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**DENVER BRONCOS TRAINING CAMP QUOTES (8/6/12)**

 **LINEBACKER KEITH BROOKING**

**On when he found out there was an opportunity to sign with Denver**

“I got a call a few days ago that they wanted to work me out, so I came in this morning, ran around a little bit, showed them that this 37-year-old body can still move. And we came to an agreement on the deal. So I’m excited. It’s obviously a great place to be. At this point in my career, you’re striving for one thing. To be a part of this organization, with [Head] Coach [John] Fox, I’ve obviously played against him a lot playing in Atlanta. When he was a coach at Carolina, from afar, I had so much respect for him and what he brings to the table. His teams were always physical and tough and played smart and we had some battles. They were tough to beat. I think this team is set to make a run and I’m very excited to be a small part of it.”

**On if he and Head Coach John Fox talked about their time in the NFC South**

“We didn’t talk too much about that. Like I said, I’m excited to be here. It’s a great organization, a great group of guys. I’ve gotten to meet most of the guys in the weight room earlier today and out on the practice fields. Just seeing how they do things, it’s a great atmosphere. They’ve created a really good atmosphere to come to work every day and get ready for the season. I’m excited to be a part of it.”

**On his position**

“I think I’ll be working the “Mike” position and the “Will” position. I’m just here to compete. I’m excited about the opportunity. I think competition brings out the best in everyone and brews success. I’m here to do that, whatever role it takes. “Mike,” “Will,” special teams, I’m not too big for that, even though I’ve been in this league a long time. Whatever role I can find, I’m willing to do.”

**On what he knows about Defensive Coordinator Del Rio**

“I know he’s a great football coach, a great mind. I got a chance to sit down with him today in his office and talk to him schematically about what they’re doing. I have a lot of respect from him. When he was at Jacksonville he had some great defenses there. I obviously played against him when he was at Carolina, so he’s a great defensive mind. Just a great football mind in general. It’s exciting to be able to play for him, for sure. I’ve been around some great defensive coordinators and he’s right up there with them all.”

**On if he expects to suit up tomorrow**

“With the new CBA, I think it takes three days to actually suit up and practice. I don’t know as far as tomorrow, if it’s a full padded practice. I haven’t gotten my schedule or anything. I signed and walked out here. If it’s full padded, two days before a game, I don’t imagine it wouldn’t be, so I have to see how that goes. But I know you have to have three days before you actually get in team drills.”

**On his shape physically**

“I haven’t been in an offseason program, so I’d be lying to you if I said I was in game shape, ready to go. But my legs feel good; they still have pop in them. I’m moving around, working out. My body feels great. I’ve had a lot of blows to the head and a few surgeries (laughing), so it’s not what it was eight years ago. But relatively speaking, my body feels really good.”

**On if he thought about retiring**

“Teams weren’t knocking down my door, that’s for sure. But talking to my agent, I knew it was going to be later on, when it would take place from the feedback I got from him with him talking to all the teams. The circumstances had to be right for me. I wanted to play for a contender and this team was right up there on the list. It worked out great. [The Broncos] were the first team that called him and said they wanted to work me out. I was really excited about it. I told them, I’ll go ahead and book my flight. They don’t have to book it, to get here. So I’m just really excited to be a part of the Broncos , what they bring to the table, and to make a run at this thing.”

**On what attracted him to Denver**

“[Quarterback Peyton] Manning did not hurt, (laughing). I played against him a lot. We came out together in ‘98. I’ve been watching him for 14 years now—arguably the best that’s ever played this game. Del Rio, Coach Fox, the whole organization, when I got here, it was exactly what I thought it was going to be this morning when I worked out for them and got a chance to sit down and talk with them. It just validated everything even more.”

**On whether there’s a different feel here at Denver’s training camp**

“The crowd is outstanding. The amount of people that came here just for a practice. I heard the scrimmage was over 40,000. So the excitement’s here, that’s for sure. It’s exciting to be a part of, but more than anything you have to put the product out there on the field. So we have a lot of work to do and hopefully we can come through with all the expectations that are out there right now. We have a lot of work to do before we get there though.”

**On his new digital playbook**

“I’m a playbook guy. I’m not down with the technology. We do have playbooks. But I’ll take the iPad.”

**On what he needs to do to catch up**

Meet with Richard Smith, the Linebackers Coach; just get more familiar with the defense. I’ve played in a lot of different schemes. Just meeting with Jack [Del Rio] earlier and going over some of the terminology, there’s some carryover there. So it won’t take long for me to become familiar with it. Just getting the playbook, learning this defense.  Whenever they give me the go, I’m ready.”

**On why he first fell in love with football**

“I love competition. That’s the one thing when you ask me that question, it’s out at the forefront. Just competing every day, just being around the guys. That’s special. What’s special about it is when you win. Some of the most fun is when you win, and just the fellowship you have, that moment in the locker room when you’re together and celebrating that victory and all the hard work that you put into it. There’s a lot of people out there that don’t really know what it takes, so when you have that success, there’s no better feeling in the world. That’s something that I’ll miss one day, for sure.”

**On his recollection of Super Bowl XXXIII, when he was a rookie with the Atlanta Falcons**

“That’s the first thing I mentioned to [Executive Vice President of Football Operations John] Elway. That’s the first time I’ve seen him since then pretty close up. I mentioned that to him first thing today, I was like ‘By the way I haven’t forgotten ‘98.’ But I was a little wet behind the ears back then. Really didn’t know what we were doing at the time. Not that I didn’t appreciate it, but it actually puts a lot of things in perspective. We made a couple of runs in Atlanta, went to a couple NFC Championship Games and got close. Haven’t gotten back there yet so that’s even more of a reason to continue to play and strive to get there. That’s what this is all about at this point. Not a lot of fond memories from that evening in Miami, for sure. Or the night before.”

**What a Super Bowl would mean to him at this point in his career**

“That’s a little premature. I know I’ve said that’s what this thing’s all about, but we have to open up against Pittsburgh. We have a lot of work to do before then. So let’s just take one step at a time before we start talking about that.”