



Broncos Cut Seven, IR Two More



Denver, May 1st, 2011: The Broncos today announced the unconditional release of seven players and placed two players on injured reserved, losing them for the season. Two of the players released (running backs Glen Coffee and Chris Brown), were mere formalities, as both had previously announced their retirement.

The five other players released were

Matthew Slater, wide receiver
J.P.LaDouceur, long-snapper, DE
Erin Henderson, linebacker
Josh Bullocks, safety
Breno Giacomini, offensive tackle

Slater did not catch a pass last year, but had one rush for six yards and eleven kickoff returns for a 20.5 average in twelve games. He was acquired as a waiver-wire selection just before the start of the 2010 season. Henderson and Giacomini were both on injured reserve last season and did not sufficiently impress this year to be retained. Safety Josh Bullocks was a reserve last year on the Broncos, appearing in 14 games and making 14 tackles. He also was credited with one stuff. Ladouceur has been the Broncos long-snapper since the start of the 2006 season, but he was made superfluous by Josh Sitton's performance long-snapping in the spring. Sitton, a starting guard, worked on his long-snapping skills last year after practice all season as the emergency replacement for LaDouceur, and was deemed ready to perform that duty this year.

The Broncos also announced that two second-year players, defensive end Connor Barwin, and guard Duke Robinson, will be placed on IR effective immediately, joining Lendale White there. Barwin was a third-round pick of the Broncos last year, and became a starter before the first game. He finished his rookie season with three sacks, three pass deflections, 13 hurries, one stuff, a forced fumble and two fumble recoveries. He also made ten tackles. Barwin suffered a compound fracture of his left leg, and the prognosis was he would not be ready to play this season. The Broncos expect a complete recovery and believe Barwin will be able to resume his career at the same high level he played as a rookie.

Guard Duke Robinson was selected in the supplemental draft last year. He appeared in only two games last season. Robinson tore his MCL in spring drills and has already had surgery to repair the damage. He faces a lengthy rehabilitation before he can play again. A disappointment to this point in his career after a stellar career at Oklahoma, Robinson will have something to prove to the coaching staff in 2011.