

T.C. McCartney, grandson of Bill McCartney, expected to be named Broncos QB coach

By Ryan O'Halloran
The Denver Post
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The Broncos are expected to hire San Francisco 49ers offensive assistant T.C. McCartney as their new quarterbacks coach.

As of Tuesday night, McCartney had not signed a contract, but had interviewed with the Broncos, a source said, confirming a report by The Athletic.

McCartney, 29, is the grandson of former Colorado coach Bill McCartney and the son of late CU quarterback Sal Aunese.

For the last two years T.C. McCartney was on the same 49ers staff as new Broncos offensive coordinator Rich Scangarello. The 49ers went outside the organization for Scangarello's replacement, hiring former Miami Dolphins tight ends coach Shane Day.

After graduating from Boulder's Fairview High in 2007, where he was coached by his uncle, Tom McCartney, T.C. joined the LSU program as a quarterback. The Tigers' coach was Les Miles, a former CU assistant under Bill McCartney.

T.C. McCartney's coaching career includes graduate assistant posts at LSU (2011) and Colorado (2012-13) and stops with the Cleveland Browns (2014, quality control), LSU (offensive assistant, 2016) and the 49ers (2015 and 2017-18).

McCartney could be tasked with helping develop a rookie quarterback if the Broncos use the 10th overall pick on a passer or a selection in the second or third rounds. He is the fifth new offensive assistant coach, joining Scangarello, offensive line coach Mike Munchak, assistant offensive line coach Chris Kuper and tight ends coach Wade Harman.

For former Broncos RB C.J. Anderson, it's a happy — and unlikely — return to the Super Bowl

By Ryan O'Halloran
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Three times in nine months, C.J. Anderson got the dreaded call that he was being released.

And all three times, Anderson believed the Broncos, Carolina and Oakland giving up on him wasn't an indictment on his talent as a running back.

The Broncos?

"Because of salary cap space and because of a young running back in Devontae Booker they drafted," Anderson said.

The Panthers?

"Christian McCaffrey emerged."

The Raiders?

"Two o-linemen got hurt and you need to protect Derek Carr."

In four games for the Los Angeles Rams, Anderson's self-confidence has been confirmed. He can still gain yards. He can still score touchdowns. He can still carry a team's running game.

Anderson, signed by the Rams last month, has rushed 82 times for 476 yards and four touchdowns in two regular season and playoff games apiece (all wins). Todd Gurley will start in Sunday's Super Bowl against New England, but Anderson will have a role.

"It was not a talent issue, if that makes sense," Anderson said of his 2018 travels. "I would say I fit all of those schemes and systems well. At 27 years old, I was still in my prime."

Anderson's nomadic adventure began when he was cut by the Broncos on April 16, two years into a four-year, \$18 million contract. He led the Broncos with 1,007 rushing yards in 2017.

Both sides explained the move as salary cap-related (the Broncos saved \$4.5 million), but the other indicators were either clear or would become clear.

After the 2017 season, running backs coach Eric Studesville (the only position coach in Anderson's career) was fired. During the pre-draft process, the Broncos hosted Rashaad Penny and Ronald Jones for visits. And on draft weekend, the Broncos selected Royce Freeman (third round) and David Williams (seventh round) and signed free agent Phillip Lindsay.

Out of the Broncos' plans, Anderson didn't wait long (23 days) before joining the Panthers. But he had only 24 carries in nine games and was waived Nov. 12.

Three weeks later, Anderson signed with the Raiders, but was waived six days later without appearing in a game.

Veterans cut in early December rarely re-surface in general — especially not with a playoff team. But the Rams called after backup running back Malcolm Brown sustained a fractured clavicle.

Anderson signed with Los Angeles on Dec. 19, a move that proved valuable because Gurley was nursing a bad knee. As Gurley was held out, Anderson rushed 20 times for 167 yards and 23 times for 132 yards in wins over Arizona and San Francisco that helped the Rams secure a first-round playoff bye.

“The thing C.J. did coming in was that he was all about the work,” Rams coach Sean McVay said. “He did a great job on a short week digesting the game plan and you could immediately see that he was a very smart, cerebral player and had a great understanding of the big picture of the running back spot.”

Gurley returned for the Dallas playoff game and gained 115 yards on 16 carries. But there was still plenty of work for Anderson, who gained 123 yards and two touchdowns on 23 carries.

“He's done a great job for them,” Patriots defensive line coach Brendan Daly said. “We played him when he was in Denver and he was a good, productive back and we had a hard time dealing with him. Since he got picked up by the Rams, he's been tremendous and they've used him well.”

In the win over New Orleans, Gurley carried only four times for 10 yards. Anderson rushed 16 times for 44 yards.

“You show me anybody that's great in anything they do and I'll show you somebody that has persevered and demonstrated mental toughness to overcome obstacles,” McVay said of Gurley. “I have to do a much better job of giving Todd opportunities (Sunday) and get him going. He's going to be a big part of this game.”

And Anderson might be, too.

This will be Anderson's third Super Bowl. He gained nine yards on two carries in the Broncos' Super Bowl loss to Seattle and rushed 23 times for 90 yards (one touchdown) in the win over Carolina.

“All three Super Bowl appearances are the same,” Anderson said. “The difference is my story and how I got here. We always played the Patriots for something big (during his Broncos' career), but playing them for it all is the only other difference.”

T.C. McCartney, son of late CU QB Sal Aunese, is interviewing for Broncos' QB coach job

By Mike Klis

9 News

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The legacy from one of the most inspiring players in Colorado football history is joining the Broncos' coaching staff.

T.C. McCartney, the son of Sal Aunese and Kristy McCartney and the grandson of former University of Colorado coaching icon Bill McCartney, has reached agreement to become the Denver Broncos' new quarterbacks coach position, a source told 9news.

9News was also the first to report the Broncos have hired former Wagner offensive coordinator Rob Calabrese as their new offensive assistant. McCartney and Calabrese had previously worked under Rich Scangarello, the Broncos' new offensive coordinator.

Aunese was the Colorado Buffaloes' starting quarterback in 1987-88, before he was diagnosed with inoperable stomach cancer in the spring of 1989. He became an inspiration to the CU Buffs' football team that started 11-0 behind coach Bill McCartney and Aunese's replacement, sophomore quarterback Darian Hagan, before losing the national championship game to Notre Dame in the Orange Bowl.

Timothy Chase "T.C." McCartney was born April 24, 1989; his father died five months later on September 23, 1989. T.C. graduated from Boulder Fairview High School – where his uncle Tom McCartney was his football coach -- in 2007.

T.C. then went to LSU where he was a reserve quarterback for head coach Les Miles, before starting his coaching career in 2012 as a CU Buff offensive graduate assistant.

He spent the past two years as an offensive assistant on Kyle Shanahan's staff with the San Francisco 49ers. The Broncos' offensive coordinator is Rich Scangarello, who spent the past two seasons as the 49ers' quarterbacks coach.

Champ Bailey as he awaits Hall of Fame vote: 'It's nerve-wracking'

By Mike Klis

9 News

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It wasn't just speed, athleticism, ballhawking skills and willingness to tackle that made Champ Bailey a Hall of Fame-caliber cornerback.

It was his innate awareness. He didn't come up with 19 interceptions in back-to-back seasons of 2005-06 without being aware.

Champ understands the emotional swing at stake Saturday when a 48-member voting committee gathers to elect the Pro Football Hall of Fame class of 2019.

"It's nerve-wracking," Bailey told 9NEWS in a phone conversation Tuesday. "Everybody's telling me good look. Just rolling with it, man. Just rolling with it."

Bailey was told of the 9NEWS straw poll of Hall of Fame voters that revealed he was running third on the 15-finalist modern-era ballot. The two slam dunks are tight end Tony Gonzalez and safety Ed Reed, who like Bailey are in their first year of Hall of Fame eligibility.

Bailey earned 12 Pro Bowl berths – the most ever by a cornerback and three more than Reed – in his 15-year career, yet he is considered a step below the level of Gonzalez and Reed for the class of 2019.

"I look at this thing objectively and I feel the same way," Bailey said. "There hasn't been a safety as productive as Ed Reed. And a Super Bowl winner as well.

"Tight end, there hasn't been a tight end as productive as Gonzalez. I don't have a ring. Now, I don't think there's been a corner as consistent as me. But you look at other first-ballot corners, Deion (Sanders) and Darrell (Green), they have multiple rings," Bailey said. "There's a lot more team success on their side than mine. Mine is a lot of personal success – which is what this thing should be weighted on anyway. But team success definitely doesn't hurt."

As is the case with Ty Law, the former New England cornerback who is perhaps the primary reason why Champ has to sweat the process. Bailey may have been the better player, but Law had three Super Bowl rings during the start of the Patriots' run. Perhaps, both will get elected.

Although Bailey lives in the city limits of Atlanta, where already inducted Hall of Famers and this year's HOF finalists will gather, he will stay in a downtown hotel as if he's coming from out of town. The family of Broncos owner Pat Bowlen, and former Broncos' safeties Steve Atwater and John Lynch are also HOF finalists.

Bowlen is expected to be elected without much debate. Atwater and Lynch are longshots because two other safeties are expected to be elected – Reed and senior nominee Johnny Robinson.

There is a Hall of Fame reception on Thursday, a Hall of Fame luncheon on Friday, and then the nervous wait while hoping for a knock on the hotel door Saturday.

If the Hall voters read the following chapter 5 from the book, Fifty Greatest Players in Denver Broncos History, there would 100 percent certainty Hall president David Baker will come knocking on Bailey's door. The following excerpt was published in November, 2017:

No. 5, CHAMP BAILEY, cornerback, 2004-2013

The first difficult, front-end decision for this project was choosing between Shannon Sharpe and Champ Bailey for the fourth-best player in Broncos' history, or first player after the Big Three of John Elway, Terrell Davis and Peyton Manning.

The argument for Champ: He was the best defensive player for a franchise that boasts more great defensive players than offensive players. Among our top 50, 25 were defensive players, 22 were offensive players, and three were specialists (kicker Jason Elam and the versatile Rick Upchurch and Gene Mingo, whose greatness were as specialists). So it was past time to get a defensive player on the list.

As for splitting hairs between Bailey and Sharpe, we project Bailey to be a first-ballot Hall of Famer when he becomes eligible in 2019. He did, after all, earn 12 Pro Bowl berths, the most ever for a cornerback. Sharpe was inducted in his third year of eligibility.

However, we ultimately gave Sharpe the No. 4 slot because at the time of his retirement he held all the tight end records for catches, receiving yards and touchdowns. In other words, he was the all-time best at his position. And again, the criteria that applied to placing Terrell Davis as high as No. 2 and Von Miller at No. 6 was that Super Bowls trumped all tiebreakers.

Sharpe was part of two Super Bowl championship teams. Bailey got to two AFC Championship Games – he was The Reason they got to host the AFC Championship in the 2005 season -- and one Super Bowl. But his Broncos fell short of a Super Bowl ring each time.

Ultimately, so long as Champ's in the top 5 and the first defensive player listed, we felt good about his placement.

"I appreciate you rating him that way," said John Lynch, a safety teammate of Bailey's from 2004-07 and another top 50 Bronco. "I think because of his quiet demeanor and lack of bravado, I think he's a severely underrated player. It's hard to say that for someone who everyone says will be a first ballot Hall of Famer. I think people are missing the boat, though, on how good this guy was, how special he was.

"In my mind, he was one of the greatest defensive players ever to play the game. He combined an athleticism that was obvious. He ran -- if you say 4.3 in this league that's about as fast as it gets. But people forget Champ came in with a 4.2. He was one of the fastest players to ever play. He could jump out of the gym, change direction.

"But on top of all that he was a student of the game. I fought hard at Fox (network) to hire him after he retired. They said, 'Well, he's a quiet guy.' And I said, 'Yeah but he's one of the most intelligent football players, one of the most cerebral football players I've ever been around.' So he combined that intelligence along with the will to win.

“It irked me a little when people would put Darrelle Revis as the best cornerback in the league when Champ was in his heyday. I think Champ did all the things he did, but you also affect the game when you have all those interceptions. So I felt like Champ was on a different level.”

Bailey’s best statistical seasons were in 2005, when he had 9 interceptions for 239 return yards – including a 100-yard pick return of a Tom Brady pass in a second-round AFC playoff game that amounted to a 14-point swing in the Broncos’ 27-13 victory -- and in 2006 when he had 10 interceptions with 162 return yards.

Put those two seasons together and Bailey compiled an astounding 19 interceptions for 401 return yards, two touchdowns, and practically a third.

“It’s funny thinking back about how great those two years were because you don’t see anybody having years like that now,” Bailey said in November, 2016. “You don’t see guys having that number of interceptions and having that much of an impact on the defense.

“I’m not going to lie, it’s a little harder on corners these days. It was hard back then, but the game is tailored to put up points. With the rules, you can’t find that shutdown corner like you used to. You have guys that are really good at it today, but to ask these guys to man up and do it every single play, it’s very hard to do it.”

To prove Bailey’s point, after his 10-pick season in 2006, the NFL’s last 10 interception season was a year later, in 2007, by San Diego’s Antonio Cromartie. Which was a bit fluky because Cromartie otherwise never had more than 4 picks in a season and finished his career with 31 interceptions. Bailey had 52 career picks (tied for 26th all-time), 34 in his 10 seasons with the Broncos.

Champ’s prime tops in modern-era

In the past 36 years, no one has had more interceptions in back-to-back seasons (counting postseason) than Champ Bailey’s 19 in 2005-06. And only 7 defensive backs had more interceptions in a two-year stretch:

Defensive back, Team	INTs	Years
Lester Hayes, OAK	25	1979-80
Don Doll, DET	23	1949-50
Jack Christiansen, DET	21	1953-54
Tom Keane, DAL/BAL	20	1952-53
Everson Walls, DAL	20	1981-82
Bill Bradley, PHI	20	1971-72

Otto Schnellbacher, NYG ... 20 ... 1950-51

Champ Bailey, DEN 19 ... 2005-06

Dainard Paulson, NYJ 19 ... 1964-65

Sammy Baugh, WAS 19 ... 1942-43

Bailey's interceptions shrunk drastically starting in 2007, when quarterbacks gave him the Deion Sanders' treatment and stopped throwing in his direction.

"He was a shutdown corner in the truest sense of the term," said Broncos kicker Jason Elam. "After those two big seasons he had, teams didn't go after him pretty much. One of the most natural athletes I've ever been around. Talk about quiet and going about his business. He wasn't going to be all talk. He knew he was going to be prepared. He was going to be quietly humble and then tear you up on Sunday."

There was one other aspect of the cornerback position where Bailey was superior to Revis – tackling. Bailey had 699 tackles in his 15 NFL seasons, including 71 and 73 for the Broncos in his otherworldly 2005-06 seasons.

It was Bailey's willingness to tackle that puts him in the conversation for one best lockdown cornerbacks in NFL history. Sanders? Please. Receivers couldn't shake him, but he gave ball carriers the Ole' treatment on his way to recording 200 less tackles than Bailey. Revis, who was still active at the time of this writing, has nearly 300 fewer tackles than Champ.

"It was my attitude," Bailey said. "I wanted to be great at everything. If I was asked to tackle, I wanted to be great at tackling. If I had to block on an interception return, I wanted to be the best blocker. It was me wanting to be great at every part of my game. When there were special plays on offense, I wanted to be great at it. Punt returning. I don't know any other way to be."

The kid from Folkston

Roland "Champ" Bailey Jr. grew up near the Okefenokee Swamp, in a small, if growing southeast Georgia town of Folkston (population 2,178 in 2000, but nearly doubled to 4,148 by 2010). He was the third of four children raised by Roland Sr. and Elaine Bailey.

"We were out there in the hot, humid climate, all day, every day," Champ said. "In the sand, throwing it around with our guys. That's what we did. Playing football, basketball, anything with a ball, we were doing it. We thought we could be gymnasts at one point. That's how country it was. It was awesome."

The three boys starred in football from an early age, led by Ron, the oldest who was a two-year starting cornerback at Georgia before his career ended with a foot injury while representing the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in NFL Europe.

Boss, the youngest, also played at Georgia and had a nice NFL career while mostly with the Detroit Lions – and one special year with the Broncos and his brother -- as a linebacker.

But there was no denying that Champ -- a nickname his mom gave him when he was 2 because of his natural affection for anything that was a ball and all the energy he displayed – was the best of the Bailey boys. In fact, at an early age, it was known he was the most sensational young athlete Folkston had ever produced. Larry Allen, who owns a hardware store and coached the Bailey boys at the 11 and 12-year-old levels, said Champ scored 92 touchdowns in those two years.

That doesn't mean Champ thought he would grow up to become the No. 7 overall pick in the 1999 NFL Draft or make \$95.5 million in combined salaries in his 10 years with the Broncos.

"I was always among the best in my age group, or my class," Bailey said. "I think the fact no one had really made it to this level from where I'm from, so nobody gave it much thought (about Champ making it). People close to me knew I had a shot. But you never know because they hadn't seen it. Those dreams usually fade away once you get to college.

But things kept building and building, and I kept grinding and grinding and people started believing."

At Charlton High School, Bailey was not only a star defensive back, he was the team's punter and quarterback until his senior season, when he gave way to younger brother Boss, who had a better arm. Champ wound up rushing for 3,573 yards and 58 touchdowns (even as a quarterback he ran much more than he passed) and threw for 1,211 yards and 10 touchdowns.

At Georgia, Bailey should have been a stronger Heisman Trophy candidate in his true junior season of 1998 as he had 47 catches for 744 yards and five touchdowns as a receiver, three interceptions as a lockdown cornerback, plus he returned kicks and punts. Bailey did finish seventh in the Heisman balloting that year (Texas running back Ricky Williams was the runaway winner) but he was perhaps hurt that a similarly versatile player, Charles Woodson, had beat out Peyton Manning for the Heisman the year before.

Bailey thought he would go higher than No. 7 in the draft, but that was the whacky year when three quarterbacks – Tim Couch, Donovan McNabb and Akili Smith – went one, two, three and New Orleans coach Mike Ditka traded his entire 1999 draft – eight picks, including two in the first round – to Washington to move up and take the running back Williams.

Washington had another first-round pick at No. 7, where they took Bailey.

In his first game, he intercepted Troy Aikman of the Dallas Cowboys. Later in the year, he had a three-interception game against Arizona, with two coming against a quarterback named Jake Plummer.

When Bailey was traded to the Broncos in 2004, no one was happier than Plummer, who had arrived in Denver the year before.

"I didn't like Champ Bailey much when he played for the Redskins," Plummer said. "We played them twice a year and he picked me off five times. I rank highest on his list."

Carson Palmer later tied Plummer for Bailey interceptions with five. One of Bailey's interceptions in his three-pick game against Arizona, he returned 56 yards for a touchdown – a play that infuriated the competitive Plummer.

"I gave chase," Plummer said. "I was going to catch his ass. I knew I couldn't. And the last 5 yards he held the ball out like, 'Ha, Ha.' Pimped me kind of. It was the closest I've ever been to run up and slam him to the ground and start wailing on him because I was having a (bad) game.

"When he signed here with the Broncos, I told him that. I said, 'Man, I used to hate your guts.' And I told him why and he just kind of chuckled. And I loved him. Not the biggest guy but he just made me better day-in and day-out because I knew he wasn't going to do anything half-assed in practice. He did his job, you didn't have to worry about it. He's going to lock the dude down and he was a great teammate."

Bowlen changed Bailey's mind about trade

In his five seasons in Washington, Bailey played in all 80 games. He had five interceptions as a rookie, then one more in a first-round playoff win. He made the Pro Bowl each of the next four years, but Washington never made the playoffs after his rookie season.

At the end of the 2003 season, Bailey's rookie contract was up, and he was in position to become the highest-paid corner in NFL history. Meanwhile, the Broncos had a running back, Clinton Portis, who was making noise about holding out after he started his career with back-to-back 1,500-yard seasons.

A trade was made with Bailey and a second-round draft pick going to Denver and Portis going to Washington. It's inconceivable to think now that the Broncos got not only the best cornerback in football, but a second-round pick as a throw-in, which turned out to be running back Tatum Bell, who later went to have his own 1,000-yard season.

Within five years after the trade, corners were a far more valued position than running backs. The deal was the best thing that happened in Bailey's career as it was not possible for any other fandom to have appreciated him more than those who bleed the orange and blue.

"But I can't say at the time I wanted to get traded," Bailey said. "I was a guy who was a Washington Redskin at 25 years old who was starting to understand how big a market it was to play in Washington, playing in the NFC East. To be a part of an organization that was top 5 in value in the league. I didn't want to leave. There were endorsement opportunities.

"But after a year or two, I knew the difference was Pat Bowlen. You've got a guy who's running the team the way he runs it, you're going to have success. And I knew I had a better chance at having success in Denver than I did in Washington. And that was the best thing that happened to my career."

The highlight of Bailey's career? There were three he singled out. One, was the chance to play with his brother Boss on the same defense in 2008. It didn't work out as hoped as both Baileys suffered injuries that year and the Broncos blew a three-game lead with three to go to miss the playoffs. It was still a rare achievement few families are able to share.

Two, was playing in the Super Bowl in Champ's final season of 2013. Bailey suffered from a Lisfranc injury in his left foot that forced him to miss all but five regular-season games and the Broncos were crushed in that Super Bowl, 43-8, by the Seattle Seahawks.

And we saved his No. 1 highlight for last. Champ fans won't need two guesses to come up with his favorite memory during his time with the Broncos.

"Obviously, the game against the Patriots in the playoffs," Bailey said of the 2005-season, second-round AFC playoff game at Invesco Field at Mile High. "(Tom) Brady was 10-0 (in the postseason.) They were running so hot at the moment. And to be able to eliminate them -- that was a big deal. It gave us a shot to go to the Super Bowl. Even though we didn't, I could see people starting to give us that respect that we deserved, even for myself."

His two most heartbreaking defeats were in the next week's AFC Championship Game against underdog Pittsburgh, and in Super Bowl 48, which turned out to be the final game of his career.

"You know what, they both stunk but when I look back -- it's easy for me to be objective now because I'm away, but the way I feel about it is at least we got to those points," Bailey said. "Yes, I'm upset by the result. But I got there. I'm glad to say that I played in championship games and I played in the Super Bowl. Some guys don't get to experience that."

"I wish we could have won more. I wish I would have finished with two rings. But I can't dwell on it. People tell me to this day I had a great career. I feel like it was great. I appreciated every moment of it."

Phillip Lindsay hopes to be ready for bigger 2019 season

By Jeff Legwold

ESPN

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After the season that running back Phillip Lindsay had, it's easy to forget just how much he overcame.

Former Denver Broncos coach Vance Joseph said: "To come where he came from -- he was like sixth on the depth chart at running back in [training] camp -- you have to have confidence in who you are and what you do to make it. But he also remembers that climb too. That's one guy I don't worry about getting complacent because he believes in himself, but he's also seen there are no substitutes for the work because he's been that guy nobody expected."

Lindsay, who finished his rookie season on injured reserve after post-Christmas wrist surgery, was the biggest revelation of what was a season of struggle overall for the Broncos. He not only became the first player to have participated in the Broncos' Futures middle school football program to go on to play for the team, but he also became the first undrafted offensive rookie to be named to the Pro Bowl.

With 1,037 yards, he led the team in rushing and was second in the league in yards per carry (5.4). And along the way, the 5-foot-8, 190-pounder became the dreams-do-come-true example to those teenagers who swarmed to snatch his jersey off the store shelves and a significant breath of fresh air for a Broncos team that has not now missed the playoffs in three consecutive seasons.

And while at the Pro Bowl this past week -- Lindsay had earned a spot on the AFC's roster and attended as part of the NFL's social media group -- he made it clear that he wants to make his second season better than his rookie year.

Because Lindsay knows what awaits those down the depth chart if they don't take care of their business, since he's been the guy trying to climb up already.

"I'm proving myself again, every year is a new year, if you don't produce you don't play, you're not the starter," Lindsay said. " ... Who's to say they don't go get another [running back]?"

Lindsay often said before, during and since the Broncos' disappointing 6-10 season ended that he has every intention of being more than what he called "just a quick story." So, while his trip to the Pro Bowl was a well-deserved opportunity to be among many of the league's best players, Lindsay also saw it as a fact-finding mission.

"Everybody [at the Pro Bowl] has different stories of how they got here, got to the NFL," Lindsay said. " ... But the best thing probably, honestly -- I've heard a lot of things -- but what I've heard from one of my teammates ... was Emmanuel Sanders ... it's marathon, not a sprint, [the] season's long, preseason's long, OTA, so you've got get better every single day at something. ... You can be hot for five games and cold for three more and everybody thinks you're scum of the NFL."

Lindsay has continued his injury rehab and expects to be able to participate in some parts of the Broncos' offseason program. His original timetable was expected to be a three- to four-month recovery.

The Broncos will open their offseason conditioning program in April and won't do any on-field team or individual work until May and June.

Broncos president of football operations/general manager John Elway said last week that he believed Lindsay was on track to be healthy for the Broncos' offseason work, especially by OTAs and minicamp. Newly hired offensive coordinator Rich Scangarello has already said he sees the Broncos running backs, and the run game in general, as having an important role in the makeover on offense, even as the team attempts to pump up its passing numbers.

Scangarello called it "creating different ways to attack a defense and with that can come innovative ways to run the ball as well ... I think it's the same in the pass game."

"For me the main goal is to be healthy for next year," Lindsay said. "Go to the playoffs and get to a Super Bowl. ... Every year is a battle."

Broncos hire T.C. McCartney as quarterbacks coach

By Jeff Legwold

ESPN

January 30, 2019

The Denver Broncos have hired T.C. McCartney, the grandson of former longtime University of Colorado football coach Bill McCartney, to be the team's quarterbacks coach.

Like offensive coordinator Rich Scangarello, McCartney is coming to the Broncos from the San Francisco 49ers, where both were on Kyle Shanahan's staff. McCartney, who is the son of the late Colorado quarterback Sal Aunese, had been with the 49ers for the past two seasons as well as in 2015.

He had spent the 2016 season on LSU's staff. A former quarterback at LSU as well, including as part of the school's national championship team in 2007, T.C. McCartney had also spent a season with the Cleveland Browns in addition to two years as a graduate assistant at Colorado.

Scangarello said last week he was closing in on a quarterbacks coach and said "we're excited to get the right guy in here."

Bill McCartney is Colorado's all-time winningest coach and his highly successful tenure (1982-94) included the 1990 national championship.

In a statement Tuesday night, Bill McCartney said: "I am thrilled by the news. Ever since TC was young he expressed the desire that someday he wanted to be a coach."

McCartney also added, "TC started at the ground level and worked his way up. He earned this because of his work ethic and how he has become a total student of the game."

T.C. McCartney's arrival essentially fills out Vic Fangio's offensive staff, as Scangarello, offensive line coach Mike Munchak, tight ends coach Wade Harman and assistant offensive line coach Chris Kuper have been hired over the past two weeks, while running backs coach Curtis Modkins and wide receivers coach Zach Azzanni had been retained from Vance Joseph's staff.

Scangarello has already praised the staff's makeup.

"So far, I couldn't be more excited to work with a group of coaches that's just -- their temperaments, their detail," Scangarello said.

"I can tell it's going to be a great staff. I think Coach Fangio has a vision for what he sees in coaches. And I think a big part of that is you have to be a great teacher, you have to be detailed."

Scangarello will be in his first year as a playcaller at the NFL level, and the Broncos figure to add at the quarterback position. Case Keenum is set to be in the last year of his contract and none of the quarterbacks on the roster was selected by Denver in the draft.

The Broncos have used four different starting quarterbacks over the past two seasons and have finished 24th and tied for 26th, respectively, in scoring in those two seasons. And the passing game has been particularly troublesome, even as the team has successfully run the ball.

The Broncos tied for 24th in passing touchdowns this past season and tied for 25th in passing touchdowns in 2017, all while also finishing in the top 10 in interceptions in both of those seasons -- tied for ninth most in 2018, second most in 2017.

Broncos turn to a young but familiar face to revitalize their secondary

By Nicki Jhabvala
The Athletic
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During his 10 seasons in the NFL that took him to four cities and culminated with The Josh McDaniels Experiment in Denver, Renaldo Hill had a habit of drawing the same comments from teammates and coaches alike.

You should really be a coach, they would tell him. When you're done playing, get on the sidelines.

The truth is coaching wasn't so much the end game for Hill as it was the inevitable and earned path.

"I just think my peers and other coaches probably saw it in me before I did," he said. "I knew that it was always there because having coaches like Ed Donatell was giving you a little bit of leadership in the background to make those decisions."

Now, eight years removed from his playing career, Hill, 40, has been entrusted with the Broncos' secondary once more, this time as its defensive backs coach. This will be Hill's first season as a lead positional coach in the NFL, following a year as Miami's assistant defensive backs coach and six years at the collegiate level coaching Wyoming's secondary (2013) and then Pittsburgh's (2015-17).

For a first-timer, the task is tall. John Elway, the architect of the Broncos' Super Bowl-winning defense and its No Fly Zone secondary, has watched his team quickly tumble since reaching the peak of the NFL three years ago.

The defense is in need of a facelift with much of the work needed on the secondary. Hard-hitting safety T.J. Ward was cut before the 2017 season, cornerback Aqib Talib was traded to the Super Bowl-bound Rams six months later, and cornerbacks Bradley Roby and Tramaine Brock are both headed for free agency this year.

That leaves Isaac Yiadom, a 2018 third-round pick, and Brendan Langley, a 2017 third-rounder who struggled to see the field on defense last year, as Harris' lone help at corner.

At safety, do-it-all defensive back Justin Simmons will return, and Darian Stewart has two years left on his deal, although he may be a candidate for restructuring. Safety/dime backer Will Parks is coming off his finest season yet, but Su'a Cravens, a trade acquisition last year, has yet to show much of anything.

"I think it starts with our defensive philosophy and it starts with fundamentals. We like the players that are here and we'll evaluate and see what needs to be added in," Donatell said. "But Vic is going to start with fundamentals and details. He wants people to be accountable. One of the things he prides our teams on is being penalty-free. We want to be one of the lowest-penalized teams because that can help us win. Again, it's early in the process with the defensive backs. Our big thing is minimize explosion. Explosive plays turn into points and we want to minimize that."

For two consecutive seasons (2015-16), the Broncos led the league in pass defense. In 2017, they ranked among the top five in total yards, passing yards and rushing yards allowed.

But in 2018, with an infusion of youth and amid a string of injuries on the back end of its defense, Denver ranked 20th in net passing yards allowed and gave up 56 big passing plays (20 yards or more), the most they've allowed since 2013.

That 2013 defense, remember, was what prompted Elway to spend big in the 2014 offseason and remake the unit.

So what does Hill bring? On the surface, he seems like another question mark among the many for the new staff and soon-to-be-altered roster. But his track record paints him as perhaps exactly what the Broncos need.

For one, he has playing experience amid adversity. He started alongside Champ Bailey and Brian Dawkins in 2009-10, when they went from a top-10 defense in total yards one year, then plummeted to dead last the next. McDaniels was fired before the end of the 2010 season.

With his experience as a player, Hill brings relatability. He was cut by the Broncos in 2011, Harris' rookie year. Hill knows what it's like to be in their shoes, and isn't too far removed from the game. He knows what it was like to work alongside future Hall of Famers and even call them out.

Accountability, he said, is an emphasis. Not just an obligation.

"Guys want to know that you're on top of it. I made that a huge emphasis when I came in here to know everyone's job because I knew on the back end at the safety position that's your responsibility," Hill said. "Guys are in the locker room hanging around, I was in the meeting room because it takes those extra steps to be able to do that. If you're in the heat of battle and you see guys out of place, and you're able to correct them and get them lined up and it works out that's just another notch of trust."

But perhaps most significant is Hill's record of due diligence that earned the trust of Donatell when he was Denver's defensive backs coach from 2009-10.

"They see you go to battle, they see what you do to prepare. From my time here playing to my next step to Wyoming, he's been a part of that," Hill said. "He's been a part of my growth and he would constantly check up on me to see if I'm doing the things that he emphasized."

When the Dolphins informed their staff they could seek opportunities elsewhere in the wake of Adam Gase's firing, Hill's relationship with Donatell brought him back to Denver. But the journey back to Denver started in earnest last year at the NFL combine in Indianapolis, where Hill ran into familiar faces, some who had yet to realize he had already broken into the pro ranks as a coach.

As he did as a player, Hill used the offseason to continue to learn about the game, but from a different perspective.

"I usually get with my mentors and talking ball, whether that's Ron Milus with the Chargers or different people around the league," he said. "When you get to the combine it's definitely a chance to soak up information. My first time going to the combine, so many people were surprised to see me there. They

knew I had been making transitions, but until they saw me at the combine they didn't even know I moved to the Miami Dolphins. It was good and reconnecting with a lot of people from there and people who didn't know. Now I'm in contact with them always looking to better myself as a coach."

It remains to be seen if and how Hill will help the secondary as part of Denver's new defensive-first staff with Donatell and Vic Fangio. But after back-to-back losing seasons and a drop in play from one of the Broncos' most consistent groups, the change is welcome.

And maybe it will be just what is needed.

Broncos will hire T.C. McCartney for quarterbacks coach job

By Troy Renck

KMGH

January 30, 2019

After interviewing T.C. McCartney at UCHealth Training Center on Tuesday, the Denver Broncos will hire him as the team's next quarterbacks coach, multiple sources confirmed to Denver7 Tuesday.

McCartney worked with new offensive coordinator Rich Scangarello in San Francisco and is a familiar name to some in Colorado. He is the grandson of former CU football coaching legend Bill McCartney and the son of late Buffs quarterback Sal Aunese, who died of cancer in 1989. T.C. McCartney attended Boulder Fairview High School before joining LSU's football team where he was part of the Tigers 2007 national championship team.

McCartney began his coaching career at LSU followed by a stint at CU. His NFL career started in Cleveland as a quality control coach. He worked for San Francisco as an offensive assistant in 20015 and 2017-2018.

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NFL's scoring boom contributes to drop in minority coaches

By Dave Campbell and Josh Dubow

Associated Press

January 30, 2019

After all the points were piled up in the second-highest scoring season in NFL history, the popular prototype for a head coach became predictably clear.

Teams on the annual coaching carousel this winter searched for their own version of prodigy Sean McVay, the creative play caller and quarterback whisperer who took the Los Angeles Rams to the Super Bowl in his second season at the helm.

An Associated Press study of coaching staffs for the 2018 season found only four minorities in the stepping-stone positions of offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, just 7.1 percent of 56 jobs. That lack of minority coaches in the pipeline helped contribute to the NFL's sharpest-ever one-year drop in minority head coaches, causing concern among advocates for diversity declaring unsatisfactory progress 16 years after the Rooney Rule was implemented.

The rule named after late Pittsburgh owner Dan Rooney was put in place before the 2003 hiring season and now requires all teams to interview at least one minority candidate for any head coach or general manager vacancy. But the AP study found that nearly three-quarters of all minority assistants were either running backs, receivers, defensive backs coaches, or in lower-level positions like quality control coaches — jobs that historically have not directly led to head coaching opportunities.

So when five black head coaches were fired this past season — Todd Bowles (Jets), Hue Jackson (Cleveland), Vance Joseph (Denver), Marvin Lewis (Cincinnati) and Steve Wilks (Arizona) — only one of the eight overall openings went to a minority with New England defensive assistant Brian Flores set to be hired by Miami after the Super Bowl.

Thus, the ranks of minority head coaches in a league whose players are nearly 70 percent black has been reduced from eight to four in just one year. Not since the first year of the Rooney Rule will a season begin with fewer minority head coaches in the NFL: Flores, Anthony Lynn (Chargers), Ron Rivera (Carolina) and Mike Tomlin (Pittsburgh).

To be fair, none of the firing or hiring decisions made this offseason was viewed in a vacuum as unjust. Since the start of the 2016 season, Bowles, Jackson, Joseph, Lewis and Wilks combined for a record of 50-132-2, a woeful winning percentage of .277. Collectively, however, this development has prompted diversity advocates to call on the NFL to consider changes that could help ensure this is a blip rather than a trend.

"Dan's proposal was to slow things down and see what coaches you want and try to come up with a minority candidate or candidates that fit that criteria, and people are not doing that now," said Hall of Fame member Tony Dungy, who was one of two minority head coaches in the NFL when the Rooney Rule was enacted in December 2002.

The success of McVay, who was hired at age 30 by the Los Angeles Rams and turned a four-win team into a Super Bowl participant in just two seasons, might have accidentally had some effect.

McVay's 35-year-old quarterbacks coach Zac Taylor is expected to be the next head coach in Cincinnati despite only five games of experience as an interim offensive coordinator in the NFL.

Matt LaFleur, 39, replaced Mike McCarthy as head coach in Green Bay with just two years of offensive coordinator experience on his resume. Kliff Kingsbury got the top job in Arizona shortly after being fired as a college head coach at Texas Tech.

"I think it is cyclical," Dungy said. "I also think a lot of owners don't know or understand what goes into being a successful head coach. If I coach my quarterback really well I will have a good team, of course, and they feel the guy who coaches the quarterback really will be a successful head coach, but we have seen that's not necessarily the case. For every Doug Pederson or Sean McVay, who are great, we see (many) who don't work out."

The hunt for the next McVay is similar to what happened starting more than a decade ago when coaches with ties to Dungy and his Tampa 2 defensive system were the hot commodities. Four of Dungy's former defensive assistants — all minorities — went on to get head coaching jobs: Tomlin, Herm Edwards, Lovie Smith and Leslie Frazier.

Raheem Morris also got a head coaching job after joining the staff with Tampa Bay after Dungy was fired, and Dungy's former offensive coordinator in Indianapolis, Jim Caldwell, got head coaching opportunities with the Colts and Detroit Lions.

After a season in which the four conference finalists were the four highest-scoring teams in the league, the emphasis is firmly on offense.

"Ratings are up. Points scored are higher. People love offense. The rules have gone to offense. So there's a bias toward offensive head coaches right now," Carolina Panthers owner David Tepper said, while praising the NFL's efforts to enhance ground-level opportunity and aim for more minorities in the paths that typically lead to head coach positions.

Of the 19 minority head coaches in the league since 2002, 14 had primarily defensive backgrounds including Bowles, Joseph, Lewis and Wilks. In 2015, 17 of the 32 head coaches in the NFL came from defensive backgrounds. This year, 20 of 32 will be offense-minded. In 2015, six of the seven new hires had defensive backgrounds. In the four offseasons since then, 21 of the 28 head coaches hired came from offensive backgrounds.

"For whatever reason, the opportunity for minority coaches seems to be stronger on the defensive side of the ball and the coaches that have advanced to become head coaches from the minority perspective, most of them have come from the defensive side," said Steelers president Art Rooney II, son of Dan Rooney. "It's something we need to look at: 'How do we improve the opportunities on the offensive side for minority coaches?'"

There were 11 minority defensive coordinators in the league in 2018, along with Flores, who has called signals this season for New England but was listed officially as the linebackers coach. But only one offensive coordinator (Eric Bieniemy of Kansas City) was a minority. Tampa Bay recently doubled that total

by hiring Byron Leftwich, who started 2018 as one of only three minority quarterbacks coaches in the league before also becoming interim offensive coordinator in Arizona.

Of the 20 offensive head coaches in the league, 16 served as offensive coordinators before getting hired and 17 spent time as quarterbacks coaches or played the position in college or the pros. That is a path that only a handful of minorities are on.

"I think teams are looking too much at the play callers versus a guy that can be the CEO of an organization, a face of the organization, a guy that can lead a football team and get the most out of his players," said Lynn, who spent 14 seasons as a running backs coach before serving as an interim offensive coordinator for Buffalo the year before getting hired by the Chargers. "That has nothing to do with play calling. That has everything to do with a man's character and leadership and guys willing to follow him. You have some excellent play callers that we've proven over and over again that can't be a head coach in this league. We've proven that. It's just a change of thinking in the hiring process."

An AP review of all of the coaching staffs in the league at the start of the 2018 season, excluding administrative assistants, data analysts and strength and conditioning coaches for the purpose of streamlining the count, found that 34.8 percent of the coaches were minorities, 216 of 621.

Breaking out primary position coaches of running backs, wide receivers and defensive backs, the number of minorities in 2018 was 69.6 percent, 71 of 102. But Lynn is one of the rare head coaches whose career path was primarily as a running backs coach. Cleveland's Freddie Kitchens, who is white, is the only other current head coach in the league whose primary stepping-stone job was as a running backs coach.

"If you're really, really committed to giving minorities opportunities, then you must build a pipeline. To build a pipeline you need to bring in minority coaches at the quarterbacks and quality control spots," said John Wooten, executive director of the Fritz Pollard Alliance, an organization that works to foster racial diversity in the NFL. "There are so few quarterback coaches and coordinators at the college level. Consequently, because of that lack, you don't have the area to build from, so you have to go build it yourself. That's what plans we have, to do it that way."

Wooten plans to meet with NFL officials at the upcoming scouting combine to discuss getting teams to commit to hiring more minorities for entry-level jobs that can eventually lead to coordinator or head coaching opportunities.

The league announced in December what it said were stronger provisions for the Rooney Rule. Among several changes, clubs now must interview at least one candidate of diversity from a list compiled by an advisory panel, or a candidate not currently employed by the team. The league is also requiring teams to keep records and provide them when asked by the commissioner.

"We believe more can be done to support the Rooney Rule in the interest of creating an inclusive opportunity platform with the intent that consideration, inclusion and consistency will become rooted in hiring practices," NFL football operations chief Troy Vincent said.

Wooten and others, however, stopped short of endorsing an explicit extension of the Rooney Rule to coordinator jobs, preferring to maintain an atmosphere of autonomy for head coaches in selecting their staffs.

For Lynn, too, there's perspective about the tenuous nature of the profession amid the push for more opportunity.

"I just think it's one of those years. Some guys got let go. It happens every year. I like to look at it as just coaches. I don't like to look at it as black and white coaches," Lynn said last week at the Pro Bowl. "I think we've got to get some good minority coaches coming up through the pipes, and I think there are some really good ones. They need some more opportunities."

Atlanta sounds alarm over snow; New England fans unfazed

By Jeff Martin
Associated Press
January 30, 2019

Atlanta got a mere spritzing of rain Tuesday, hours after a winter weather forecast prompted authorities to close government offices, shutter schools and cancel flights in anticipation of icy streets.

But the southern city was experiencing abnormally frosty conditions as fans arrived for the Super Bowl, with temperatures dropping into the 30s on Tuesday.

New England Patriots fans in town for the game did not panic.

"I grew up in all that snow, and I remember a lot of blizzards up there so this is like nothing unusual," said Stephen Knefel, who grew up in Salem, Massachusetts. "It didn't faze me at all — it's just part of everyday life up in New England."

Patriots' coach Bill Belichick was holed up in the team's hotel downtown, and was oblivious to the weather conditions.

"I haven't been outside of this building today," he said during a Tuesday afternoon news conference at the Hyatt Regency on Peachtree Street. "There could be 8 feet of snow out there, it could be 95 degrees — I have no idea."

Some snow from the feared storm did fall Tuesday in Georgia's northwest corner, but it was sweater weather during Atlanta's morning commute. The shoes of office workers made crunching sounds on downtown sidewalks, where road salt caught the light from outdoor video boards set up for the Super Bowl and reflected shades of blue, red and green.

Ultimately, precipitation from the storm front proved negligible for Atlanta. The plunging temperatures jolted the city, though: It was 50 degrees before dawn and was expected to reach the 20s by Tuesday evening, National Weather Service Meteorologist Sid King said.

Atlanta takes even a threat of icy weather seriously after enduring its infamous "snow jam" five years ago, when cars, trucks and school buses became marooned for hours on the southern city's freeways.

Delta Air Lines "proactively" canceled about 170 flights at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, its main hub, the Atlanta-based airline announced late Monday.

Anticipating the storm, Gov. Brian Kemp announced the closure Tuesday of state offices in more than 30 counties across northern Georgia, saying "temperatures are going to plummet." Atlanta Public Schools closed its campuses, and other area districts followed suit.

"It's very similar to what we saw in 2014 where the roadways will not have time to dry off before the moisture or precipitation on them refreezes," Kemp said Monday. "And that's when you have black ice, and that's what causes wrecks, which causes gridlock and public safety issues, injuries."

Road crews sprayed liquid salt on north Georgia's major interstates, state routes and overpasses, including routes that the New England Patriots and Los Angeles Rams must use to travel to and from practice venues.

Visiting Patriots fan Pamela Wales of Quincy, Massachusetts, said television images shown this week reminded her that Atlanta and ice don't mix well.

"They were showing all kinds of pictures on TV from 2014 when everyone got stuck," Wales said as she toured Super Bowl exhibits at the Georgia World Congress Center.

Sunday's Super Bowl will be played in downtown Atlanta in Mercedes-Benz Stadium, and officials have promised to open its roof if weather permits.

Past Super Bowl weeks have been marred by wintry weather. The week before Green Bay defeated Pittsburgh in 2011, ice coated the roads in Arlington, Texas, and tumbled from the roof of Cowboys Stadium, hurting six workers on the ground.

And in 2000, the St. Louis Rams and Tennessee Titans arrived in Atlanta shortly after an ice storm froze traffic. Both teams had to practice outdoors in the biting cold, since the Georgia Dome, later demolished, was being used for Super Bowl pregame and halftime rehearsals. The Rams wore winter jackets and thermal underwear.

Cashless Super Bowl coming? Visa says yes

By Barry Wilner
Associated Press
January 30, 2019

So you're headed to the Super Bowl some year in the future, and you're wondering how much cash you'll need for the big game.

No worries: During its sponsorship renewal with the NFL through the 2025 season, Visa envisions the first cashless Super Bowl.

It won't be this year, although 50 percent of concession stands that are available for making purchases for Sunday's title game between the Rams and Patriots will be cashless. But it likely is coming.

"Part of what we talk a lot about with the NFL is getting a path to cashless events, and the epicenter is the Super Bowl," says Chris Curtin, Visa's chief brand and innovation marketing officer. "We are working on an architecture that will get us there, it's something we are really keen on.

"We want an experience that from head to toe will be a cashless experience. The NFL has agreed to partner with us in making that a reality. That is where our energy is now. We have a lot of learnings from other partnerships such as the Olympics and World Cup, we would like to apply those learnings to this experience and make it engaging and rewarding and inviting to fans."

And not only at the Super Bowl, but at other league-run events such as the draft, the Pro Bowl, and the international games in London and Mexico City. During Super Bowl week in Atlanta, Visa is activating a dedicated "MVP" checkout lane at the NFL Shop to encourage cardholders to pay with contactless devices and get in and out of line quickly. They also might run into an NFL player manning the checkout.

Eli Manning and Saquon Barkley of the New York Giants and Leonard Williams of the New York Jets will be putting through some shoppers' orders.

"We have athletes affiliated with Team Visa who will do surprising light moments and be 'manning the cashiers,' and also going around town in Atlanta and able to bring a different kind of excitement for people there for the Super Bowl," Curtin says. "The goal is to have best in class experiences in the stadium itself, at the NFL Shop, at the Super Bowl Experience— have a lot of convenience — and be able to see a lot of the faces of all the ad campaigns fans have seen during the season who will be doing things in relation to payments."

The NFL, which re-upped with Visa on Tuesday, likes the idea of no cash for another reason: security.

"Visa has been a trusted partner of the NFL since 1995 and we are excited to continue our work with them, especially in the area of implementing cashless capabilities at NFL events which will provide our fans faster, safer and more convenient digital payment options," says Renie Anderson, the league's senior vice president of partnerships, sponsorship and consumer products.

Curtin wouldn't put a timetable on which of the upcoming NFL events — from Super Bowls in Miami, Tampa, Los Angeles, Arizona, and New Orleans to drafts in Nashville in April and Las Vegas next year to the international games — might be cashless. But it seems to be coming.

"Super Bowl captures people's imagination whether you have a team in it or not, like a World's Fair 50 or 60 years ago," he says. "Our innovation and operations team thinks through the best way for Visa in that environment to provide a flawless and frictionless experience. It's always an exciting dynamic to have license to show you a better tomorrow."

Top memories of years of covering Super Bowls

By Woody Paige

Colorado Springs Gazette

January 30, 2019

As a college student newspaper editor, I spent the inaugural NFL-AFL Championship in the window of a bookstore finishing a 106-hour marathon on radio. I didn't see a moment of the game.

The first Super Bowl I attended and wrote about as a columnist was VI. The last was 50.

Seemed to be quite enough after covering five decades of, and more than 40, Super Bowls, including eight involving the Broncos.

This Super Sunday, for the first time, I will go to a friend's home and watch the commercials and the halftime show, eat guacamole and chips, drink margaritas and talk, as the Walrus said, of many things. I may not see a moment of the game.

Memories:

XXXII — Pat Bowlen, about to be voted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame, shouting "This one's for John." Terrell Davis, already in the Hall, forgot to take his migraine medicine before the game with the Packers. In the first half he literally was blind. However, coach Mike Shanahan sent him back onto the field, saying: "Just need you to be a decoy. Go over the top." John Elway faked to Davis and rolled out for the touchdown. Davis took his medication at halftime, wound up rushing for 157 yards and three touchdowns, and was chosen MVP in the Broncos' first Super Bowl victory. Elway flew on a "Helicopter" Ride; coach Mike Holmgren told his defense to let Davis score late in the game so the Packers could get the ball back with a chance to tie. They almost did, but, on fourth down deep in Broncos territory, the defense, missing safety Steve Atwater (who collided with another player on the previous play), stopped Brett Favre.

XII (12) — The first for Denver, the Broncos and the Orange Crush. Quarterback Craig Morton kept an audio diary that week for a book I was writing. On Monday evening, alone, Morton spoke in the recorder: "(Left guard) Tom Glassic has been dealing with serious dental problems and can't eat. He weighed in at 218 today. We got no chance against the Cowboys' defensive line." Morton was sacked four times and had a passer rating of 0.0. Two Cowboys defensive linemen were named MVP.

X — The Steelers beat the Cowboys 21-17. The teams would play again in No. 13, generally considered the greatest Super Bowl ever, which ended up Pittsburgh 35, Dallas 31. During the first, scenes for "Black Sunday" were filmed in the Orange Bowl. The plot had terrorists with a bomb in the Goodyear Blimp intending to blow up the Super Bowl. The NFL wouldn't cooperate in a similar movie now. Actor Robert Shaw ran down through the stands to get the field — and was actually stopped by an usher.

XXIV and XLVII — In a ranking by NFL.com of all 52 previous games, the Broncos' 55-10 loss to the 49ers was judged the worst, and the Broncos' 43-8 defeat to the Seahawks was next-to-last. In New Jersey I typed: "This one's for the John."

XXIX — On Friday at the Commissioner's Party, Mike Shanahan, the former Broncos' offensive coordinator who had the same job with the 49ers, told me off the record he would become the Broncos head coach

the day after the game. He also said he would beat the Chargers by more points than the Broncos' record 55-10 humiliation. In the third quarter San Francisco led 42-10, and I thought Shanahan and Steve Young (six touchdown passes) would accomplish the goal, but the 49ers only won 49-26.

XLIX — Malcom Butler intercepted a pass in the end zone for the Patriots.

XXV — The Bills shockingly missed the winning field goal attempt on the last play and would lose four straight Super Bowls. The Giants' coordinator shut down Buffalo with a novel 2-5 front. The coordinator was named Belichick.

XXX — In Arizona, before another Dallas-Pittsburgh Super Bowl, I drove to a Native American reservation to interview the tribal Medicine Man. I asked who he thought would win. "Cowboys," he said. "An Indian picking Cowboys? That's odd. Did you read the wind?" He replied: "I watch ESPN." Cowboys won.

50 — It was the Broncos' eighth Super Bowl, but, considering their history in postseason games, realistically could have been the franchise's 13th appearance in TBG. Peyton Manning, as Elway, went out on top.

53 — Make mine Rams 32, Patriots 27.

Bradley Chubb chooses winning essay, awards Super Bowl LIII tickets as prize

By STAFF

DenverBroncos.com

January 30, 2019

The Chubb Foundation Football Camp will be one of my most memorable days. Chubb helped me as a future football player and a scholar of excellence. For as long as I can remember football has been a sport that I've always dreamed of playing. Hearing that you can still be successful regardless of what life throws at you from NFL player was cool. Chubb Foundation helped me to understand why supporting others is important. Not everyone gets the opportunity that I received. I practice football with my older brother Mark a lot and because of the Chubb Foundation I appreciate him more. Young men need male role models in their lives to help build strength. My first organized football experience was with the Chubb Foundation Football Camp and it was an amazing experience.

During the Chubb Foundation Football Camp I learned that being supportive can help others and you can make new friends. Chubb helped me as a player by teaching me how to do drills, show sportsmanship, and how to work together. I was taught how to do the stretches the correct way because you can get injured if they're not done right. Having the chance to practice my skills with NFL players was great. We were able to win things like a new pair of gloves and tickets to the college hall of fame. The fun doesn't end there, we had Chick-Fil-A after the day of camp.

The Chubb Foundation came at a time when my family were going through a bad time. When school started I seemed to be ok but then my grades dropped and my behavior changed a little. I was an honor roll student with good citizenship but things changed. I lost focus because of what I was going through. I didn't tell my mom because I didn't want to let her down. She works so hard to take care of our family. I thought about what the Chubb brothers said during camp. I began to really understand how important school is with playing football. My math and reading grades had dropped and both you use in this sport. Reading plays and calculating the yards. To make it in life no matter what you want to become you need an education. I started going to tutorial to make up my grades and doing extra assignments to boost my GPA. I began talking to my school counselor and it helped me deal with my emotions and being able to talk with my mother with feeling like I let her down. Speaking up also helped me understand why it is important to speak out when things aren't right.

_As of today I try to be more encouraging to myself and others. Help others when needed and be a friend to everyone. I am a much better person because of the Chubb Foundation Football Camp and those that help me. I am very thankful for the experience and look forward to camp again.

Opinion: L.A. Rams' defensive coordinator Wade Phillips is an NFL treasure at any age

By Nancy Armour
USA Today
January 30, 2019

Someone forgot to tell Wade Phillips the NFL is a young man's game.

Older than most of his players' grandparents and running the same defense he did back when Space Invaders was all the rage, Phillips should have no business being one of the hippest guys in the NFL. And, yet, the 71-year-old has somehow managed to pull it off.

He's got more Twitter followers than a lot of players (177,000, @sonofbum). He'd probably still be holding court if the NFL hadn't rescued him after the allotted hour at Monday's media night. He might be the only person who was asked about Tom Brady, a sheepskin coat from the '70s and his favorite rapper -- and had answers for it all.

"I'm still with Drake," Phillips said. "Because I started at the bottom, and I'm here right now."

Longevity alone would make Phillips a marvel. He's in his 41st season in the NFL and has outlasted two of the 10 teams he's worked for. Two years after being cut loose by the Denver Broncos in what will go down as one of John Elway's bigger mistakes, Phillips is back at the Super Bowl, this time with the Los Angeles Rams.

That obviously wouldn't happen if he didn't know his stuff. Even more impressive is that Phillips still manages to connect with players 40-some years younger than he is.

Talk to anyone who's ever played for Phillips and watch their eyes light up at the mention of his name. He's a great teacher -- he's coached more than a dozen players in the Hall of Fame, with several more from the Rams and Broncos still to come -- and operates under the philosophy that players will trust you so long as you treat them like men and tell them the truth.

"He's dope, man. He's the GOAT," said Aqib Talib, who was willing to accept a trade from Denver to the Rams last spring largely because of Phillips.

"We've all got one thing in common, we've all got one thing we love: football," Talib said of his bond with the septuagenarian. "That's something we all love, so we've always got something to talk about."

It doesn't hurt that Phillips makes a point of staying up on the latest music and trends -- Talib helps him with the music, and he learned about Fortnite from his then-6-year-old grandson. But the players would see right through him if he was doing all that just to score brownie points.

No, what resonates and makes Phillips so beloved is his realness. What you see with him -- the corny one-liners, the self-deprecation, the love for his players, the pride in his father -- really is what you get.

“I try to be myself. I try to have fun with everything,” he said. “I love what I’m doing. That’s the main thing.”

As the son of legendary coach Bum Phillips, the game has been a part of Phillips’ life for as long as he can remember. High school, college, the NFL – Phillips saw it all from an early age. It made coaching a natural fit, and his guiding principle has always been to make his father proud.

Which explains his choice of outfit for the Rams’ arrival in Atlanta on Sunday night.

Phillips got off the plane wearing a big cowboy hat and sheepskin jacket, just as Bum used to wear on the sidelines. Though the hat was Wade Phillips’ own, the jacket was his father’s. It was the first time he’d ever worn it.

The outfit got a laugh – Talib called it the funniest thing he’s ever seen Phillips do – but the sentiment was real. No matter his age or his accomplishments, Wade Phillips will always, proudly, be the “Son of Bum.”

“Everything I learned, I learned from him,” Wade Phillips said.

Phillips is well aware of his age and how could he not be? One of his friends refers to him as Wade 71 “because every article has my age in it,” Phillips cracked. He jokes that age is only a number, though his is a big one.

But he does not look his age, his face unlined and his eyes still crystal blue. Nor does he necessarily feel it. Being surrounded by 20- and 30-somethings tends to have that kind of effect.

“He’s so upbeat and so lively,” Ndamukong Suh said, unable to suppress a grin. “A lot of 70-year-old people don’t seem as upbeat or are moving around like that. So I don’t look at him as a 71-year-old human being.”

At any age, with any team, Wade Phillips is an NFL treasure.

2019 Super Bowl: 53 things to know about Patriots vs. Rams in Super Bowl LIII

By Sean Wagner-McGough

CBS Sports

January 30, 2019

Winter has come. So has the biggest event of the year. On Sunday, Super Bowl LIII between the Patriots and Rams will finally arrive. It's a game that's been a full year in the making.

Last year, the Patriots came up excruciatingly short of capturing their second championship in as many seasons. They were then forced to navigate a tricky offseason filled with questions pertaining to Rob Gronkowski's future in football, Tom Brady and Bill Belichick's relationship, and how exactly they were getting better after they traded Brandin Cooks to the Rams, lost Matt Patricia to Detroit, and watched first-round pick Isaiah Wynn suffer a season-ending injury in August. None of it mattered. We spent all year gushing over Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs, but ol' reliable won out in the end. The Patriots are playing in their third straight Super Bowl and their ninth overall with the Belichick-Brady partnership. They'll face the same team (but from a much different city) that they started their remarkable dynasty against all those years ago.

This time a year ago, the Rams were licking their wounds after a surprising one-and-done. They would go on to win the offseason by trading for Cooks, Aqib Talib, and Marcus Peters, signing Ndamukong Suh, and coming to an agreement with Aaron Donald. It's rare that the offseason champion finds a way to meet expectations, but that's what the Rams did, winning 13 games and besting the Cowboys and the Saints (with some help from the officials along the way) to make it to Atlanta.

It's a game that's a year in the making, so it deserves a significant preview. Below, you'll find the 53 things you need to know about Super Bowl LIII -- from the logistics of the game, to the details of the halftime show, to the football itself.

From Gladys Knight's anthem to who will score first to Maroon 5 to the Super Bowl MVP, get everything you need to make the right picks for Sunday in our Ultimate Super Bowl Props guide.

Without further ado, here are 53 things to know about Super Bowl LIII.

1. The game will be played between the Patriots and Rams at 6:30 p.m. ET on Sunday. CBS will be broadcasting the game on TV and you can also stream the game on CBSSports.com or on the CBS Sports App.
2. The game will be played at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, the home of the Falcons. This is the stadium's first Super Bowl, but Atlanta's third Super Bowl overall. The game will be played in indoors, so don't worry about the weather (unless you're traveling to Atlanta, in which case, [click here](#)).
3. This is a rematch of Super Bowl XXXVI, which was played in February 2002. In that game, first-year starting quarterback Tom Brady led the Patriots on a game-winning drive to cap a stunning upset over a Rams team -- coached by Mike Martz and quarterbacked by Kurt Warner -- that entered the game as 14-point favorites. Adam Vinatieri booted the game-winning field goal as time expired and thus, the

beginning of the Patriots' dynasty began. Seventeen years later, the Patriots are back in the Super Bowl with the same coach and quarterback while the Rams not only have an entirely different roster and coaching staff, but also reside in another city. Jared Goff, 24, said on Opening Night that he doesn't remember watching that Super Bowl.

4. The Patriots are entering the game as the second seed in the AFC after an 11-5 season and playoff wins over the Chargers and Chiefs (on the road and in overtime)

5. The Rams enter the game as the second seed in the NFC after a 13-3 season and playoff wins over the Cowboys and Saints (on the road and in overtime).

6. This is the Patriots' 11th Super Bowl appearance overall, the most in NFL history. This is their 10th Super Bowl appearance under owner Robert Kraft, their ninth with Bill Belichick and Tom Brady, and their third straight. The Patriots are the third team in NFL history to go to three straight Super Bowls. All of those stats come via the Patriots.

7. With a win, the Patriots will break a tie with the Steelers for the most wins in playoff history (36) in addition to tying the Steelers for the most Super Bowl wins (six). As of now, the Patriots are tied with the Cowboys and 49ers with five Super Bowl championships.

8. Counting his years as an assistant, this is Belichick's 12th Super Bowl appearance. That's the most in NFL history, per the Patriots.

9. If the Patriots win, Belichick will match George Halas and Curly Lambeau with six championships. No coach has won more, per the Patriots.

10. This is Brady's ninth Super Bowl. He already owns the record for the most Super Bowl appearances by any one player.

Who wins Patriots vs. Rams? And which side of the spread has all the value, making it a must-back? Visit SportsLine now to see which side of the spread you need to jump on, all from the computer model that has returned nearly \$4,000 to \$100 bettors over the past two seasons!

11. If the Patriots win, Brady will set the record for the most Super Bowl wins by a player with six. He's currently tied with Charles Haley with five.

12. But with a loss, Brady would tie Jim Kelly for the most Super Bowl losses by a starting quarterback in NFL history.

13. Brady will be going for his fifth Super Bowl MVP award. The only time he didn't capture Super Bowl MVP after a Patriots win was when Deion Branch took it home in Super Bowl XXXIX.

14. Patriots receiver Julian Edelman needs only 46 catches on Sunday to tie Jerry Rice for the most postseason receptions of all time. All jokes aside, Edelman is already second all time in playoff catches.

15. While we all debate how easy the Patriots' path to a dynasty has been due to the terrible state of the AFC East, their treacherous path to Atlanta cannot be debated.

16. This is the Rams' fourth Super Bowl appearance and their first since February 2002. They're 1-2 in Super Bowls with their lone win coming after the 1999 season.

17. Jared Goff is 24 years old. Tom Brady is 41 years old. As our Jared Dubin wrote, "The 17-year age difference is almost surely the largest of any Super Bowl in history. After all, there's only been one 40-plus-year-old quarterback to start a Super Bowl. It was Brady, last year."

18. If the Patriots win, Brady will become the oldest quarterback to win a Super Bowl, a record that Peyton Manning (39) still holds.

19. Both Goff and Brady are from the Bay Area. Goff is from Marin County (north of San Francisco) while Brady is from San Mateo (south of San Francisco).

20. Bill Belichick is 66 years old. Sean McVay is 33 years old. The 33-year age gap between coaches is a Super Bowl record.

21. How young is McVay? To put it into perspective, consider that McVay once played against Edelman in college. McVay played receiver for Miami University. Edelman played quarterback for Kent State. And look, there's video evidence:

22. With a win, McVay will become the youngest coach to win a Super Bowl.

23. The Rams might have the formula to stop Brady, who struggles against interior pressure.

24. Speaking of Aaron Donald, he's coming off a completely bonkers 20.5-sack season. His career-high before this season was 11 sacks. He's the best defensive player in football and quite possibly the best overall player in football.

25. The offensive line, however, is arguably the strength of this Patriots team, ranking third in run blocking and first in pass blocking, per Football Outsiders. Go read Jared Dubin's story on the Patriots' offensive line.

26. The Rams' offensive line has had tremendous continuity over the past two seasons.

27. The Patriots haven't scored a touchdown in the first quarter of a Super Bowl under Belichick. In fact, last year's Super Bowl, when they kicked a field goal in the first quarter, was the first time they'd managed to score any points in the first quarter of a Super Bowl under Belichick. We'll see if they can take the next step on Sunday.

28. Maroon 5 will headline the halftime show. The band will be joined by special guests Travis Scott and Big Boi.

29. Gladys Knight will sing the national anthem. The over/under, per Bovada, is set at one minute and 47 seconds.

30. The Rams will wear their blue and yellow throwback jerseys.

31. The Patriots will be wearing white jerseys, a sight that is all-too-familiar.

The Patriots are 3-1 in the Super Bowl under Belichick when they wear white. Twelve of the last 14 Super Bowl winners have been dressed in white. The Patriots wore white last year and lost, though.

32. Goff is currently working his way through a cold streak. In games 1-11 this season, Goff completed 67.7 percent of his passes, averaged 9.3 yards per attempt, and threw 26 touchdowns and six interceptions. In games 12-18, he completed 58.9 percent of his passes, averaged 6.5 yards per pass, and threw seven touchdowns and seven interceptions.

33. Todd Gurley has insisted he's not hurt, but the Rams' running back dealt with a knee injury at the beginning and end of the regular season, and he barely saw the field against the Saints in the conference championship game when he garnered five touches for 13 yards. His involvement on Sunday is worth monitoring. Since entering the NFL in 2015, Gurley leads the league in rushing yards and touchdown runs -- both by a wide margin.

34. Since signing with the Rams in mid December, C.J. Anderson is averaging 116.5 rushing yards per game. Like Goff, Anderson played college ball at Cal, but the two did not overlap in Berkeley.

35. The Rams' offense loves Pac-12 players.

36. The Patriots immediately opened as underdogs before the market quickly corrected that mistake. As of Monday, the Patriots are favored by 2.5 points.

37. As of Monday, the over/under is set at 56.5.

38. The Patriots are 10-7 against the spread when they've been favored this season.

39. The Rams have been an underdog just once this season, against the Saints in the NFC title game. So, they're 1-0 against the spread as an underdog.

40. Expect a close game. You might be sick of the Patriots in the Super Bowl, but you should be thankful they always play in exciting games. The average margin of victory for the Patriots in their five Super Bowl wins under Belichick? 3.8 points. The average margin of defeat for the Patriots in their three Super Bowl losses under Belichick? Five points.

41. Our "Madden" simulation has the Patriots winning 38-31.

Worth noting: Our "Madden" Super Bowl sims have been somewhat accurate in recent years, predicting a huge Patriots comeback two years ago and one of the craziest games in NFL history last year.

42. The Super Bowl will be refereed by John Parry. As our John Breech wrote, the Patriots are 9-5 in games refereed by Parry while the Rams are 7-0, per Pro Football Reference.

43. Before last season's Super Bowl, Scott Kacsmar wrote over at FiveThirtyEight that since Brady became their starting quarterback, the Patriots were 15-0 in the playoffs against an opponent they didn't play in the regular season, but 12-9 in rematches from the regular season. Let's update those numbers after last year's Super Bowl and their two playoff games this season. In the Super Bowl, they lost to the Eagles, who they did not face in the 2017 regular season. Over the past couple of weeks, they beat the Chargers, who

they did not face in the regular season, and they beat the Chiefs, who they did see in the regular season. So, they're now 16-1 in the playoffs against new opponents and 13-9 in rematches. They did not play the Rams in the regular season.

44. The game features two top-five offenses in terms of yards and points. The Rams ranked second in both categories, and the Patriots ranked fifth in yards and fourth in points.

45. But the Patriots have the advantage defensively. They allowed the seventh-fewest points in the regular season. The Rams allowed the 13th-most points.

46. Special teams matter. And the Rams and Patriots' special teams units are basically equal in DVOA, ranking 17th and 16th, respectively. The Rams might have the advantage, though, considering Johnny Hekker might be the game's best punter (at both punting and throwing) and Greg Zuerlein made 87.1 percent of his field goals in the regular season before booting two clutch (and very long) field goals to send the Rams to the Super Bowl. Of note: Zuerlein is dealing with a left foot injury, but the Rams don't sound concerned.

47. Goff and Brady have contrasting styles of play. According to NFL Next Gen stats, Goff's throws traveled an average of 8.8 yards in the air in the regular season. Only seven quarterbacks averaged more air yards per throw. Meanwhile, Brady averaged 7.6 air yards per pass, which ranked closer to the bottom of the barrel. On that note, Brady, on average, got rid of the ball 2.61 seconds after receiving the snap. Only six quarterbacks got rid of the ball quicker. Goff's average time to throw? 2.94 seconds. Only five quarterbacks took longer to release the ball.

48. The Rams have the Patriots outnumbered in terms of All-Pro players. The Rams had four players named to the two All-Pro teams. The Patriots had two players.

49. Stealing this one from reddit: "Patriots are 5-2 against animal teams in the Super Bowl all time; Rams are 1-2 against human/humanoid teams." Credit goes to reddit user BlackHourglass.

50. Important receiver running stats:

Might Cordarrelle Patterson be the x-factor?

51. This is a battle between a disciplined offense and a disciplined defense.

52. Both the Rams and the Patriots are expected to lose top assistant coaches after the game. The Bengals are reportedly expected to hire Rams quarterbacks coach Zach Taylor as their new head coach and the Dolphins are reportedly expected to hire Patriots defensive assistant Brian Flores as their new head coach.

53. This is a matchup between the second-highest rated team by DVOA (the Rams) and the seventh-best team by DVOA (the Patriots). On that note, this is very interesting and something to remember when we begin to look ahead to next year's Super Bowl:

And that's a wrap. All that's left to do is to play the game.

A Week Later, a Blown Call Is Still Topic A

By Ken Belson
New York Times
January 30, 2019

At N.F.L. media nights, the biggest stars speak at podiums, and this year was no different. When the Los Angeles Rams took the floor, quarterback Jared Goff, running back Todd Gurley II and Coach Sean McVay drew big crowds.

But cornerback Nickell Robey-Coleman drew equally large crowds. A week ago, Robey-Coleman was a former undrafted free agent finishing his sixth season. Now, he needed media minders to keep reporters from digging too deeply into a play that may have altered the Super Bowl.

That came in the N.F.C. Championship Game in New Orleans, where he drilled Saints wide receiver Tommylee Lewis before he could get in position to catch a pass from Drew Brees.

No flag was thrown for pass interference or helmet-to-helmet contact. The Saints went on to kick a field goal, but left enough time on the clock for the Rams to tie the game and send it into overtime, when they eventually won, 26-23.

The game-changing play has been a game changer for Robey-Coleman. He said he had received numerous death threats, and his social media accounts have been overwhelmed with hate mail from angry Saints fans.

“Right now, my phone is crazy,” Robey-Coleman said. “Like my brother said, a lot of people probably had money on the game.”

Robey-Coleman said he’s received more than 3,000 direct messages on Instagram, more than 1,000 messages on Facebook and 500 messages on Snapchat.

“I got threats here and there, but nothing to dwell on,” he said. “All types of threats, death threats.”

The non-call led Saints owner Gayle Benson to say the team had been “unfairly deprived” of a chance to reach the Super Bowl. Louisiana Senator Bill Cassidy criticized the N.F.L. on the Senate floor during a government shutdown.

Other than the head official speaking to a pool reporter after the game, the N.F.L. has said nothing about the non-call on the play, or the events that have followed.

The league, though, all but admitted a penalty should have been called when, on Friday, it fined Robey-Coleman \$26,739 for a helmet-to-helmet hit on Lewis.

Robey-Coleman said, “We moved on from it as a team, and I moved on personally.” Indeed, his fellow defensive back Marcus Peters on Monday night refused to answer questions about officiating or the non-call.

But Robey-Coleman hasn't made it easier on himself, or his teammates. He said Saturday that the ball Brees threw to Lewis was tipped, suggesting that Lewis could not have caught the pass regardless of what Robey-Coleman did.

To compound matters, he said that Patriots quarterback Tom Brady had slowed with age, comments that may give the Patriots extra motivation.

"Whatever he was doing – because of his age and all that – he's not doing as much of that anymore," he told Bleacher Report. "He's still doing the same things; he's just not doing as much of it."

On Monday, Robey-Coleman said the comments about Brady's age were taken out of context, and that he has a lot of respect for him. Brady declined to comment.

John Elway's quarterback crush could shake up NFL draft

By Justin Terranova
New York Post
January 30, 2019

John Elway may think he's found the next John Elway.

The Denver Post reported that Elway, now the Broncos president and general manager, walked away from the Senior Bowl impressed with Missouri star quarterback Drew Lock.

"The worst-kept secret at the Senior Bowl: John Elway is smitten with Lock," Denver Post reporter Mark Kiszla wrote.

The Broncos pick at No. 10 in April's draft, and Lock is projected to be one of the top quarterbacks taken, along with Ohio State's Dwayne Haskins and Duke's Daniel Jones. The Giants pick at No. 6 and the Jaguars at No. 7 with both — depending on how free agency unfolds — potentially interested in quarterbacks. Would Elway have to move up in the draft to get Lock?

"A connecting of the dots would suggest Elway and Co. are trying to fall in love with Lock," Denver Post colleague Ryan O'Halloran said in the back-and-forth conversation with Kiszla.

"Elway was at the Arkansas-Missouri game in November. Elway was at the Senior Bowl practices for three days and barely left the quarterback group. I believe the Broncos are targeting multiple quarterbacks (as they should) and Lock is probably one of them (as he should be)."

There was talk for months that none of the quarterbacks in this draft match the hype that last year's group garnered, but they have all been moving up mock draft boards. Lock had an up-and-down career for the Tigers with his accuracy being the biggest question mark. He finished his four-year career at Missouri with a 56.9 percent completion rate, though that number did go up each season.

"I think I [helped my case this week]," said Lock, who completed 9-of-14 passes for 57 yards for the victorious North team. "Being able to talk to teams, really get to know them on a personal level, that was a big thing I was looking forward to. And then just improving every single day in practice. So, I was happy with this week."

Elway led the Broncos to two Super Bowls on the field and coaxed Peyton Manning to Denver to help bring the franchise its third. But his acumen for finding the next franchise quarterback has been flawed. The biggest bust has been Paxton Lynch, whom the Broncos used a first-round pick on in 2016.

Lynch, who starred for Memphis in college, appeared in five games for the Broncos before being cut in September. Case Keenum will be entering his second year as the Broncos' stopgap answer at the position, but the future is very much in question.

If Elway believes that much in Lock, he may be willing to take a risk to get him.

Broncos add a pair of offensive coaches

By Josh Alper
Pro Football Talk
January 30, 2019

The Broncos interviewed T.C. McCartney for their quarterbacks coach vacancy on Tuesday and they won't need to continue searching for someone to fill that spot.

Mike Klis of KUSA reports that McCartney has been hired. He worked with offensive coordinator Rich Scangarello on the 49ers staff for the last two years as an offensive assistant.

McCartney is the grandson of former University of Colorado head coach Bill McCartney and the son of the late Sal Aunese, who was the starting quarterback at Colorado before being diagnosed with terminal cancer in 1989. Aunese died in September 1989 and the Buffaloes dedicated their national championship season to his memory.

Klis reports that the Broncos also hired Rob Calabrese as an offensive assistant. Calabrese worked with Scangarello at Wagner College and replaced him as the school's offensive coordinator in 2017.

T.C. McCartney interviewing for Broncos' quarterbacks job

By Charean Williams

Pro Football Talk

January 30, 2019

The Broncos are interviewing T.C. McCartney for their vacant quarterbacks coach position, Mike Klis of Denver's 9News reports.

McCartney is the grandson of former University of Colorado coach Bill McCartney and the son of Sal Aunese, a former CU quarterback.

T.C. spent the past two seasons as an offensive assistant on Kyle Shanahan's staff in San Francisco. The Broncos recently hired 49ers quarterbacks coach Rich Scangarello as their offensive coordinator.

T.C. was a backup quarterback at LSU before beginning his coaching career in 2012 as an offensive graduate assistant at Colorado.

John Elway said to be high on quarterback Drew Lock

By Michael David Smith

Pro Football Talk

January 30, 2019

Missouri quarterback Drew Lock helped himself at the Senior Bowl, enough that the general consensus now seems to be that he's a first-round pick. But which team will take him?

It could be the Broncos: G.M. John Elway is smitten with Lock, according to the Denver Post, which calls that the worst-kept secret at the Senior Bowl.

Elway's interest in Lock didn't start at the Senior Bowl. Elway attended the Arkansas-Missouri game in November, when Lock had an excellent game, passing for two touchdowns, running for two more and leading Missouri to a 38-0 win.

The Broncos have the 10th overall pick in the draft. If they like Lock as much as it appears, that could be his landing spot.