



Broncos Release Five Veterans



Denver, February 23rd, 2011: The Denver Broncos announced the release of five veterans today, with former starting quarterback Daunte Culpepper the biggest name released. The other players released were tackle Allen Barbre, cornerback Cary Harris, safety Craig Steltz, and tight end Tom Santi.

Culpepper has been on the Broncos since he was acquired from the Vikings in September of 2003 and was the longest tenured Bronco with eight years in a Bronco uniform. In 2005, he had his best year, throwing for 4821 yards and 42 touchdowns, with just eight interceptions in leading the Broncos to an ISFL title, but in the five years since then he hasn't come close to those numbers. In fact, he has thrown only 17 touchdown passes and 30 interceptions over the past five years as knee injuries robbed him of his mobility and other ailments took away some of his vaunted arm strength. Since 2005 he hasn't managed to stay healthy for an entire season, and was severely injured in the first game in each of the past two seasons. In 2009 he didn't come back until week 13 and last year didn't play again until week 10. He came back strong last year, but his numbers started to tail off the more he played. By game 12, he was sharing the job with - and being outplayed by - rookie Josh Freeman. By game 15, he had lost the job to Freeman, and his final pass in a Bronco uniform came in the Broncos final game, when he was inserted into the game when Freeman came out for one play. Perhaps fittingly, his last pass in a Denver uniform was intercepted by Seattle linebacker Lamarr Woodley, sealing his fate and signalling the ascendancy of Freeman to the top of the Broncos QB post.

Tom Santi came out of nowhere as a late signee just before the start of the 2009 season to lead the Bronco tight ends with 22 receptions for 177 yards and one score that year. But he went on the injured reserve list prior to the beginning of the 2010 season and did not play a down for Denver this past year. In his absence, the Broncos had two other tight ends emerge in Jermichael Finley and Brandon Pettigrew, while Delanie Walker, the Broncos third-string tight end and sometime fullback, led the team in touchdowns scored. With the position crowded enough already, and with Santi slow to recover from his injury (he is still not running), the Broncos decided it was time to cut ties with Santi.

Barbre was drafted in the supplemental rounds in 2009, but never developed as the Broncos hoped. He played very little behind All-Pros Joe Thomas and Ryan Clady since joining the squad, and when he did get the opportunity, he showed less. Craig Steltz was likewise a 2009 supplemental round pick, and made 19 tackles last year following his rookie season when he had ten. Cary Harris was an eighth round pick out of USC in 2010, and made only five tackles and one interception as a rookie, playing little. His interception came early in the third game of the season against the Chicago Bears, as he victimized Kyle Orton for the first of four interceptions Denver had that day.

Daunte Culpepper's Bronco Career

Year	Att	Cmp	Cmp%	Yds	Avg/A	Avg/C	Lg	In	I%	Sk	TD	TD%	Rate	Run	Yds	Ave	10	FD	Lg	TD
2003	259	164	63.3	1819	7.02	11.1	44	11	4.2	28	11	4.2	80.6	58	399	6.9	16	22	38	5
2004	332	217	65.4	2657	8.00	12.2	61	7	2.1	25	20	6.0	101.2	78	478	6.1	17	27	32	10
2005	523	385	73.6	4821	9.22	12.5	80	8	1.5	24	42	8.0	122.2	62	187	3.0	0	9	9	0
2006	257	168	65.4	1885	7.33	11.2	72	13	5.1	29	7	2.7	75.1	40	264	6.6	11	20	20	4
2007	24	15	62.5	141	5.88	9.4	23	0	0	2	0	0.0	78.6	8	3	0.4	1	1	10	0
2008	174	92	52.9	1136	6.53	12.3	33	6	3.4	17	4	2.3	66.6	23	47	2.0	0	0	4	0
2009	120	60	50.0	834	6.95	13.9	56	8	6.7	11	4	3.3	56.0	12	30	2.5	0	1	4	0
2010	106	67	63.2	696	6.57	10.4	43	3	2.8	4	2	1.9	76.6	17	51	3.0	1	5	16	0
	1795	1168	65.1	13989	7.79	12.0	80	56	3.1	140	90	5.0	92.5	298	1459	4.9	56	85	38	19