



Broncos Glen Coffee Pulls the Plug on Career



February 23rd, 2011: Denver Bronco second-year running back Glen Coffee, who took over the starting job from Lendale White as a rookie last season, unexpectedly announced his retirement from the Broncos at the age of 23.

"To say we're shocked would be an understatement," a Broncos spokesperson said of the Broncos reaction upon hearing the news. "Glen was going to be a big part of our plans for the upcoming season, and his retirement, following that of Chris Brown, leaves us with a big void at running back. It's certainly a jolt for us."

Coffee took over as the main back in week nine last year, and wound up leading the team in rushing with 119 carries for 432 yards. He added 40 yards on 8 receptions. His retirement, following that of veteran running back Chris Brown a few weeks ago, leaves only 26-year-old Lendale White as a fulltime running back on the Broncos 2011 roster at this time. Delanie Walker, who played both tight end and fullback last year, is also on the squad, but he is not considered a potential starting running back.

If there is any positive to be gained from this turn of events, it's that Coffee and Brown both retired before the ISFL 2011 draft, allowing the Broncos to possibly change their draft plans and draft a running back or two in the first few rounds. "It's certainly a consideration now," a team insider said. "We mostly draft best available football player rather than for need, but this is definitely a big need for us."

Coffee was originally a sixth round draft choice of the Broncos in 2010, but he was targeted much earlier than that, according to a Denver insider. "He was on our short list from the third round on, and we could not believe he fell all the way to the sixth round."

Coffee, in a statement released through the team, said "This has been a tough decision for me to make, but at this time in my life I feel it is best for me that I move on from football. I appreciate what the Broncos, my teammates and coaches have done for me, and I wish them a blessed season and all the best in the future."

He expanded upon that answer in a response to a local newspaper's questions, saying, "It was a struggle for a long time. Actually when I look back I feel I never should have entered the draft in the first place. Football was no longer my dream. I found Christ in college. It changed my views on everything. But I still was a football player because it was expected of me, it was something I did all my life. I was basically wasting the Broncos time."

Head coach Hank Sienzant said, "We wish Glen the best, and thank him for his contributions to the Denver team as a rookie. While we wish we had him longer, we understand his reasons for leaving and are grateful for his time here."