from." It wasn't long after that Pryce was back anyway, having lowered his cap hit from \$9.166 million to \$6.26 million this year.

During a meeting, Broncos owner Pat Bowlen voiced a sincere desire to have Pryce retire as a member of the organization. Those words helped sway Pryce to work out a compromise agreement.

"Other teams that didn't trade for me are going to be very sorry they didn't," Pryce said.

Denver defensive coordinator Larry Coyer is more than happy to hear such talk.

"He cuts it loose for us," Coyer said. "We're going to have a figure out there that nobody's going to be able to block."

Pryce is spending his time during early two-a-days simply trying to get reacclimated to the speed and flow of the game. He's not only making the position switch, he's doing so after essentially missing a year. He admits to feeling rusty.

"My body's retraining itself to play the game," he said. "Physically, I feel fine. I can run and stop and cut and go fast. But I have to teach myself how to pass rush again. The movement's there. The comfort's not there

yet."

Pryce will require time to feel comfortable moving from the power-end spot, where he played over the tight end consistently, to operating in space and having to focus on not only the tackle, but action in the backfield as plays develop.

He had to make a similar transition before, shifting from a tackle spot manned for five seasons in 2002 to power end. But Pryce won't be hunkered down full time at weak-side end in his latest switch. He likely will play inside some on passing downs this season and might even drop into coverage as an outside linebacker in a 3-4 alignment to take advantage of his length in passing lanes.

All that versatility figures to come with the caveat "if his back holds up" until he proves otherwise during the course of a long season.

"Nobody's going to be surprised, whatever happens," Pryce said. "If I'm player of the year, I don't think anyone would be surprised. I've been to the Pro Bowl. I've been to the Super Bowl. I've done those things before. So it's not like I'm coming out of nowhere.

"My personal goal is to get past the first round of the playoffs. Everything else I've done. And if I am healthy, it's not a question of 'will I.' If I'm healthy that's what I am. I don't think if you get hurt, you lose all the skills you spent all your life developing. It's a point of getting into that groove and finding that thing inside of you that you had before."

rasizerl@RockyMountainNews.com

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The Daily Camera

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Putzier hopes for more looks from Plummer

Broncos tight end wants more chances to make plays in red zone

By Ryan Thorburn, Camera Sports Writer

August 2, 2005

ENGLEWOOD — Shannon Sharpe retires and the Broncos forget how to score in the red zone.

Coincidence? Not according to the Denver Broncos' current starting tight end.

Jeb Putzier, whose 15.9 yards-per-catch average led all AFC tight ends, believes the key to scoring touchdowns inside the 20 this season will be for Jake Plummer to trust his tight ends again.

In 2003, Sharpe led the Broncos with eight touchdown catches. Rod Smith, Ashley Lelie, Ed McCaffrey and Clinton Portis had five touchdown catches combined that season.

Hint, hint.

"I've got to increase my role to help this team go further," Putzier said. "Hopefully I can do that and make myself more of a threat to open up other guys."

Indianapolis (32.6 points per game), Kansas City (30.2) and San Diego (27.9) were the three highest-scoring teams in the AFC last season because each offense was able to finish drives, often with a tight end touchdown.

Remember when Plummer called an audible at the goal-line and then tried to force the ball to Smith in the corner of the end zone at Qualcomm Stadium last December? Probably should have faked a hand-off to Reuben Droughns, rolled out of the pocket and looked for Putzier sneaking into the end zone.

"The top three offensive teams in the red zone last year have great tight ends — Tony Gonzalez, Antonio Gates and Dallas Clark at Indianapolis," Putzier noticed. "Hopefully, we can bring that system here and our tight ends can help out in the red zone right now."

A year ago, the Broncos brought Byron Chamberlain back and signed veterans Jed Weaver and O.J. Santiago to help fill the void left by Sharpe's departure. But at the end of camp they were each cut from the roster after Mike Shanahan decided to replace Sharpe primarily with Putzier and Dwayne Carswell.

Putzier finished the 2004 season with career highs in catches (36), receiving yards (572 — 4th in the AFC among TEs) and touchdown receptions (2). With Carswell moving to the offensive line this offseason, those numbers should all go up in the fall.

"Last year some guys had a different attitude than I think maybe I had, and maybe that's why they weren't here anymore," Putzier said. "I got a ton of confidence getting more reps in games instead of practice and getting a chance to go up against a lot of great players all year. They put me in tough situations and they had confidence in me. Coming into this year, I feel a lot better about myself and my position on this team."

The Broncos made two moves this offseason — hiring Tim Brewster as the new tight ends coach and signing veteran Stephen Alexander — that should improve the overall production at the position. Brewster helped develop Gates while working in San Diego; Alexander, who also played for Brewster with the Chargers, had 41 receptions with 15 starts for Detroit last season.

"(Brewster) can step up my level of game a whole bunch. I can go really far with him," Putzier said. "I think he can make this tight end group the best tight end group in the NFL, without a doubt. ...

"(Alexander) is awesome. He's helped me in so many ways being a veteran and a leader on the team, just the type of guy he

is. He's been with Brewster before, so some of the things we're learning he's helping us with. He's a great, underrated player right now in the NFL."

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thomas george

After much thought, Rice is far from the retiring type

By Thomas George
Denver Post Staff Columnist
DenverPost.com

Eighty-five players reported at 4:30 p.m. Thursday for the Broncos' first day of training camp. One was missing.

Jerry Rice.

Rice, at his home near San Francisco, called Broncos coach Mike Shanahan at 8 a.m. Thursday and told Shanahan, "I've got some things I'm weighing here."

Rice was contemplating retiring.

One of the swankiest stories and marquee additions in Broncos history was about to vanish before the first day of camp.

Between the Broncos' minicamps he attended a few weeks ago and the start of training camp, Rice was in a mental storm.

Was it peers among the Broncos' receiving group or beyond who had revealed jealousy of him? Was it a realization that at age 42 that becomes 43 on Oct. 13 that a 21st NFL season was too much to cut, that there was not enough left? Was the idea that he would tarnish his legacy beginning to take root in his mind? Did he believe he would be cut in training camp? That if he made the team he would be too low on the receiving tree? Too overworked in camp?

It was none of that, Rice said Saturday at Broncos camp.

"It was my family," Rice said. "I asked my kids what they wanted me to do. I got a 'Stay,' a 'I don't know' and a 'Go.' My oldest daughter is off to Georgetown for college soon. I felt I should be there for that. And then my son's birthday was Wednesday and he turned 14, a freshman in high school. He is playing football now, receiver, defensive back and quarterback. Being around some of those practices, watching them, I started thinking, 'This is going to be good; I shouldn't miss this.' I was torn."

So, he called Shanahan and Shanahan told Rice that if he wanted to retire, he had his support. Shanahan shared a Steve Young story with Rice, how Young in later years had told Shanahan he always wondered what would have happened if he had come back to football for one more year as a Bronco.

Shanahan told Rice he wanted him. He told him not to believe any reports that said he definitely would be cut or that he had no future as a Bronco. He told him he could help the Broncos win.

He told Rice to call him back with an answer.

A couple of hours later, Rice called and said: "I'm on a 2:30 p.m. flight."

Rice arrived in Denver at 5 p.m. Thursday. He arrived at the Broncos complex at 7 p.m., just in time for the next major team meeting.

He practiced once Friday and once again Saturday, in the afternoon session, and said he is here for the long haul.

Who can be sure?

There is not a player in the Broncos' midst, in the entire NFL, who does not face unique challenge and doubt. The mind can say yes and the body can say no. The body can say yes and the mind can say no. The heart often gets the last word. Jerry Rice, football's most fanciful receiver, says his heart is still in it.

"There was a very good possibility that I was not going to get on that plane," Rice said. "There was weight on my shoulders. But then I started thinking that the hunger is still there and the flashes are still there. I started thinking about how much I enjoy football. I started thinking about my new teammates. I remembered that Mike Shana-

han had stuck his neck out for me. And that I had signed a contract.

"I am going to honor that contract. There are a lot of people in this city who are excited that I am here. They want me here. I won't let them or myself down. I'm back in my environment."

Running routes and catching balls and studying the Broncos' playbook and assured by Shanahan that he will be kept fresh. That like other Broncos veterans, he will practice only once a day during these two-a-day sessions.

That he has a place. A home.

"Regardless of the family stuff," Shanahan said, "if I was the best player ever and I heard some of the stuff I understand is going around from some of the 'experts' about how he will have no role here, I might have thought about retiring, too. But the key thing is that none of that came from me. Our coaches and players were impressed with Jerry in the minicamps. He knows me well enough to understand that I would not put him on the team just to be on the team. ... That if I thought he couldn't help us I would have told him after the minicamps. He can help us win."

In the end, though, what might be best for Rice - an exit - might not be best for the team. Shanahan understands that. If there is another change of heart, it would come before the season's first game, Shanahan said. Once the real games begin, Rice will not walk, Shanahan believes. Now that Rice is in the fold, Shanahan said he trusts that Rice will remain.

Who knows what will happen during the course of this camp?

The good news for the Broncos is Rice did not walk before the first ball was tossed in training camp. They still have the chance to gain from his magnificent presence and, they hope, solid production. What a shame it would have been had Rice quit before giving it his best shot, Shanahan said. Now, he said, with Rice at least giving it a go, the Broncos can live with him or, if forced, move on without him.

When Rice signed with the Broncos in early June, he said he could play more than one year and asked, why place a timetable on anything? He said he would see how the season went but believed he could play at least another year after this one, maybe even two.

"I will say the altitude here has been messing with me," Rice said. "I'm making that adjustment. I've had some tightness in my hamstring, but it is getting better. I never wanted my son to play football. Football is a very violent sport. I was always willing to take that risk for my family."

And now he is willing to take more risks for the Broncos, in pro football, for one more year.

"Yes, one more year," Rice said. "This year is it. When it's over, I'm done."

Staff writer Thomas George can be reached at 303-820-1994 or tgeorge@denverpost.com.

Jul 31, 4:11 AM EDT

Rice out to prove himself one last time

By EDDIE PELLIS
AP Sports Writer

DENVER (AP) -- In one way, this 21st training camp is just like the first 20 for Jerry Rice.

"Even back in the glory days, I felt like when I went to camp I had to prove myself all over again," he insists. In reality, this is the first time in a long time that Rice really does. The best receiver of all time is trying to extend his career for one more season, as a backup with the Denver Broncos.

And though many signs point toward him making this roster, this might be his first training camp during which a spot on the team wasn't a foregone conclusion before camp even began.

"I was looking at the roster and it said wide receivers and I looked and there was a big 21 there" next to his name, Rice said. "That scared me to death compared to all those other guys."

Those 20 years of experience count for a lot, though. And even though he was not brought in to help the younger guys - the Broncos already have 11-year veteran Rod Smith, the leading receiver in franchise history, for that - surely Rice's presence has sent a message.

The Broncos lacked playmakers last season, especially inside the 20-yard line where they scored touchdowns only 24 times in 49 trips. They lacked backups with good hands. And besides Smith, they lacked guys who could dependably get open, especially in the intermediate, 10- to 20-yard zones to which most quarterbacks like to throw.

"You learn a lot from seeing what he does 1-on-1," said Darius Watts, the second-round pick from last year whose slow development helped spark the move to bring Rice here. "You see what he does to get off the ball, the moves he makes. I'm learning a lot from him."

This will be, as Rice has stated a few times in the past months, the last hurrah for the leading receiver in NFL history. But he doesn't

want it to feel like a farewell party. He came here to do something special, like win a championship, on his way out. And though the Broncos are treading lightly with the 42-year-old receiver, who was allowed to sit out two of the first four practices of training camp, Rice insists it's anything but a vacation.

"I take a lot of pride in training camp because this is where I really come out and work on my technique," he said. "I try to better myself, get sharper in my routes and try to be more explosive, and try to make key plays."

Coach Mike Shanahan already has a good idea of what Rice can do - not only from their days together in San Francisco, where Shanahan was offensive coordinator from 1992-94, but also from the handful of practices Rice has participated in minicamps since he signed.

Rice used that time to familiarize himself with the playbook and get used to the thin, mile-high air that he said made him "terrified to death" at first because he felt so gassed after the initial practices.

He said the thin air didn't bother him in the first practice of training camp Friday and that he's in as good a shape as he's ever been.

Will it be enough to keep the career going into a third decade?

The answer is about a month away. Rice hopes it is 'Yes,' and that the 21st season will be something to remember.

"I'm just fortunate to still be able to do what I'm doing out here and to be a part of something really special," he said. "I like the attitude on this team, I like the veterans, I like how professional this team is, and you can see guys out there working and it's going to pay off in the long run."

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Friday, July 29, 2005

Training Camp Day 1: Rice Rejuvenated

By [Andrew Mason](#)
DenverBroncos.com

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. -- [Karl Paymah](#) was still going through his terrible twos when [Jerry Rice](#) began the first training camp of his career 20 summers ago. He was just 6 when Rice became a Super Bowl Most Valuable Player, only 12 when Rice held up the third Lombardi Trophy of his decorated career and had yet to play a down at Washington State University when Rice's 16-season career in San Francisco ended.

Yet midway through one-on-one drills at the first practice of Denver's 46th training camp, there was Paymah -- the first of the Broncos' three third-round picks last April -- standing face-to-face with Rice.

It underscored just how long Rice has been playing the game -- and just what kind of generation gap exists between the NFL's all-time leading receiver and many of his teammates.

"I was looking at the roster and it said 'wide receivers,' and I looked and there was that big 21 there (under experience)," Rice said. "That scared me to death compared to all those other guys."

But when Rice faced Paymah, on one moment during the Friday morning practice, experience proved irrelevant.

Rice faked inside, but Paymah refused to bite. He then transitioned into an out pattern, but Paymah jumped the play, got his hands on the football and emerged clasping his hands in frustration at not being able to complete the interception.

But the next time Rice went against a rookie -- this time [Domonique Foxworth](#) -- it was the veteran doing the teaching. An inside move led to a glimmer of separation, and Rice veered across the field and hauled in the pass, eliciting cheers from the fans standing on a nearby sidewalk to take in the proceedings. He later got the better of Foxworth again, as the rookie dropped back, but Rice ran an out route in front of him. Rice tip-toed his way into the reception.

Such back-and-forth is part of the nature of camp -- even for a man who's going up against players barely half his age.

"These younger guys, they're all pumped up and ready to go, and they have to show what they're made of," Rice said. "It can get very competitive out there, but I'm from the old school. I've got a lot in the Rolodex. I've got a lot of tricks in. I'm going to win some battles and they're going to win some battles, but overall we're going to make each other better."

It can only make the younger receivers better, as well.

"I've seen a lot from watching one-on-one," wide receiver [Darius Watts](#) said. "I'm learning a lot from him watching film to see what he's doing to get off the ball."

Facing Rice could only help the Broncos' cadre of young cornerbacks, which includes three rookies, a former practice-squad player and two second-year veterans. But it works both ways.

"In return, it can only make me better," Rice said. "You have to look out for each other. It's going to get very competitive out there. It's going to get hot. Sometimes you're going to want to throw some blows. They're going to come up, be real physical, try to put their hands on you and show the coaches that they're capable of playing here in the NFL. I've just got to be ready for that and know that I'm going to win some battles, I'm going to lose some battles."

On the first day of Broncos camp, Rice won more than he lost, and found a comfort zone in the Broncos' system that he didn't feel he possessed in three days at team camp and two more at mini-camp.

"Before, I was trying to learn this system and trying to just digest everything," Rice said. "Now it's more of a reaction. I know exactly what to do and I think I'm going to be more explosive and sharper on the field."

There were two other reasons why Rice was more comfortable Friday than at the offseason camps. First, there was his increasing familiarity with quarterback [Jake Plummer](#).

"He throws a good ball -- a nice spiral. I like those.," Rice said. "The timing -- I can feel the chemistry starting to build out there. He knows exactly when I'm coming out of my routes. The ball is halfway in the air before I come out of my cuts."

Then there is the air at 5,280 feet, which left him winded at mini-camp but did not have the same effect on him Friday morning.

"I feel better now with the thin air and all that," Rice said. "I feel right at home now."

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Rocky Mountain News

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Broncos' quint essentials

By Jeff Legwold, Rocky Mountain News
August 1, 2005

Oh, yes, the Broncos have been down this road before. Ever since fate and Terrell Davis' knees betrayed him and sent him into retirement, the Broncos have spun the wheel at running back.

And where it stops, everybody knows. It usually stops on a 1,000-yard rusher, one who survived the day-to-day battles in a group most teams simply would say was too big.

So here they are again, working their same old math. Five running backs who want the job. Six weeks to figure it out. And only one ball to carry along the way.

"I'm not sure how it's all going to go down," said Ron Dayne, the 1999 Heisman Trophy winner the Broncos signed in free agency. "We've got a lot of good backs, and last year they used three, four different backs anyway.

"Couple weeks Mike (Anderson) might be hot, a couple weeks I might be hot, a couple weeks Tatum (Bell) might be hot.

"Coach (Shanahan) likes to mix it up; that's just coach's style. We just roll with it."

History, at least history during the 10 years Shanahan has been Broncos coach - he is entering his 11th season - says one will be chosen and the rest will be asked to deal with it.

In nine of Shanahan's 10 seasons, one running back has had at least 51.5 percent of the team's carries, and in five of those years, one running back has had at least 59.4 percent.

In Shanahan's three best seasons - 13-3 in 1996, 12-4 in 1997 and 14-2 in 1998 - Davis took the handoff at least 65.7 percent of the time.

"This year? Top to bottom it's all there," Anderson said. "Yeah, I think I'm up to the challenge. But I think everybody in there probably thinks that right now.

The candidates

There is Anderson, whose 1,487 yards in 2000 as the NFL Rookie of the Year give him the group's only 1,000-yard rushing season as a pro. A former Marine who missed all of last season because of a left groin injury, he has been a good soldier in the Broncos offense, having switched from running back to fullback and back to running back during the past four seasons.

There is Bell. His big-play pop - he was one of the fastest backs in the 2004 draft - intrigues Shanahan in a league full of 5-yard runs, so he will enter the preseason games with the best chance at the job. Bell missed practice and game time last season because of right finger, rib and hamstring injuries, then played the last month of the season wearing a harness after separating his left shoulder Dec. 12 against the Miami Dolphins.

There is Dayne. A first-round draft pick who left college as the all-time leading rusher in Division I-A, he says he has been "rejuvenated" in Denver after his career took a nosedive in five seasons with the New York

Giants.

There is Quentin Griffin. This time last year, he was the Broncos starter, a bob-and-weave runner who still is trying to bounce back from surgery to repair a torn right anterior cruciate ligament.

And there is Maurice Clarett, a rookie who spent two years out of football after helping Ohio State win the 2002 national championship. Clarett believes so much in his chances to eventually be the Broncos starter, he put his name on a contract without a signing bonus - guaranteed money - instead for potential incentives worth millions of dollars if he can become the team's primary runner.

"It's probably the most unique problem that we've ever had and it's a fun one to have," Broncos offensive coordinator Gary Kubiak said. "We've got five guys back there that, to me, they've all got the ability to be a starter in this league. As I told them from the opening night we came to camp, 'I don't know what's going to happen, but whoever wins our job is really going to earn it.'"

"I think they all feel that they could be the guy. They've all kind of been the guy at some point in their careers, whether it was big-time college ball or in this league. There's just a story behind every one of them, and I'm just hoping there's going to be another big story down the road here."

And while practice might indeed make perfect, it is the Broncos' four preseason games that probably will decide the issue. Kubiak already has said it - "You can be out here working, and we evaluate them everyday, but until you throw on the uniform and do it in the preseason, that's going to be the deciding factor," he said - and the players know it.

"Players make plays, you can perform in practice, but in games, you make plays," said fullback Kyle Johnson, in a crowd of his own to be the lead blocker. "Practice is to show you know where to be what you're supposed to do, but games are where plays get made. Everybody hopes to prepare here to make it happen in a game."

Enough to go around?

So the most difficult thing for the Broncos to do will be to devise a way to avoid an unanswered question. To find a way to give each of the five running backs enough carries to make the decision without shortchanging any of them.

It's why Bell and Anderson have at least some advantage because they already have worked with the starting offense this year in camp. The Broncos also know the pair's résumé with the team, what they can do, especially Bell, whose 5.3 yards a carry led the team's running backs last season.

"And my approach is different this year," Bell said. "Last year, I kind of waited for a chance to do something. I want to be in the mix right at the get-go this time."

The backs also can use the Broncos' two days of work against the Houston Texans next week before the teams play a preseason game Aug. 13 in Reliant Stadium to separate themselves, as well.

"It's a competitive room right now, but I think people have been helping each other and been real positive with it," Johnson said. "I always try to remember the person you compete with most intently is yourself. They have to decide; all you can do is make them have a hard decision. You'd love to make it an easy decision in your favor, but in a situation like this, everybody's competing and you know that."

"I know I definitely want to get out and play and show them what I got because I know I've got a lot to offer," Dayne said. "We all do."

One and mostly all

- Broncos coach Mike Shanahan likes plenty of depth at running back. He also likes one back to rise above

all that. The primary back with the largest percentage of the team's regular- season carries since Shanahan became coach in 1995:

Year Primary runner Pct.

1995 Terrell Davis 53.9

1996 Terrell Davis 65.7

1997 Terrell Davis 71.0

1998 Terrell Davis 74.7

1999 Olandis Gary 59.4

2000 Mike Anderson 57.6

2001 Mike Anderson* 36.4

2002 Clinton Portis 59.7

2003 Clinton Portis 53.4

2004 Reuben Droughns 51.5* *Led The Team In Carries After Davis Suffered A Right Knee Injury.*

legwoldj@RockyMountainNews.com or 303-892-2359

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Sauerbrun may provide kick-start

Punter's impressive start could mean end to bad special teams

By Jeff Legwold, Rocky Mountain News

August 2, 2005

ENGLEWOOD - Denver Broncos cornerback Champ Bailey was among a handful of players standing about 65 yards from Todd Sauerbrun earlier this week, awaiting a run-of-the-mill, training camp punt.

It wasn't long before Bailey understood why the Broncos have rolled the dice on the embattled punter.

"I was standing right there, he kicked that ball, it goes 60 (yards), 70, past 70, over my head, one hop and that was it, that ball was gone, right over the wall into the parking lot," Bailey said. "I caught another 70-yarder from him the other day, too, that took like five minutes to come down. I ain't never seen a guy with a leg like that.

"What can a punter do for you? There it is, right there. That's a no-brainer to sign a guy like that."

Sauerbrun had punted a ball about 75 yards, it hit the ground and bounced over the wall surrounding the Broncos' practice fields and into the parking lot.

So, to say the Broncos have welcomed Sauerbrun with open arms would be underselling things. With each 70-yard punt into the blue Colorado sky, he wins a few more football friends and influences a few more members of a team in desperate need of better special-teams efforts.

Yet, because Sauerbrun has ruffled some feathers in his career and encountered some off-field troubles, when the Carolina Panthers dangled Sauerbrun for potential trades in the off-season, the list of teams with interest was fairly short. But Denver quickly put itself at the front of the line, moving in front of Tampa Bay and Minnesota.

After doing the math on a three-time Pro Bowl selection punting at altitude, Broncos coach Mike Shanahan quickly shipped a seventh-round pick in the 2006 draft and punter Jason Baker to the Panthers to acquire Sauerbrun.

But Shanahan did so only after a face-to-face meeting May 9 with the veteran at the Broncos' Dove Valley complex.

"And Todd convinced me that he was dedicated to doing things the right way, and he knows if he doesn't, he won't be a part of this organization," Shanahan said. "We give guys chances, and if they don't step up and do things the right way, they won't be with us. . . . I've been impressed how he has punted and how he carries himself on a day-to-day basis. Hopefully, he keeps on impressing us."

On the field, Sauerbrun has not had a punt blocked and has averaged more than 44.1 yards a punt in seven of his 10 seasons, including the past five.

That certainly is an upgrade for a team that ranked 13th in the 16-team AFC in punting last season. Among AFC teams, only Buffalo and Kansas City put fewer punts inside an opponents' 20-yard line last season and neither of those teams made the playoffs.

Rodolfo Gonzalez © News

Denver Broncos punter Todd Sauerbrun holds for kicker Jason Elam during practice Monday. Despite troubles in the past year, the Broncos traded for Sauerbrun to try to improve their special teams. Coach Mike Shanahan and teammates have seen considerable results early in training camp.

"It's a field-position game," Broncos long snapper Mike Leach said. "We've been out here for a few weeks and Todd is just pounding the ball. They go 70 (yards), no problem, just kick after kick."

According to available records, the Broncos, despite playing at altitude, have not had a punter lead the league since Jim Fraser topped the American Football League in punting during the 1962 and 1963 seasons with averages of 44.4 and 46.1 yards.

For his part, Sauerbrun has taken a walk-softly-and-carry-a-punting-shoe approach, having not spoken publicly since he joined the Broncos. His agent, David Canter, has said Sauerbrun does not plan to speak with the media this season after what has happened the past year.

Sauerbrun was one of the players identified in a *60 Minutes II* report in March as having received a prescription for a steroid banned by the NFL. Canter said Sauerbrun cooperated with a federal investigation.

The punter also was cited in December for driving while impaired in Charlotte, N.C. Police said a Breathalyzer test showed a blood-alcohol level of .19, more than twice the legal limit of .08 in North Carolina.

In May, he pleaded guilty and was placed on probation for one year and fined \$100.

"But he's done what we've asked of him," Shanahan said. "He gets a fresh start and, hopefully, he makes the most of it."

Shanahan has even acted as Sauerbrun's spokesman in training camp. After joking Thursday he would speak for the punter, Shanahan was asked how his leg was feeling.

"The leg's fine, been working extremely hard the last three weeks in Denver," Shanahan said. "I feel very good about myself that I can just focus on my job and just show what I can do on the football field without getting myself in trouble."

Said Bailey: "All I know is if you're on defense and you see a guy kicking the ball 60, 70 yards every time in practice, he's going to make your job easier. Of course you're going to like that."

Broncos punting records

- Career punts: 641, Tom Rouen (1993-2002)
- Highest career average (minimum 50): 45.2 yards, Jim Fraser (1962-64)
- Highest season average (minimum 50): 46.9 yards, Tom Rouen (1998)
- Longest punt: 83 yards, Chris Norman (Sept. 23, 1984)

Todd Sauerbrun's career statistics

- Career punts: 760 (1995-present)
- Career average: 44.0 yards
- Highest season average: 47.5 yards (2001)
- Longest punt: 73 yards (2001)

legwoldj@RockyMountainNews.com or 303-892-2359

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Sauerbrun's foot does the talking

New Broncos punter booming kicks of 75 yards

By Ryan Thorburn, Camera Sports Writer

August 6, 2005

ENGLEWOOD — As promised, Todd Sauerbrun has remained mute with the media.

Making headlines for all the wrong reasons — steroid allegations, drunk driving charges, fines for being overweight — can understandably cause one to be a little cautious in the presence of cameras and microphones.

But throughout Sauerbrun's first training camp with the Denver Broncos, the punter's ozone-layer range says it all about why Mike Shanahan traded for the controversial former Carolina Panther.

Perhaps Sauerbrun is wise to simply let his foot do the talking while looking for a fresh start with new teammates.

"Sometimes he'll get a hold of one that goes 70, 75 yards. On a day with the wind blowing, 80 yards," said rookie Darrent Williams, who is expected to be the team's new return man this season. "Sometimes it looks like John Elway is back there throwing deep balls. It has been an adjustment for me, but it's great to have him back there. I should be ready for any punter in the league."

Jake Plummer is no John Elway. But with Sauerbrun taking the snaps on fourth down, perhaps he won't have to be this fall.

"It's really going to help us as an offense," Broncos long-snapper Mike Leach said of Sauerbrun's presence. "(Gary) Kubiak is stressing on third down, 'Don't force a play, don't make a dumb turnover.'"

"Now we can throw the ball away or run it back to the line of scrimmage, have Todd hit a 70-yard punt and let our defense get the ball back for us."

Last season, Micah Knorr averaged 41.5 yards per punt (34.2 net). Those numbers got him fired on the job, but his replacement — Jason Baker — was just as weak, averaging 39.4 yards per punt (34.4 net).

Despite playing a mile high, neither journeyman had much hang-time, either.

"I think what (Sauerbrun) has realized is that he doesn't have to try to kill it. If he just hits a good punt it's going to keep carrying," Leach said. "And what's great about him is his misses go 50 yards. If he's going to shank it 50 yards, that's an improvement pretty much over what we had."

But more times than not, Sauerbrun is killing it. That's what separates this guy from just about everyone except Ray Guy.

From 2001-03, playing his home games at or very near sea level, Sauerbrun posted a gross punting average of 45.9 yards, the highest for any three-year period in NFL history. He owns the second-highest career gross punting average (44.0 yards) among active punters, trailing Oakland's Shane Lechler, and is fifth all-time in that category.

Sauerbrun is the only player since the NFL merger in 1970 to lead his conference in gross average for three consecutive years. Not surprisingly, he was the NFC's Pro Bowl punter all three of those years (2001-03). And his 47.5-yard gross in 2001 was the highest in the league since 1963 when Detroit's Yale Lary had a gross average of 48.9 yards per punt.

His reputation and looks are more like John Daly's, but ...

"I compare him to Tiger Woods," Leach said. "Tiger and some other guys on the PGA Tour can swing 80 percent and they're

one of the leaders. But when Tiger needs to drive the green 370 yards, he can rip it and hit it there. With Todd it's the same way, it seems like he can swing harder and hit it farther."

Like golf, punting looks pretty easy on television. Leach, a tight end and punter at William & Mary, knows better.

"For most punters, you try to swing hard and you're going to shank it," Leach said. "That's the way it was for me. If I tried to kill it, then I missed it. He grits his teeth and tries to kill it and it just goes."

Yeah, tell poor Paul Ernster about it. The Broncos used a seventh-round draft choice on the Northern Arizona standout, who consistently punts the ball 60 or 65 yards with special teams coach Ronnie Bradford looking over his shoulder.

But anything the rookie can do, the three-time Pro Bowl selection can do a little better.

"I've never been able to find a guy who could kick the ball like I could," Ernster said. "It's a battle. We're back and forth all day long, it's a good competition."

There is no doubt that Ernster would have beaten out Knorr or Baker. But it appears that Sauerbrun — already considered one of the best punters in the NFL — is capable of taking his game to an even higher level playing at elevation.

That means Shanahan might have to keep three kickers with Sauerbrun punting, Ernster kicking off and Jason Elam handling the field goals. The Broncos could try to sneak Ernster on to the practice squad, but he would have to clear waivers first.

"That's always an issue. If they've got to release me for a couple of days to put me on the practice squad, who knows, I might not be around," Ernster said. "I'm competing with the best, and it tells you I've got a shot to make a big contribution on a team as a punter."

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Is there a catch? Only on the field

As a 'complete pro,' Smith still is setting an example for team

By Jeff Legwold, Rocky Mountain News

August 4, 2005

Rodolfo Gonzalez © News

ENGLEWOOD - Rod is Rod.

And so it goes around the Denver Broncos for much of the past 11 years. Rod Smith, with his full allotment of verbal needles to lob on those who venture near, and sometimes not so near, is always there it seems.

And they mean *always*.

"We all know," cornerback Lenny Walls said. "For 11 consecutive years he hasn't even missed an off-season workout. Eleven, man. That's ridiculous. He never misses anything, he's always on time and he always catches the ball. That's what being a complete pro is.

"Unbelievable."

Smith will be the real voice of the Broncos for the 12th consecutive year - 11 on the active roster to go with his season on the practice squad in 1994. Whether it's breaking down someone's choice in shoes, announcing the arrival of the "paparazzi" each day or offering a quiet word of encouragement to a still-learning-on-the-job receiver such as Todd Devoe, Smith said he always wants to be there.

Rod is Rod, after all.

"You know, I love to see people succeed and be able to have success in this league," Smith said. "But I think the biggest thing for a lot of young guys is to know when to take help. Some young guys just don't understand when it's time to accept some help when it's offered.

"Don't go out there and give me that, 'Let me grow up on my own, let me make my own mistakes.' That to me is like the dumbest statement ever. Why would you want to make the same mistakes somebody else has already made, especially when they can tell you how to avoid them? I already did some things wrong and have seen a lot of other people do a lot wrong, you don't have to go through that. To want to just doesn't make sense to me."

Smith already owns every significant Broncos career receiving record, including the big three - career receptions (712), career receiving yards (9,772) and career receiving touchdowns (59).

He has had seven 1,000-yard seasons, been voted to two Pro Bowls and played in two Super Bowls.

Yet there is a part of him, he says, that feels as good about his personal accomplishment in 2004 as anything. Oh, don't get him started on the playoff loss in Indianapolis. "We need to get over that hurdle and take care of our business better than that," he said. Or his career-most 208 yards against Atlanta in October that came in a loss. "One catch and no yards and a win beats 200-whatever yards and losing any time," he added.

Still, 2004 was a bit of a bounce back for Smith. He led the Broncos in catches (79) and receiving yards

Denver Broncos wide receiver Rod Smith, right, gets a little ribbing from linebackers Keith Burns, left, and Al Wilson as they walk off of the field at the end of the morning session of training camp Wednesday. Smith holds every major Broncos receiving record, including career receptions, career receiving yards and career receiving touchdowns.

(1,144), and tied for the lead in receiving TDs with seven.

And he did that in a season when Ashley Lelie had a breakout year - 54 catches, 1,084 yards and seven touchdowns - while leading all starting receivers in the league with an average of 20.1 yards a catch.

All that came after Smith's 845-yard total in 2003 was his lowest since he became a starter in 1997.

"Last year was just as good of a year as I've had, better, honestly, when you think about what I did with the opportunities I had," Smith said. "I had less opportunities, but that means more opportunities for other guys, and that's good. We won games and went back to the playoffs. Now we need to stay around the playoffs, not just be there for a minute."

"Oh, yeah, he still has a lot of pop," Walls said. "He works so hard, does everything the way you're supposed to do it. He's just the man, everybody respects him, everybody looks up to him."

As expected, Smith and Lelie again have gotten the majority of work with the starting offense so far in training camp. And Smith still is breaking down defensive backs without a wasted step.

Mike Heimerdinger, the New York Jets offensive coordinator and former Broncos wide receivers coach, was asked earlier this year the best way to teach young receivers in the NFL.

Before the question was even finished, Heimerdinger said, "Watch Rod run, watch Rod run routes, watch Rod catch, watch Rod make big plays in big games and watch Rod show up the next day and do it all over again. Then you tell them 'good job' after they do that."

"You know, when you go against guys like Rod Smith and Jerry Rice, you'll never go against as polished a receiver," safety John Lynch said. "Rod doesn't miss a step, so precise, so technical. His routes all look the same, you don't know if he's going inside, outside or going to hesitate and go by you. That's no accident, that's just hard work."

Smith, who has four years remaining on his contract as well as a varied group of business interests, including a shopping center, a real estate firm and a hotel, said he'd like to continue playing "as long as they want what I can give them."

"But you know, I've been around so long now, and I tell these rookies, ' . . . When I came here I didn't even have a cell phone,' " Smith said. "These guys, all they're doing is talking on that cell phone sometimes. I tell them, 'That person you're talking to probably isn't even at work and if you don't get off that phone and concentrate, you'll have plenty of time to talk to them later because you won't keep your job.'"

"I always tell them that."

He does because Rod is Rod.

Experience counts

● **Rod Smith and Jerry Rice give the Broncos the most productive pair of wide receivers on any NFL roster:**

Player Years Catches Yards TDs Super Bowl wins

Jerry Rice 1985-present 1,549 22,895 197 3

Rod Smith 1995-present 712 9,772 59 2

legwoldj@RockyMountainNews.com or 303-892-2359

Rod Smith - Undisputed Leader

By [Brian H. Tippett](#)

Date: Jul 30, 2005

Rod Smith, a man who started his career on the practice squad, has turned himself into the undisputed leader of the Denver Broncos

Rod Smith

[Rod Smith](#) is back for his 12th season as a [Denver Broncos](#) receiver. Smith's career as a Bronco has been nothing less than spectacular. A man who started his career on the practice squad has turned himself into the undisputed leader of the Broncos.

Smith's numbers as a Bronco are nothing to laugh at. He has Bronco records in receptions (712), touchdowns catches (59), and receiving yards (9,772). He has had seven 1,000 yd seasons, been to two Pro Bowls, and the list goes on and on, but the numbers aren't what Rod Smith is all about. Smith is all about winning, that's the bottom line for him. He wants to win championships, not only for him, but for his team. He excels as a team leader because he's approachable. He's actually friends with a lot of his teammates year round. That type of friendship is what seems to set a leader apart from lone wolf.

Smith was asked about his personal goals for the 2005 season, and his response was, "I want to win, that's the only thing." It has already shown up day one of the 2005 Bronco training camp. Other players seem to be knocking the dust off their game, Smith seems to be in mid-season form, catching every thing that comes his way. That's probably due to all the off season work outs Smith attended. When asked if there was a difference between the first day of camp and the second, Smith said "Jake (Plummer), Danny (Kanell), and I have been doing this the longest... June was just like this."

Smith seemed to imply this wasn't his first day of camp, June was. He knows that during the two-a-days, the days just get harder and hotter, and that's when the team comes together. Smith equated the summer work outs to the time when he played with his friends.

"When you play with your friends when you were little, you never got tired." He also said that he knew the next two or three days would be hard, but as a team they would help each other get over the hump.

It was evident that Smith was already in his leadership role, when early in the day he was screaming encouragement at the offense during offense v. defense drills. That's, the type of player and man that Rod Smith is, a fiery competitor, strong overall leader, great mentor, and a great receiver.

Rod Smith is set to have another great year, and with [Ashley Lelie](#) and [Darius Watts](#) another year better, it should make things easier for him to just win.

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broncos

Watershed year for Van Pelt

Second-year quarterback riding wave of maturation

By Bill Williamson
Denver Post Staff Writer
DenverPost.com

Last spring, Bradlee Van Pelt thought it was time to treat himself. After all, he was just drafted in the seventh round by the Broncos.

Sounded like a perfect time to jet to the Grand Caymans for a little scuba diving and sun time for the California golden boy who turned Fort Collins into his personal oasis as a freewheeling quarterback.

Problem was, the Broncos expected Van Pelt to be at Dove Valley studying his new, complex playbook, not in the Caribbean, studying exotic fish in some faraway ocean.

"The coaches had to call me back and get my butt back here and off vacation. That was not a good start," Van Pelt said. "Here I was with a tan and not knowing anything about my new job. I couldn't even hand off the ball to the running back. Here's the simplest part of my new job, and I couldn't even do it."

In an honest and harsh evaluation of his first year in the NFL, Van Pelt - famous in the state for his brash play on the field and good times off it while starring at Colorado State - unwound from his first practice in an attempt to become Jake Plummer's backup.

"Last year I may have been a professional, but I didn't know how to be one," said Van Pelt, now donning No. 11 after wearing No. 9 as part of the Broncos practice squad last year. "I just went along my way thinking I was going to be a quarterback just the way I was at Colorado State.

"Really, I was lost. I knew I had to develop, but I didn't have any idea what to do."

The Grand Caymans vacation wasn't his only misstep.

There was also the time he went to grab some food at McDonald's for his teammates and himself. Problem was, Van Pelt got lost and was late to a team meeting. He was also late to a meeting before the season opener against Kansas City.

It got to the point where coaches thought Van Pelt wasn't taking his job seriously or mentally grasping it. While fellow rookie and practice squad quarterback Matt Mauck was on the sidelines during games, Van Pelt was up in the coaches' booth - essentially being babysat. Coaches figured Van Pelt would be better served learning the NFL game upstairs than being down on the field with teammates.

Van Pelt pins his rookie troubles all on himself.

"The only person I was listening to was Bradlee, and Bradlee was leading me down some scary roads," Van Pelt said. "I was definitely going down the wrong roads. I felt like I was the kid in the dunce cap in the back of the room, being punished for being bad. But about halfway through the season, I saw where I was going and I took off that hat for good."

Broncos quarterbacks coach Pat McPherson chuckles at Van Pelt's self-evaluation. However, McPherson said Van Pelt has matured on and off the field. The team noticed changes in Van Pelt late last season, and he came to the offseason program physically and mentally improved.

"He's come a long way and he has a chance," McPherson said. "There's growth from last year. He's a better player this year."

Van Pelt has improved as a passer, becoming more accurate and consistent, and has a better grasp of the playbook. Coupled with his running and playmaking ability, Van Pelt has parlayed his maturity into a chance to win the No. 2 quarterback battle.

Van Pelt is starting training camp as the No. 3 quarterback behind Plummer and Danny Kanell. Fellow 2004 seventh-round pick Mauck is running No. 4.

Broncos coach Mike Shanahan said Van Pelt will get ample playing time in the preseason, which begins Aug. 13 at Houston.

"I like what I see," Shanahan said. "He's starting to figure things out well, and he's working hard."

For Van Pelt, that means putting off the scuba diving and jumping headfirst into the NFL waters.

"I'm still myself and I'll always be a little different," he said. "But now it's all about becoming the best NFL player I can be."

Bill Williamson can be reached at 303-820-5450 or bwilliamson@denverpost.com.

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Van Pelt getting a second look

Broncos are giving QB tryout in backup role

By Lee Rasizer, Rocky Mountain News

August 3, 2005

ENGLEWOOD - In the culmination of a growth process that has been ongoing since last season, Bradlee Van Pelt has been given a trial as the backup quarterback of the Denver Broncos.

The offensive coaches met Monday night and decided Van Pelt's improved abilities throwing the ball, coupled with his athleticism and ability to rally the troops was worth a few days in the No. 2 role to see if he can handle being the first option behind Jake Plummer.

Danny Kanell had filled that role previously and still took some snaps behind the second-team offensive line Tuesday. But it was clear Van Pelt was the first choice in most drills.

"Maybe Friday or Saturday we re-evaluate," Broncos quarterbacks coach Pat McPherson said. "And we'll see if he continues to deserve those reps."

McPherson said the move has more to do with Van Pelt's progress than a knock on Kanell, who has been the second-string quarterback the past two seasons.

Van Pelt immediately did his part to make the coaches comfortable in their decision with his performance in his first two practices in his temporary role.

"He made some plays that there's no way he could have made last year or most of the guys we've ever had would make," McPherson said.

One of the selling points in giving Van Pelt more of an opportunity stems from his style. Van Pelt's ability to run and move the pocket closely resembles Plummer's physical attributes and wouldn't require as much of a tweaking of game plans should the starter go down. Kanell is a more stationary, pocked-oriented quarterback.

The downside is Van Pelt's inexperience. He completed 424 of 778 passes for 6,165 yards at Colorado State with 37 touchdowns and 30 interceptions in 38 games before spending the 2004 season on Denver's practice squad. After getting selected with the team's third pick of the seventh round, he rarely played last preseason.

"It doesn't worry me," Broncos general manager Ted Sundquist said. "The guy's going to study hard. He's got the physical tools to do it. He's just got to go out there and gain that experience."

Denver coaches have worked with Van Pelt on overstriding when throwing and standing too tall in the pocket. But perhaps his biggest gains have come in maturity.

As Van Pelt admitted, when he first joined the Broncos, he had little understanding of what being a pro player entailed. He related a story from his first minicamp, when he figured he could take it easy and get by.

"I came in here, I couldn't hand off the right way. I couldn't read a coverage. I didn't know a snap count. And there were a lot of other things," he said.

Including off-the-field issues.

"I thought the transition was going to be easy and I'd naturally grow from being a college quarterback into the NFL, and I couldn't do it," Van Pelt said. "And my lifestyle was really keeping me back."

Van Pelt and some friends lived in a downtown Denver loft, prime territory to find LoDo nightlife, and close enough to make runs to Fort Collins to visit friends and go to old haunts.

Yet the commute to the Dove Valley complex was hairy, especially when he finally began to learn getting to work an hour early, not 10 minutes, was the expectation if he was to reach his potential.

"I enjoyed going out at night," Van Pelt said. "And I did get caught up for a little while in being a kid who was an in-state guy, who now had a little more cash in his back pocket, was downtown and was like, 'Whoa.' I knew what to do with myself but I almost couldn't control it. I was out having a good time."

Early last season, the coaches began strongly suggesting to Van Pelt that he move closer to team headquarters. McPherson gave Van Pelt a schedule and told him to stick with it. And, with structure, they began seeing gains in his professionalism.

"It told Bradlee this is what you're doing, at what time, every day of the week, every week," McPherson said. "And he got into the rhythm of it and it worked out pretty well. I'm not saying the schedule prompted the turnaround, but I think it told him that, 'Hey, these guys are serious about me being a part of this football team,' and he took it real serious."

"He's a real good kid. He was just a little immature for a while there and by midway through the season, you really felt he was starting to come around."

Van Pelt bounced around at myriad positions on the scout team last season and, he said, began to gain respect as a teammate. It wasn't until this spring's minicamp that perception began to swing in his direction from his peers as a potential quarterback. He's a popular choice among some Broncos.

"I haven't won a spot," Van Pelt said. "I've been given a chance. If you want to call me No. 2 right now for three days you can and that's fine. I don't really care. Because I know I have to prove to the coaches and my teammates that I'm the No. 2 quarterback."

"By all means, there's a lot left in camp and four preseason games, so there's nothing to look forward where I can rest and I've got it. That's way far from the truth."

rasizerl@RockyMountainNews.com

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Tuesday, August 2, 2005

Rising Through the Ranks

By **J. Michael Moore**
DenverBroncos.com

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. -- The learning curve between high school and college is tough.

 **BRONCOS TV: DAY 5 REPORT: STEPHEN ALEXANDER ON THE MOVE | DAY 5 HIGHLIGHTS**

The gap between junior college and Division-I football is tougher.

The jump from Division-I football to the National Football League is the toughest.

Lucky for Broncos defensive tackle [Demetrin Veal](#), he has experience just about every type of football aptitude available.

The three-year veteran from Tennessee started playing football his senior year of high school in Paramount, Calif. He went on to Cerritos Junior College and played two years at Tennessee with NFL star defensive linemen Albert Haynesworth (Titans) and John Henderson (Jaguars).

So he's used to being the underdog.

"I've always been that scrapper," Veal said coming off the practice field on Denver's first day of training camp, his breath heavy, sweat dripping from his brow. "I've always had to fight for everything I've done in my career.

"My whole career has been a learning process."

The Broncos are Veal's third NFL club. He was selected in the seventh round of the 2003 draft by Atlanta and played in three games. The Broncos signed him from the Ravens practice squad last season and deactivated him for the club's final three regular season games. His numbers aren't lofty, but don't count out the man who has been a student of the game for several years.

He played both tackle and end at Tennessee, starting 12 of 24 games on a talent-rich defensive line. He learned quickly that the physical nature of his position can decide games. And he relished it.

"This is where the game is won so I like being in that position where the game depends on you," he said. "I love that kind of pressure. I love it."

Veal is a man hungry to learn and fight his way to the top – a mentality that should serve him well on the Broncos defensive line, which boasted 17 other members on training camp's opening day.

"I'm a young guy with a lot of veterans in front of me, so it's just more improving myself and that type of thing and getting where I fit in with all these different players," Veal said.

Veal shrugged when asked about competing against so many players at the same position. Not since college has he seen so

many large linemen vying for a few spots.

He's been the underdog before and he's succeed in surpassing expectations.

"You get less reps but the reps you get you know you have to make them that much better so that brings the competition aspect in to it," he said. "You have to give it your all, 110 percent, just to get seen or show what you can do. You have to make the best of everything you get. You may not get as tired as quick but you get to add quality in to it."

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Time's come for Warren's showing

Broncos will learn which personality will be on display

By Lee Rasizer, Rocky Mountain News
July 23, 2005

The off-season trade sending Gerard Warren to the Denver Broncos for a fourth-round draft pick in essence was a two-for-one deal.

The team obtained Warren.

It also acquired "Big Money."

The question is, will Warren or "Big Money" show up?

The two are one and the same, yet completely different entities. And, ultimately, which side of the defensive tackle's personality shines through most might determine whether his acquisition from the Cleveland Browns was more than Denver bargained for, or a bargain, beginning Thursday when the team begins its 2005 training camp.

"There are two personas there," acknowledged Jeremy Green, who worked in the Browns' pro personnel department during all four of Warren's pro seasons, three as its director. "Hopefully, for the Broncos' sake, they get Gerard Warren."

At his core, Warren is a small-town country boy hailing from Raiford, Fla. - population 300.

To kill time as a youth he would hunt, shoot and fish. He chased pigs and cows for fun.

On the football field, he trailed quarterbacks with similar glee.

He helped his high school team, Union County, become a powerhouse that amassed three consecutive championships and 40 consecutive wins, and was an honor student.

Warren later became a dominant force at defensive tackle at the University of Florida, where he described football as "just like waking up in the morning and brushing my teeth" and life outside the sport something he had to get a "grip on."

He was so good he became the first overall defensive player drafted in 2001, after his junior season.

In other words, he lived up to his bold nickname.

"Big Money," as his prep line coach dubbed him because of his pro potential, ended up bagging just that - \$12 million in bonuses from the Browns as the third overall selection.

Not bad for a kid who hadn't been outside his home state until landing in the Southeastern Conference.

Warren, for better or worse, soon became the face of the Cleveland organization as the first pick of the Butch Davis era. It was a distinction borne of Warren's draft pedigree and, more than anything else, the fact he was playing for a young Browns team.

In hindsight, it probably was a role for which he wasn't entirely suited in his early 20s, with money to burn and a taste for nightlife.

Later, with Cleveland consistently fielding a losing team, his public image morphed into something altogether different than spokesman.

"He became the poster child for everything bad in Cleveland," said Andre Patterson, Warren's position coach for his final two seasons there and now a Broncos assistant.

Some, but not all, of that image, Warren brought upon himself. People close to him call him articulate, smart and funny, and sharp in his knowledge of his chosen profession.

He'll quietly donate 16 pairs of shoes to his high school or show up to make pregame speeches during his off week.

But, every so often, Big Money inevitably would butt in and create problems.

"The other side was the side that gained street cred," Patterson said of Warren's dual personality. "And he didn't grow up that way."

Warren might prance around the locker room singing profane rap lyrics or blast his boom box when he didn't want to be bothered with leadership issues, which infuriated some in the Browns complex who didn't want that to be the image the organization portrayed.

He was popular to many fans in Cleveland for his outspoken nature and sincere love for the city. But when he returned from a productive rookie season overweight and unable to duplicate his success, he had created an image through the media as an unmotivated underachiever that has been hard to shake. He was arrested on a gun-possession charge in 2001, further tarnishing his image.

"The Cleveland press had already tagged him with, 'He's lazy on the field' and all that stuff before I got there," said Patterson, who joined the Browns staff in 2003. "That stuck no matter what I said. And I'd tell them he's never been that way with me."

Some teammates took umbrage at what they perceived as preferential treatment, something Green said Warren did get but isn't unusual for certain players on any NFL team.

But even Warren's attempts at accountability and leadership backfired when Big Money was doing the talking.

In a word . . . trouble

A comment aimed at Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger last season was meant to rally a flagging team. Warren, in front of television cameras and whirring tape recorders, paraphrased one of the hip-hop songs he loved by rapper Trick Daddy, "Kill the head and the body's dead."

In retrospect, they were Warren's famous last words.

"I called my father that day and told him I don't know what's going to happen in Cleveland but they just threw me out of the boat, so fasten your seat belts, because there's going to be a ride, I think," Warren recalled.

Lost in the translation of the Roethlisberger tumult was Warren's explanation that "if you can rattle the head, which is the quarterback on every team, then the body, which is the team, can't function."

Nevertheless, Browns ownership seethed, putting out a disclaimer the following day distancing the organization from Warren's words.

"Any time you mention 'killing,' that's a bad word, even though it's the lyrics from a song," said Charles Warren, Gerard's father. "In the National Football League, lyrics like that put you in a position to be an outcast. You can't just say those kind of things."

Davis' resignation two weeks later removed a key ally, and speculation began that the end of Warren's stay in Cleveland was near. When interim coach Terry Robiskie, another Warren backer, didn't get the full-time job as head coach, the lineman's tenure was winding down.

It didn't help that a new regime wanted to clean house of perceived negatives. Cleveland's switch to a 3-4 alignment under Romeo Crennel didn't fit Warren's game, and Patterson's departure to Denver made the decision for the new Browns staff a no-brainer.

"The impression among the Browns was that I was the only guy that could control him," Patterson said. "And I know that was told to Romeo."

Big Money officially had become devalued currency.

"He hasn't been a productive player. He has not played up to his ability," Green said, summing up Warren's problems with the Browns. "Some of that is Gerard and Gerard's immaturity. Some of that was the system we used in Cleveland."

Warren accumulated 113 solo tackles, 37 assists and 16.5 sacks in four seasons, certainly not eye-popping statistics.

Learning from the past

But even stocks that hit rock bottom can rebound suddenly. That was the Broncos' thinking, especially since the price was low - they did pick up a \$1.3 million roster bonus Cleveland declined to pay - and Warren figures to be motivated by his sudden downfall and contract status. He's in the last year of his contract, with the final season of his original deal already voided.

"Personally, I feel like I'm out on bail right now," Warren said earlier this month. "Nothing guaranteed. Just go out and play this season and rewrite your whole history in the NFL. Those guys didn't want me in Cleveland, and I found a new home here. So automatically, when that took place, I was like, 'It's time.' "

Charles Warren recalled a conversation with his son a couple of weeks ago: "He said, 'I'm going to go out and show these people in Denver that I am who I am. And I will show them that I know football.' "

Warren still has some qualities of a blue chipper. He will turn 27 on Monday and possesses agility, strength and quickness rare for a player weighing about 330 pounds. The Broncos hope he can draw upon his Cleveland experience to avert mistakes.

"He's the type that once you sit down and talk to Gerard and tell him what you want - and you have to keep your thumb on him, not footballwise, but letting him know what's at stake and everything else - he'll do it," said Rod Broadway, Warren's defensive line coach in college.

Perhaps most important if Warren is to succeed in Denver is that he has a group of veteran players surrounding him that can kick him in the rear if things go awry, and the respect is such that he'll listen.

"I think in Denver he's got to keep his mouth shut, follow the lead of a guy like Trevor Pryce and really start playing up to his abilities," said Green, who will join ESPN as an analyst this season. "Gerard is talented, but Gerard is very immature. He's a great kid. He's harmless. He's not a bad kid or a kid that's going to be in trouble running the streets. He's a good 'ol country boy. But I think he really needs to work on his focus and maturity.

"I think this is a great move for Gerard Warren. He's got a chance in a new city in a defense that better suits his ability, and I think you'll see a different Gerard Warren than you saw in Cleveland."

Patterson said that if Warren had leadership to lean on from the beginning, he might never have gotten the rap he now has to shake.

"When he came here, one of the things I told him is to leave 'Big Money' in Florida," Patterson said. "And since he's been a Denver Bronco, he's just been him. He's just been Gerard Warren. And I think he's flourished from that."

High hopes for a while

Warren's tenure in Cleveland started with similar positive overtones.

Some fans were upset when the team passed on LaDainian Tomlinson in the draft, but once Warren played well in his first year, the logic of pairing him with 2000 first-round pick Courtney Brown, to form a potentially dominating defensive-line tandem, seemed to make sense.

But in 2002, Warren reported to camp at 350 pounds. His lack of conditioning contributed to a sharp decline in performance. And Brown, beset by injuries, rarely was at his side thereafter. (In an interesting twist, Brown, who Warren replaced as the face of the Browns, is playing in Denver, too. He'll line up on the same front four as Warren.)

A switch in defensive coordinator from Foge Fazio to Dave Campo in 2002 also meant a change in Warren's job description, from a penetrating, attacking tackle to taking on double teams as a nose tackle and keeping bodies off Browns middle linebacker Andra Davis.

Warren has had similar responsibilities the past two seasons and, at times, has played well.

Last season ended with the Browns allowing Warren to go back to his attacking style. And, Warren's dedication improved, perhaps providing more evidence Denver might be getting him at the right time. He reported to camp 27 pounds lighter last off-season before a torn pectoral muscle set him back, and Broncos coaches have lauded Warren's dedication in their off-season program.

"Really, we give a guy three or four years as a defensive linemen to develop," said an AFC personnel director who has studied Warren on tape. "It's hard for a young kid to come in and dominate. So I don't think he's over the hill. I think he's just coming into it."

Still, this was the third overall pick in the draft, and in Cleveland, expectations were higher.

When Warren was drafted, one Cleveland columnist wrote, "No pressure, but where the Browns drafted him he'll have to become synonymous with Cleveland Browns football as Warren Sapp is with Tampa Bay to justify the pick."

That type of pressure has been part of Warren's life since he was 14 and told by his high school coach, Robby Pruitt, he would be the player who would win him championships.

Back then, Warren would get free admission to basketball games and complimentary food at restaurants for being a prep star, but he also was held to a different standard because of his talent in a town where everyone knew him.

At Florida, Warren was watched just as closely - in one episode he was suspended for marijuana use, and in another he was handcuffed after a brawl with University of Miami players on Bourbon Street in New Orleans before the 2001 Sugar Bowl - and emerged on the other side a multimillionaire.

The common thread between high school and college was consistent winning.

"Until I went to Cleveland," Warren said.

His Browns teams won only 25 of 65 games, and "no matter how much money I get or how much money I make, it could never pacify losing," Warren said. "It was exhausting mentally," and created "a negativity around the building" that the franchise never shook.

In Warren's view, he tried to take on a leadership role to help reverse that thinking but was rebuffed in the locker room, where cliques emerged and "pretty much destroyed the team and brought coach Davis' career to an end."

Warren said the Browns as an organization "didn't accept their responsibility in trying to bring a championship to the city," especially when comparing it to his experience with the Broncos, where the focus is winning the Super Bowl without "excuses" or "power trips" between players and coaches.

"I wanted to win so bad that I was going around trying to demand the best out of players . . . and I could never really find what I was trying to tap into," Warren said. "But at the same time, a lot of the stuff was being shoveled under my name as what was the problem. I was just trying to find a way to win."

Warren often looked to Patterson for counsel about how to get his hands around the leadership issue.

"But to be a leader you have to be a consistent person," Patterson responded. "Your teammates have to see who you are. You can't be up and down."

"That's one of Gerard's biggest problems," Green said. "He worries too much about what's going on around him instead of worrying about Gerard and getting Gerard to play well. You can't be a 'me' guy. . . . And I think if he concentrated more on being the best player he could be and playing up to his abilities, he could probably bring other people with him."

Now, 'I'm the underdog'

Warren isn't necessarily being counted on as a team leader in Denver. The Broncos already have linebacker Al Wilson, wide receiver Rod Smith, quarterback Jake Plummer, cornerback Champ Bailey and safety John Lynch, among others, making up the team identity.

If Warren is to become a star now, it will be because of his on-field contributions.

Being just another guy, "is a blow to the ego, but a relief," Warren said. "I'm the underdog."

Patterson predicts Warren still can be the star he was projected to be - if he can be consistent week to week, in his personality and on-field performance. Just don't judge him solely on sacks.

"They got a steal," Broadway said of the Broncos. "Once it all clicks for him and that light goes on and he wants to dominate, they're going to be pleasantly surprised by what this guy can do on a football field.

"Don't judge him by the past. What's done is done and you can't change that. Just get to know the guy and see the beauty in him."

Expectations raised

Gerard Warren's selection with the third overall pick in 2001 by Cleveland gives him the distinction of being the highest-selected defensive tackle in the past eight drafts. Not since Darrell Russell was taken by Oakland in 1997 with the No. 2 pick has a player at the position been taken higher. A look at the defensive tackles taken in the previous five drafts before this year.

2000 DRAFT

Player Drafted by College Pick

Corey Simon Philadelphia Florida State No. 6

Comment: One of the top Eagles defenders; has made the Pro Bowl past two seasons.

Chris Hovan Minnesota Boston College No. 25

Comment: Started strong, but since has faded. Signed with Tampa Bay this off-season.

2001 DRAFT

Gerard Warren Cleveland Florida No. 3

Comment: Never duplicated first-year success with Browns. Dealt to Denver in March.

Richard Seymour New England Georgia No. 6

Comment: Cornerstone of Patriots defensive front; already owns three Super Bowl rings.

Damione Lewis St. Louis Miami No. 12

Comment: Expected to shift to defensive end after starting 10 games last season.

Marcus Stroud Jacksonville Georgia No. 13

Comment: One of NFL's top linemen; started past two Pro Bowls; hasn't missed a game.

2002 DRAFT

Ryan Sims Kansas City North Carolina No. 6

Comment: Held out and hurt as a rookie; hasn't developed into a difference-maker.

John Henderson Jacksonville Tennessee No. 9

Comment: Led DTs in sacks as rookie with 6 1/2; in 2004 Pro Bowl after recording 62 solo tackles.

Wendell Bryant Arizona Wisconsin No. 12

Comment: Major disappointment; has been suspended under substance-abuse policy.

Albert Haynesworth Tennessee Tennessee No. 15

Comment: Has developed into an agile, run-stopping force on Titans line.

2003 DRAFT

Dewayne Robertson N.Y. Jets Kentucky No. 4

Comment: Began to blossom in second season by taking on double teams.

Johnathan Sullivan New Orleans Georgia No. 6

Comment: Stock dropped so low last season that he was deactivated.

Kevin Williams Minnesota Oklahoma State No. 9

Comment: Moved inside; developed quickly. Rising star has 21.5 sacks in two seasons.

Jimmy Kennedy St. Louis Penn State No. 12

Comment: Started in December; could emerge after missing time because of broken foot.

William Joseph N.Y. Giants Miami No. 25

Comment: Started four games as a second-year player; he's a plugger against the run.

2004 DRAFT

Tommie Harris Chicago Oklahoma No. 14

Comment: Disruptive as a pass rusher, could blossom into a top-10 player at his spot.

Vince Wilfork New England Miami No. 21

Comment: Played in all 16 games as a rookie on a Super Bowl champion, having made 42 tackles.

Marcus Tubbs Seattle Texas No. 23

Comment: Injured his ankle as a rookie and played only occasionally in 11 games.

Note: Three tackles were taken in the 2005 draft in the first round: by Houston (Travis Johnson, Florida State, No. 16), San Diego (Luis Castillio, Northwestern, No. 28) and Philadelphia (Mike Patterson, Southern California, No. 31).

rasizerl@RockyMountainNews.com

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broncos

Watts is playing with the hand he was dealt

By Bill Briggs
Denver Post Staff Writer
DenverPost.com

No one is offering football alibis, least of all Darius Watts.

Any pro receiver who gets his mitts around a spiral should cradle and caress it like he's saving a baby from a balcony plunge. Especially if he's in the end zone. Especially if his playoff-fringe team trails 25-24 in the final minute. Especially if it's Raiders Week.

But the thin, amber scar that runs from Watts' right armpit to his wrist reveals some of the wonder in his 31 rookie catches a year ago - and might explain some of the drops that tainted his Broncos debut.

So might two fingers that remain so numb he once seared his pinkie on a stove without knowing he was cooking his flesh. So might the transplanted tendon that turned his once-frozen claw back into a right hand following a car wreck.

Need more? Check the eyes of Anthony Witherspoon, who wrapped Watts in his letterman's jacket after the 1999 accident, who recalls the first time he saw a man with nerve damage snare an NFL touchdown.

"Honestly, I cried, man," Witherspoon says.

Touching, sure. Inspirational even. But this is the league of Swann, Biletnikoff and new Bronco Jerry Rice, who is expected to push Watts for the No. 3 receiver job. When they dropped a pass, it made news.

Even more, this is a Bronco Town where fans fume for years over losses to the Raiders - and any muffed passes that sealed those defeats.

Which is why Watts will flash a sweet smile while showing you his angry scar, but he'll never blame the injury. Yes, he should have plucked that pass against Oakland last November, he tells you in his Southern drawl. He should have caught them all.

"If I drop it, I drop it," Watts says, standing on a practice field at the Broncos' Dove Valley headquarters. "I don't want any excuses. I don't need any excuses. I try not to use any excuses."

But when a ball tumbles off his fingertips now, does he sometimes remember making that same catch in high school? His answer is careful.

"You get out here and you see everybody doing good and it makes you wonder: Man, what if I had a good hand? But like I said, don't make no excuses. I'm doing it with a bad one."

It's been that way since a drizzly January night in suburban Atlanta when Witherspoon and Watts, buddies since the fifth grade, drove to see a girl. A city bus made an awkward left turn in front of them. At the wheel, Witherspoon jammed the brakes but the car slid and smacked the back of the bus. The collision peeled off the roof.

In the passenger seat, Watts instinctively fired his right forearm over his face. Metal shards sliced his biceps muscle and severed his ulnar nerve, the strand that controls movement and sensation in the ring finger, pinkie and much of the palm. His primary catching hand was dormant.

"He couldn't move his arm. Then he started to shake and got real cold," recalls Witherspoon, who suffered a sprained neck. "He was going into shock."

Emergency crews cut Watts out of the wreckage, then placed both men in an ambulance.

"On the way to the hospital, that's when I knew this cat was going to be OK," Witherspoon says. "He asked me if I was all right."

"I was like, 'Me?! Are you all right?' He was way more hurt than me. But I never saw this guy cry or get down. And man, look at the situation he was in. He never changed. He was the most positive person, the funniest, a comedian 24/7."

Some quick perspective: Football was never a Friday night hobby for Watts. He confided to Witherspoon that the sport was his "haven." As a teen, he boldly aimed his body and mind toward an NFL life. Now, he couldn't move his right arm.

That night, surgeons mended the ripped biceps muscles. With his nerve in tatters, though, Watts' right hand curled up. He just looked at the lump and saw humor.

"I called it 'the claw,'" Watts says with a grin. "Some of my friends called me Hanson." That in reference to the deformed butler character from "Scary Movie 2."

The critical repair came when doctors later transplanted a tendon from Watts' wrist into his hand, allowing the ring and pinky fingers to stretch and return to normal. But numbness remained.

By late summer 1999, Watts was running practice routes with his senior teammates at Banneker High School. His speed never waned. But he had to re-learn how to catch a football, relying more on his quick feet and less on his weak right hand.

"It was a lot of body at first, a lot of chest," Watts says. "A lot of jumping up, trying to get in the right area. Then it was just - keep on catching it and working it, and trying to get my hands on the ball the best way I could."

"To me, it looked like he caught it more with the opposite hand," adds his high school coach, Jim Fletcher. "If you look at him catching the football, he still catches it a little funny."

Throwing three of every four passes Watts' way, Banneker burst into the Georgia prep playoffs for the first time in 11 years. Watts racked up 34 receptions and eight touchdowns as a senior. Friends dubbed him "Spider-Man."

The arm injury scared off some recruiters, but Marshall University saw Watts as the next coming of its most famous alum, Randy Moss. With 4.4 speed in the 40-yard dash, former coach Bob Pruett called Watts sneaky fast, with enough jukes to create sudden space on defenders.

Still, there were worries about his right hand.

"Early on, he dropped some. But we took a little rubber ball and made him bounce it off the wall with that hand," Pruett says. "He was a tireless worker. Mainly, he overcame an adversity with hard work."

With 47 touchdown catches, the 6-foot-2, 190-pound Watts left Marshall three short of the Division I-A record. He also became the first Mid-American Conference receiver to break the 4,000-yard mark. Broncos coach Mike Shanahan crunched the numbers and dropped a second-round pick on Watts in the 2004 draft.

His debut season was bright early, dark late. In the first half, Watts grabbed 21 of his 31 rookie receptions. In the eighth game - a bitter home loss to Atlanta - he dropped a ball in the end zone with 3:58 remaining that would have pulled the Broncos within seven.

Then came Oakland. With Denver down one and driving, Jake Plummer's pass to the end zone floated between Watts' hands during the final minute. The Raiders then blocked a 43-yard field-goal attempt to preserve the lead. The loss sent Denver into a 2-3 spiral down the stretch.

Given his 2004 finish, Watts' summer rituals make sense.

"Working on my hands, catching the ball, and I just want my confidence level to go up more," he says.

And, back at his house, he has been squeezing that rubber ball to build hand strength. But this season, if talk turns to dropped passes, Witherspoon has some words of warning.

"Best not even mention that (injury) around him," Witherspoon says. "That just ticks him off. ..."

"He doesn't want you to feel sorry for him. Like when I used to play him in one-on-one in high school, he would be thinking, 'I've got one and a half arms, and you're gonna get it.' "

Staff writer Bill Briggs can be reached at 303-820-1720 or bbriggs@denverpost.com.

BRONCOS TRAINING CAMP

Williams says dodgy past behind him, working to be best corner

By FRANK SCHWAB THE GAZETTE

ENGLEWOOD - Denver Broncos rookie Darrent Williams spent plenty of time before April's draft cleaning up the mess from his senior season at Oklahoma State.

After being first-team All-Big 12 Conference and a semifinalist for the Jim Thorpe Award given to the best defensive back in the nation as a junior, he started only four games because of a broken forearm his senior year. Williams, a cornerback who was Denver's second-round draft pick, was suspended for the Cowboys' bowl game by his coaches.

"I had to go through a lot of adversity," Williams said. "Going through all that adversity before I got here made me know I can handle this (being in the NFL)."

Williams' senior year was going well before he broke his right forearm making a tackle in the fourth game. He sat out three games, tried returning but reinjured the arm after a few plays. That was the final game of Williams' college career.

Williams was suspended about a week before the Alamo Bowl against Ohio State. The official reason was that Williams violated team rules. The Daily Oklahoman, citing team sources, said Williams was suspended for attitude problems.

Williams said although the team trainers cleared him to play in the bowl game, a doctor who looked at his arm said he risked reinjuring it. Williams' concerns about playing caused friction between him and some coaches.

Williams said miscommunication over an incident in which he left a prebowl practice early led to his suspension. Williams said he was getting treatment for most of practice and was told by the trainer, unbeknownst to the coaches, he could leave because only 15 minutes remained in practice.

Joe DeForest was special teams coach and an assistant secondary coach. He wouldn't speak specifically about Williams' injury but didn't blame Williams for the suspension, and that's why he wrote a letter to NFL teams on Williams' behalf. DeForest called Williams "a great kid."

"I made sure NFL teams knew he didn't do anything wrong," said De-Forest, who was promoted to associate coach this offseason.

Les Miles, who was Oklahoma State's coach last year before being hired by LSU this offseason, also wrote a letter to NFL teams recommending Williams.

"I had letters from my head coach and my position coach," Williams said. "I knew it would come up, so I wanted to have all the information I could to explain it so it wouldn't be just my word."

Williams also wrote a diary for The Dallas Morning News leading up to the draft, and one account was titled "I'm Not a Bad Guy," explaining the various issues at Oklahoma State. That article was faxed to each NFL team by Williams' agent Jeff Griffin.

He admits he had some attitude problems, but they were behind him by the time he was a senior.

"My freshman and sophomore year I had a real bad attitude," Williams said. "I'd get into it with my coaches."

Williams also tested positive for marijuana his freshman year, something he said is behind him.

He said as he prepared for his junior year, he spent time talking to some former OSU players who made it to the NFL, including Hall-of-Fame running back Barry Sanders, and that had an impact on him.

"I listened to those guys, and it kind of sparked me," Williams said. "I needed to grow up. I had to listen to the coaches because they were trying to make me better."

"He didn't quite get it early on, but we had to grow. And he had to trust me as his coach and

his mentor," said DeForest, who regularly calls Williams. "That took some time."

Williams' pro career is going well. The Broncos immediately made him their punt and kick returner, and he was promoted Friday to the third cornerback in the nickel package, which uses five defensive backs.

"He was the best player I ever coached," DeForest said. "I told coach (Mike) Shanahan that when he asked me about him."

Williams said he's living a dream being in the NFL, but he's not content.

"I want to be one of the best," Williams said. "Like Champ (Bailey) — when he's done, he's going to be known as one of the best corners. I want to be known as one of the best corners and kick returners to ever play the game."

CONTACT THE WRITER:

476-4891 or

fschwab@gazette.com

D.J. Williams

Wednesday, August 3 at 12:01 AM

Denver Broncos linebacker **D.J. Williams** started 14 games last year during his rookie season in the NFL. Drafted No. 17 overall, Williams led the Broncos in tackles with 114. Some might say the letters "D.J." stand for "Doesn't Joke" because Williams always seems to be in a serious mode of thought.

Q: Everyone says you're a serious guy. They say you don't smile.

Williams: I smile. When it comes to interviews, no . . . but when I'm in the locker room with the guys, I joke around a lot. I take the game serious. I've got to focus out there. I can't laugh and smile too much.

Q: What's the biggest thing you learned from your rookie season?

Williams: You have to be accountable -- mentally prepared more than physically prepared. A lot of things happen in the NFL, a lot of switches and adjustments.

Q: Did you think it would be easier?

Williams: No, I knew it would be tough. It gets tougher every level you move up -- from high school to college, college to the pros. I just got around guys that would teach me the ropes, so I could learn from the best. Now that I know the defense, it's time to make plays.

Q: You don't have that boisterous University of Miami Hurricanes type of personality. How did you break that mold, or do you have some of it in you?

Williams: I have it, too, in some spurts. But I'm just a laid-back guy. When you're out there with 10 other guys that are loud, there's no reason to be loud with them. But I get around those guys, and it starts to come out from time to time.

Q: So do you have that personality trait of a **Ray Lewis**? We see him get wound up and crazy out there.

Williams: Nah . . . Honestly, you know why I really don't do that? I think I probably would pass out. I try to conserve my energy as much as possible. I don't think I have the energy that Ray has. Or like **Al (Wilson)**. Al can be out there yelling all day.

Rudolfo Gonzalez © News

ON THE CHASE: Broncos linebacker D.J. Williams grabs hold of Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick.

Q: What sport do you watch on television that might surprise people?

Williams: I like watching track and field. The sprints. But I also just started watching soccer. I was at an English pub, bar or whatever. They were big on soccer and had it on the Jumbotron. I sat there watching, and it got interesting. It wasn't as boring as I thought it was.

Q: You actually were in England?

Williams: No, no, no. It was like an Irish pub.

Q: What about hockey -- do you know who **Adam Foote** is?

Williams: No.

Q: I read once where someone said they thought you could've gone straight from high school to the NFL. Now that you've played one season, do you think you could've done it -- or if anyone could do it?

Williams: I think it would be a huge, huge adjustment. I think maybe a receiver -- if he was like a man amongst boys. It was **John Madden** who said it, and I think he was talking about physically -- size, speed and strength. But that's not going to get you anywhere in the league. You have to be mentally strong. If you're not mentally strong, all that size and speed isn't going to do anything for you.

Q: There's talk about **Champ Bailey** playing offense and defense. Could D.J. Williams play both sides and make some plays in the NFL?

Williams: I wouldn't want to. I got used to chasing people and got tired of people chasing me. I like where I'm at. But if I scoop and score, I'm trying to get into the end zone.

Q: Is that the ultimate for a defender, to get a ball and score?

Williams: I think it's the ultimate goal for a defensive lineman. They never get a chance. They're down there grunting, doing all kinds of work. They get the ball, get into the end zone and do their little dance. But every defensive player wants to get into the end zone. For one, you're getting off the field and helping your team out. And you get a touchdown.

Q: You grew up in California, so I'm sure you saw a lot of **Jerry Rice** when he played in San Francisco. How strange is it having him as a teammate?

Williams: Actually, I hated the 49ers. I was a Raiders fan. I didn't care about Rice, **Ronnie (Lott)**, **(Joe) Montana** . . . none of those guys. But it's kind of weird being on the same team with some of these guys. I used to collect trading cards, and I've got some of these guys' cards in my basement right now. So it is weird.

Q: You have a big card collection?

Williams: It's not huge. I forget how many I have, but it's pretty big, from when I was 10, 11 years old out there collecting cards. It's not a serious collection that I still pay attention to. I couldn't tell you which cards I have right now.