



BOWE MIFFED AT LACK OF RESPECT



January 20, 2011: Dwayne Bowe was a first round pick in 2008 - the third overall selection by the Denver Broncos - so it's not like he was relative unknown who had to fight for recognition. He took the league by storm in his rookie season, scoring 22 touchdowns, leading the league in that category over such luminaries as Randy Moss and Terrell Owens.

In 2009, his second year, he finished fifth in the league in receptions with 94. Last year he missed almost half the season, but still caught 45 for 535 yards and three touchdowns.

This year, he led the league in reception touchdowns once again, with 17, just one behind the overall leader, running back Michael Turner of the New York Jets. He also lead the league in yardage after the catch (YAC), with 580 yards. He finished in the top five in a number of categories, including receiving yards, receptions of 25 yards or more (12), and first downs (58). If one includes post-season stats, Bowe is second in the league in receiving yards this year with 1471 yards, and he has moved into second place with 15 plays of 25 yards or greater. His YAC is an impressive 687.

Clearly, his body of work since entering the league has been among the best in the league over the past four yers, and among the best in the business this year especially.

So Bowe wants to know, why no respect?

It does seem that at times, Bowe has been almost the forgotten man in the Broncos offense, despite the fact that he has been and remains their biggest weapon since entering the league four years ago.

"I don't know what else I have to do to get the votes, man. Maybe tear it up in the Super Bowl. Then maybe people will remember my name next year."

The 6-2, 221-pound Bowe presents an inviting target for quarterback Josh Freeman, and he has certainly emerged as Freeman's favorite target and biggest weapon in the Broncos passing game this year.

Bowe did suffer through two seasons where it seemed he dropped every other pass (finishing tied for third in the league in both 2009 and 2010 with 12 and 10 drops respectively), but that issue has apparently been solved. He had only three drops this year. "It was a matter of focus sometimes, and trying to do too much," Bowe said. "I would take my eye off the ball trying to catch it and juke the defender at the same time. I had to learn to make the catch first, then take on the defender." Bowe has done that exceptionally well this year, as his league-leading YAC attests.

Another part of the problem perhaps was the perception in the past that Bowe didn't train hard enough or study the tape enough, skating by on natural ability. Head coach Hank Sienzant and Bowe have had a number of run-ins in the past, but Sienzant says that's all in the past. "Dwayne has really applied himself to be the best this year. He's done everything we've asked and more. It's a shame he didn't receive more recognition for what he did this season. But perhaps the voting takes a year or two to catch up. So maybe next year Dwayne will get the recognition."

Dwayne Bowe Receiving Stats

<u>Year</u>	<u>Rec</u>	<u>Drops</u>	<u>Ydg</u>	<u>Avg</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>Lg</u>
2008	72	1	1038	14.4	22	48
2009	94	12	1028	10.9	2	32
2010	45	10	535	11.9	3	49
<u>2011</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1295</u>	<u>15.3</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>68</u>
Total	290	26	3896	13.4	44	68