



Broncos Have Extra Picks in Upcoming Draft



April 15th, 2011: The Denver Broncos are being tight-lipped about their draft plans, but what's not a secret is that Denver has extra picks in the second and fourth rounds that will help GM and Head Coach Hank Sienzant rebuild the team more quickly. They also own all their own picks, so at this time, they own eleven draft choices in the upcoming eight round draft, including seven in the first four rounds.

With their own picks, they will be drafting seventh overall in the first round, then alternate between eighth, seventh, and sixth over the remainder of the draft. They also have two additional second round picks, the 17th choice in the round (45th overall), and the 26th choice in the second round (the 54th overall). They also have the 17th choice in the fourth round (the 101st overall).

The 54th overall pick was acquired from the Saint Louis Rams in a deal after week four, when the Broncos traded away veteran defensive tackle Tony Brown (along with wideout Devin Thomas and tight end Joey Haynos) in a move to improve their team in the future. Coming back to the Broncos, in addition to the Rams second round pick in the upcoming draft, were three players who were buried on the Rams deep bench. They all immediately became starters for the Broncos. Defensive end Philip Merling, wideout Louis Murphy, and tight end Brandon Pettigrew were the three players acquired from the Rams, and each contributed some big plays and displayed their potential over their final twelve games for the Broncos.

Denver acquired the other two draft choices in a trade with the New York Giants that fell into place just before the start of the season. The Broncos had veteran running back Ricky Williams, who at 32 years of age was viewed as expendable by the rebuilding Broncos, but fit in well with the Giants, who were competing for the NFC East crown. A deal was made to ship Williams to the Meadowlands and in exchange the Broncos acquired the Giants second and fourth round picks, along with running back Chris Brown, who the Broncos felt had several good years left at 28 years old. Brown played well as part of the Denver running back by committee, leading all Denver backs in yards from scrimmage over the course of the season. But Brown then retired at the end of the season, leaving the Broncos with just the second and fourth rounders to show for the trade of Ricky Williams.

Denver Broncos 2011 Draft Choices

<u>Round</u>	<u>Pick</u>	<u>Original Owner</u>
1	7	Denver Broncos
2	8	Denver Broncos
2	17	New York Giants
2	26	Saint Louis Rams
3	7	Denver Broncos
4	6	Denver Broncos
4	17	New York Giants
5	8	Denver Broncos
6	7	Denver Broncos
7	6	Denver Broncos
8	8	Denver Broncos