

**Cardinals vs. Broncos**  
**September 2, 2005**  
**Head Coach Mike Shanahan**

**Opening Remarks:**

"What I liked today was how guys stepped up, especially on the second team. They had a chance to play against all of their starters in the first half, and I was pleased because that's what happens during the regular season. You're going to lose some starters, some guys that are the leaders on your football team, and you have to have depth. You have to have guys that are going to step up and play consistently."

**On impending roster cuts:**

"It's always tough, anytime you get to this part of the season, especially when you have guys who have been playing as consistently as we've had throughout this preseason -- and guys working extremely hard through the offseason. That's the nature of this profession. We have a lot of guys that can play, and a number of guys who will be cut who will play in the National Football League someday. And that's the tough part of the decisions at this point."

**On the performance of WR Darius Watts**

"I was proud of the way he bounced back. Guys have to do that. There's a lot of pressure on them, and they're getting paid to perform. When they're inconsistent, they have a responsibility to the entire football team to go out there and get the job done. There was a lot of pressure on his shoulders today about making plays, both in the running game and the passing game, and I thought he looked good. Players obviously have a lot more confidence in him today than they did the day before."

**On the performance of QB Bradlee Van Pelt**

"Bradlee, I thought played well. I thought the first game he came out of the gates and played well, and I thought his next two games were average. He needed to come back with a good game, especially against a team that's been pretty good. He had a chance to go against some of the starters, and I was pleased with the focus he had tonight and some of the plays he made on his own. He looks like he's ready to go for the season."

**On the play of his second unit against Arizona's starters**

"That's what you want to see. Obviously it wasn't perfect, by no means, but we had a chance to see some of our second unit play against some of their starters, and it's always good evaluation. Like I mentioned before, you never know when a guy's going to go down during the season, and sometimes a number of guys go down and you still have to be able to step up and get the job done--much like New England did last year after losing a few of their defensive backs. It's going to happen to every team, and you still have to find a way to win. It was a good sign today."

**On the starting punt returner**

"We're not going to go through the depth chart and who's going to be the punt returner. We'll keep that a secret all the way until game time and right after the Miami game we'll get a chance to talk about Charlie [Adams] or Darrent Williams, and all those other guys you're interested in. Obviously, for competitive reason, we won't share that until after the game."

**On the overall picture for the Broncos**

"As I told our team, we're 0-0. We've had a good preseason and a good training camp, and now it's time to go get it done. We're ready to go play a game. Now you have to go play at that level consistently when it counts. I've been pleased with where we're at thus far, and hopefully we can keep it going."

**Denver Broncos Player Quotes**  
**September 2, 2005**

**Quarterback Bradlee Van Pelt**

**On the possibility of being cut**

"It's not a fun feeling. It's not good and you're going to lose a lot of friends. The season is a lot smaller and it has a different feeling to it. It's a business and you're job is on the line, too. You have to relish the opportunity that is in front of you and hopefully I won't be cut tomorrow."

**On the chance of being the second string quarterback**

"There is nothing gaurenteed here. At any minute the carpet can be pulled underneath your feet. You always have to come prepared and work hard and relsiah the opportunity that you have here."

**Quarterback Jake Plummer**

**On possibility of Van Pelt being second string**

"He has a great opportunity of being the backup here. He had some ups and downs tonight, but I think he looked good out there. He had a rough start, but he can work at that. It was nice to see him get out there and bounce back and make some good plays for us."

**On Van Pelt getting more playing time in the preseason**

"I think that is great for him. It's not just mop-up duty where every mistake is magnified. He got a chance to play in the third quarter and he had some good plays and some bad plays. There were some throws that he wishes he could have back, but he also made some great plays for us."

**On wanting to play the final preason game**

"I want to play every game. I always wanted to come back. I love this stadium and I have a lot of great memories here."

**On the team heading into the regular season**

"We didn't really change much, offensively. On defense, we made some moves. Our offense was very productive last year. We're healthier and better, than last year. Mike Anderson is back and Tatum [Bell] is a year better. I feel great about our offense right now."

**Running Back Tatum Bell**

**On competeing with Mike Anderson for the starting position**

"We both have been working hard since camp started. Going through mini-camp and film session, we both have worked hard. Mike has been consistent with his work. He's been out fighting everyday and he's been out there taking care of business."

**On the depth of the team**

"That's exactly what we want to do. We want everybody going out there and playing hard. On film they've showed second and third team's dominating. We feel like we can compete with anybody. We can show it on the field and I am proud of every guy in here."

**Arizona Cardinals Head Coach Dennis Green**  
**Arizona Cardinals vs. Denver Broncos**  
**September 2, 2005**

**Opening Statement:**

"I think that we just couldn't get it. They outplayed us across the board. We missed tackles and we were out of position a lot. I think offensively we probably could have caught up to them. It looked like we were starting to get some things we could do, primarily throwing. We're not running the ball very well, but I think we are going to throw the ball pretty well. So we might throw more than we'd like to and if that's the case we'll live with it. Many times you've got to do one or the other well and the rest of them respond. If we need to get people to defend the pass to create the run, then that's what it might be."

**On whether the run game's struggles are because of the offensive line:**

"I think it's everything. It depends on who you're playing. I think the AFC probably has the best offense and defense in the game, so they're probably the best division. We're going to start playing and talking about the season and then we'll take it. There's no sense in dwelling on the preseason. I've probably talked enough about it already."

**On J.J. Moses:**

"He has good ball skills. I think that right now we've got two or three guys that can return punts and he's one of them. He clearly can do a lot of stuff with the ball and he's got excellent quickness. That's an element we've been looking for the last couple of years and have not been able to find it."

**On not having any major injuries during the game:**

"I think Elton Brown was the only injury, but I think he's OK. He kind of sprained his knee a little bit. Denver came out healthy and I think we came out healthy and that's what you want. We didn't play (Robert) Griffith or Bertrand Berry. Most of the other guys got some taste. I think the first offense had 12 or 13 plays."

**On the offensive line:**

"I think one of those two guys has to get out and play it well. (Shawn) Lynch, we functioned. He played the entire game. He had to get a feel for it. He didn't come out because we wanted to give (Adam) Haayer a chance to see if he could play tackle and (Ian) Allen to see if he could play guard. So everyone was getting to play a lot of different things and Lynch had to play the whole game and he did a good job at it."

**On being ready for the first regular season game:**

"We'll be ready. Absolutely."

**Kurt Warner**

**On the rhythm of the offense:**

"I think we got rhythm in the second series and when you've only got two series it is good to end up that way. It is all relative. We have got into a rhythm a number of times this year when we were able to make plays, move the football, put the ball into the end zone. Now it is just a matter of consistently doing it. Drive in, drive out, put a whole game together. I feel good finishing up the way we did but we've still got some work to do. As we go into the season we have got to get better."

**On the offense not using the run game:**

"There is no question that when you play a 16 game season you have to establish the run. We have to continue to work on that area. If we need to throw it every down to be successful we will do it but we know that to be successful and be the team we want to be we have to establish the run. We need to give people the threat of that. When they leave one less guy in the box we need to be able to run it and be effective in the passing game. It is stuff that we need to continue to work on to get better."

**On comfort with Shawn Lynch at center:**

"He did great tonight. No issues. The biggest compliment that you can give to a guy like that is that I didn't even think about it. Didn't think about the snaps, didn't think about the calls he was making. He seemed to be on. I guess we will all look at the film but as far as I'm concerned he did a good job."

**On Bryant Johnson stepping up:**

"He had a tremendous game. I have so much confidence in B. J. and in what he is doing and the way he is playing football. I was able to let the ball go before he was in the top end of his route. He is at the point now where I can trust him no matter what situation we are in. I know where he is going to be and what he is going to do and he continues to make big plays for us. From the first day that I saw B. J. I was impressed with the way that he worked and the way that he ran. I feel like in this offense he can have a huge year. He did nothing to second guess that for me since the first time I saw him on the football field. I don't know what happened in the past or what people say about the past but I am extremely excited about B. J. and what he is doing."

**On whether he is excited to begin preparing for a regular season opponent:**

"I think the older you get, you get tired of training camp and the preseason games. Obviously you know what is needed and you enjoy that challenge part of it but you are ready to play and read for it to count, to be out there and be ready to compete for sixty minutes. That is one of the hard things about preseason. You get in for a play or two and then you might go away and feel bad about the performance and you only played fifteen snaps. I think it will be nice to get in there and take that step forward and I think that this organization is ready to take that step forward. Now is when it really counts. Preseason is great but you're ready to take that step forward and now is when it really matters."

**On playing his former teams in the first two regular season weeks:**

"I think it is going to be fun. It is going to be exciting for me, but do I think about it or want to win it any more than any other game? No. I want to win every game this year and it starts in New York and it comes back here with St. Louis. It would be nice to beat those teams. I'm not going to lie to you but it is about this big picture. It is about this team and winning every game and they just happen to be the first two. It is going to be exciting for me and for the team."

**Cardinals QB Josh McCown****On finishing the preseason 3-1:**

"I have been here and been 4-0 in the preseason and I have been around when we were 0-4 and I don't think either one left us with a good vibe. I think 3-1 might be right on because I think it is good to win a lot of games but then to experience the loss of a game, especially with the younger guys, it helps you understand where your game needs to be at. I don't know if you would want to lose your last preseason game, but never-the-less, in some ways it can be good for you."

**On how close the offense is to being where the team wants it:**

"I think we are very close. I think when you look at the first unit, what Kurt (Warner) and those guys were doing, it kind of started slow but then they got it going a little bit later and finished with a touchdown. I think the running game is close. We just need to work out some kinks, but all-in-all we are pretty close to where we want to be. We have another week where we can work some things out and there is a whole gamut of our offense that you hold just like everyone else does. I think when we start adding those things in it will help us."

**On how he felt tonight:**

"I was relaxed. I just wanted to go out and be efficient and move the ball. You know what you are going to get in the fourth game of the preseason. They (Broncos) are going to keep it vanilla. They blitzed every now and then but for the most part they kept it simple. When that happens you just want to stay calm and complete your balls. I think some things got away from us. Some miscommunication with some receivers, but for the most part we moved the ball well with the second offense. That is what you are looking for with these last games, to move the ball well top-to-bottom. We moved the ball well and now it is just the matter of finishing."

**On how ready he is for next Sunday:**

"I said that to somebody tonight walking out. It is fun, especially when you are in a back-up role. The preseason is fun because you get to play. But I told somebody that opening day in New York is going to be special. Opening day is always fun and I can't wait for that. You are excited to play (today's) game but in the same sense, you can just smell the air in New York and you are just ready to go. That atmosphere, there is nothing like it and I can't wait for it."

**Denver Broncos 30, Arizona Cardinals 21  
September 2, 2005**

**Cardinals Player Quotes**

**Arizona Cardinals Guard Reggie Wells:**

*On tonight's game:*

"We are going to have to go back and look at the tape, we had a lot of guys who did a lot of things right. We will be opening it up with some rushing and I think we will be alright."

*Tonight's team:*

"I really don't know. The guys that are out there, if they are putting on a uniform, are expecting to play. I cant really say that one game is more important than the other. Maybe there were more guys [tonight] that didn't play as much as they normally would have. Hats off to the Bronco's, they did what they had to do. We will go back now and get some things ironed out."

**Arizona Cardinals Running Back Marcel Shipp:**

*On finishing pre-season:*

"It's time now, we have put in a lot of preparation, training camp went well and I think we are ready now. We will practice this week to get ready for the New York Giants and go in there with our 'A' game"

**Arizona Cardinals Cornerback Antrel Rolle:**

*On tonight's game:*

"I am used to playing every game very competitively. It seemed like both sides were kind of easing up a little bit to avoid injury, which I understand but that is just something that I am not used to. It was important to make sure that everyone came out of here injury free. "

*On beginning regular season:*

"I am very excited, as well as my teammates. We were talking on the sidelines saying 'we can't wait until September 11th to go play the Giants.' We have to make the best run for it."

**Arizona Cardinals Wide Receiver Bryant Johnson:**

*On tonight's game:*

"It definitely felt good. There is nothing better than getting those reps in for practice in a preseason game. I feel comfortable with the way the offense is going and that my playmaking ability is about to take over. I felt this was the most comfortable I have felt since I have been in this league. Throughout training camp this year, I got a lot of reps."

*On making big plays:*

"It makes me feel good and I think it makes the offense feel good when there are 11 playmakers out there. Things are going well. There is a trust system [between the quarterback and receivers], we have to trust that he will get the ball there and he has to trust that we will be in the right place at the right time and I think we are doing a wonderful job of that. We all have to do our jobs."