



DENVER BRONCOS POSTGAME QUOTES

Patrick Smyth, *Vice President of Public Relations* (patrick.smyth@broncos.nfl.net)
Erich Schubert, *Senior Manager of Media Relations* (erich.schubert@broncos.nfl.net)
Seth Medvin, *Media Relations Coordinator* (seth.medvin@broncos.nfl.net)

DENVER BRONCOS vs. INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

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BRONCOS HEAD COACH GARY KUBIAK

Opening statement

“First off on the game, it’s a great effort by our football team. It was a tough day; it was hot. I think it wore on both football teams. We hung in there and kept battling. We lost some key people in the game and made some adjustments. We moved the ball well offensively. We need to finish in the red zone. Defensively, we came up huge at the end of the game. I’m really proud of our guys and our win against a tough football team and a great quarterback. Injury-wise, I’ll just jump right in here. We have three guys we’re concerned about. [T Donald] Stephenson has a calf. It was something we dealt with all day with [OL] Michael [Schofield] going outside and [OL Darrion] Weems coming inside. [TE] Virgil [Green] has a calf and [OLB] DeMarcus [Ware] has an Ulna fracture. We have to see in the morning exactly what the case is going to be, whether it’s something we think he can play with or we think it’s something that has to be fixed. Obviously a tough day from that standpoint, but we found a way to get number two.”

On CB Aqib Talib’s interception return for a touchdown

“It looked like to me, throughout the course of the game, we were close a couple of times. We had a couple of chances to make some big plays defensively. We just kept battling. I think our pressure was excellent over the course of the day, especially late in the game. The great thing about Aqib is if he ever gets his hands on the ball, he’s not only a DB, but a returner, too. That was a great run on his part and [OLB] Von [Miller] knocking that ball loose at the end closes the football game.”

On the turnover margin in the game

“What did we end up? Plus one today. The tough thing is [QB] Trevor [Siemian], he’s so young. Boy did he play well, especially in the first half. The mistake he made looked a lot like the same one he made against Carolina, so we have to help him correct that. He’s doing some great things. Like I said, protecting the ball is key for our football team. We were better today, but we have to get to where we have none.”

On clarifying Ware’s injury

“Let me be careful here, I just know he has a fracture. I think the question is going to be, can he [play with it]? Is it something that he might be able to play with that you rest or something that we go fix right away, he misses a period of time and then comes back. I am a coach, not a doctor.”

On WR Demaryius Thomas’ performance

“I think he was fine. I think we did a good job of getting him to game day the right way. Boy, we threw the ball well. He and [WR] Emmanuel [Sanders] were affecting the game. In the second half, we didn’t. I think we had three possessions in the second half. I think we kicked two field goals, but ‘D.T.’ and Emmanuel do a great job. We’ll keep bringing Trevor along here and trying to get those guys the ball.”

On kicking the field goal late in the fourth quarter

"I'll be honest with you, I really didn't like my decision. I know that's crazy, we won the game. I made a decision for a reason. We struggled in short yardage in the game. We struggled big time. We had the adjustments going on up front. Some of the things we were doing short yardage-wise were geared to come behind certain people. I didn't like that we missed one in the third quarter, a big one. We got knocked back and missed one, so I didn't feel good about what we were doing offensively. I told the defense, 'I put you in a tough position, but that's what you're made of.' We should stay on the field right there. We should find a way to stay on the field."

On Siemian's decision making

"The one thing about this business is Trevor has been out there twice in his career, but as a coach you want to feel like he's been out there 10 years. Some of the things that keep coming up are young, but seven out of nine times I think Trevor took us inside the 35-yard line. It was amazing. We punted twice. We threw the heck out of the ball, but there are plays that we have to make that are the difference in putting points on the board and not putting points on the board. There has to be some growth there from him standpoint and our standpoint as coaches."

On Colts QB Andrew Luck's recent success against Denver

"I think the way we played offensively in the first half had a lot to do with how well we played against Andrew. Offensively, we had almost 300 yards at halftime, if I'm correct, and moved the ball extremely well. I think that had a lot to do with it. Here he comes. He is always going to come. He does that every game he plays. He had his team back in position again, until we make the big play. I think we played good team football in the first half, except we were only up by seven points. That's the NFL."

On winning close games

"We're two into a 16-game season and we have a long way to go. There's a lot of encouraging things from young guys. I'm encouraged today to lose key players and still go win a big game. That's something you have to do in the NFL because it's going to happen to you. We just have to stay focused on what's going on and now we have to go do it on the road against a great football team. I think if we just stay hard on ourselves, keep plugging and keep getting these young guys better, the goal is to get to be as good as we can possible be. We are definitely not there yet."

On the breakdown of running back carries

"I don't get too concerned with that. [RB] C.J. [Anderson] is going to play unless he gets a little tired, but it was a very warm day. We talked as coaches. We talked before the game, play everybody. Don't be afraid, play them. It's warm. It's nice to see [RB Devontae Booker] 'Book' bounce back and play well. We started the game throwing again this week and Trevor handled that really well. At the end of the day, we try to be as balanced as we can be."

On Green and Stephenson's injury status

"I don't know. I'll know more tomorrow. They both have calves, so we'll see."

On what the determination will be if Ware can play with the fracture

"I probably shouldn't have said anything. I just know he has a fracture and we're going to go see tomorrow. I will do my best for you tomorrow."

BRONCOS OUTSIDE LINEBACKER VON MILLER

On if there was anything different in his gameplan against Colts QB Andrew Luck

"No. I mean, I think it was just different energy. Coming into this game, I came into the game with the mindset I'm going to rush hard every single play, try to fight through the chips and just be there for my guys. Today, the energy was positive. I was able to get there. I was able to fight out some chips, fight through a couple bull rushes and [was] able to get there. We had great coverage. The 'No-Fly Zone' did a fabulous job today and we were able to get some sacks."

On if he said anything to OLB Shane Ray after he scored a touchdown

"I did see Shane and I was like: 'Man, Shane, they took away a touchdown?' And he was like [inaudible]. I kind of messed with him a little bit. With Shane, that's like a little brother to me. Even when it's good, I just try to find a way to poke at him to get him going even more. That was a great job, a phenomenal job today, but don't tell him I said that."

On if he thought the Broncos wore the Colts down

"I don't think it was just a wearing them down type of – it's still the second game of the season. No team has really built up the endurance to go a whole game. I just tried to keep my ears back and rush the passer. I got the best secondary in the National Football League behind me, and I just put my ears down and just rushed."

On what the feeling was running back on the field against Luck with only a six-point lead

"It's time to close. They've got to score. They don't have timeouts. We're going to rush. The secondary, [CBs] Chris [Harris], [Aqib] Talib and those guys are going to lock. We're just going to rush. That was the mindset that we went into it, and it worked out for us."

On if there was more motivation today after losing two consecutive games to the Colts

"I've played Andrew Luck in the Pro Bowl and four times [overall]. You really don't need a rah-rah speech going against Andrew Luck. He's one of the elite quarterbacks in the National Football League. It's like going against a Tom Brady or a Drew Brees. You just automatically get up for your game. He can make every single throw. He can run the ball. He's not going to take 'No' for an answer. He's not just going to lay down and give you a sack. He had a 3rd-and-20 that he ran for. He's a great quarterback. There's really no pep-talks needed. We were all stoked and ready to go."

On how fun it is playing with the Broncos defense when they build momentum

"It's fun when you're out there making plays. It's fun when you're out there doing your job. It's fun to take the coaching and apply it to the game. [Outside Linebackers] coach [Fred Pagac], he's done a great job in the outside linebackers room, and he had us ready to go. We had tip and reminders. He was on top of every single play. Coach [Pagac] did a great job getting us ready to go this game."

On if he felt more pressure to perform following the injury to OLB Demarcus Ware

"No, it was the same type of mentality. We've got [LBs] Shaq [Barrett], Shane, Dekoda [Watson], all those guys are great rushers and it was just time for those guys to play a little bit more. Throughout the game, we're trying to find series to get those guys in there and make plays, give us a rest and to get them acclimated to the game. They're a great tandem. They're a great team. Shaq, Shane and Dekoda, and whenever they got the opportunity to get in there, they took full advantage of it. But I feel like D-Ware, he's battled some injuries. He'll be right back though. That's just the type of pro that he is. He'll be able to fight through it. He'll be right back."

On if he ever feels sorry for opposing quarterbacks after a game

"I've got to get mine, too. What type of pass rusher would I be if I'm feeling sorry after I sack them? It's what I'm supposed to do. I feel good. I feel great when I get them on the ground. That's why I dance and do all the other crazy stuff that I do when I get to the quarterback. That's what we live for. I'm a pass rusher, and whenever you go out there, do your job. That's why Mr. [Executive Vice President of Football Operations/GM John] Elway, they brought me into this organization to do, and it feels great to live up to it. It feels great to live up to the expectations that we have for ourselves on defense. And it feels great to go out there and get a win like we did today."

On if Luck complimented him on any sacks today

"Actually, he did. The second sack we got him, he was like: 'Good sack.' And I just wasn't trying to hear it. I was like: 'Man, get back. We're not trying to hear that. We're coming all night and trying to get us the 'W'.' He's a great guy and he tries to bring that great guy mentality into the game and onto the football field. For me, I have the utmost respect for him. But after a sack, I'm not trying to hear none of that stuff. I'm trying to celebrate with my guys."

On if the Broncos ever got frustrated on defense

"I mean the 3rd-and-20 and he scrambled for 20 yards, that's frustrating. We've got all the rushers in the world. We've got all the schemes. We've got all the calls and for him to run for 32, that's definitely frustrating. To come out there in the second half and let them drive down the field and score a touchdown, that's definitely frustrating. We've got a resilient team. We play against great teams every single week. They're going to make plays. We've just got a resilient bunch on the defense and on our offense. We just keep on fighting and take advantage of opportunities when they present themselves."

BRONCOS QUARTERBACK TREVOR SIEMIAN**On having the Broncos defense behind him**

"It's a special group we got there, no doubt. You hit the nail on the head, it's encouraging that we move the ball so well but I need to finish on some of those drives and that's some of the things we will clean up."

On WR Demaryius Thomas performance

"Unbelievable, to be honest with you. He's a really tough guy and a heck of a player. It was special to watch him handle the injury and make a bunch of big plays for us."

On moving the ball well, but not scoring touchdowns

"A little bit of both to be honest with you. Like I said, it is encouraging we are moving the ball but there is stuff we need to clean up and get better at. We need to finish some of those drives and make it a little easier on our defense some. But it is encouraging that we cleaned up some things and I think we have a chance to be a heck of a group."

On positives he took from the offensive performance

"I think anytime you go out you have to be balanced, be able to run the ball and pass the ball. I think we were pretty good on first down; I forget what the stats were. You can avoid third and longs in this league you have a chance, so that was pretty big for us first down."

On being able to convert when he takes a hit

"I rather not take the hit to be honest with you. But [TE] Virgil [Green] made a heck of a play, got separation and put it on them. That's part of the gig, too, and sometimes you have to take a shot, get the ball out and let those guys make plays."

On the Colts CB Darius Butler's interception

"It was a play that I either had to eat or hand it off and do something else. I will work hard and clean that up but that was definitely the one I would like to do over."

On staying poised throughout the game

"Coach [Greg] Knapp does an awesome job helping me with that. I have him talking in my headset, so he does a good job keeping me focused. The guys up front do an awesome job with [C] Matt [Paradis], [T] Russell [Okung] and [OK] Mike [Schofield], and all of those guys staying locked in and making my job a little easier."

On difference from his first to his second game

"I don't think you are ever going to be perfect, but like I said earlier its encouraging we are doing some good things. There are just a couple plays here and there that we want to clean up. Hopefully we can do that and finish some of these drives."

On a hit Emmanuel Sanders took

"I thought I was late getting him the ball initially. When I saw him I was like, 'shoot.' You never feel good when you are throwing a guy into coverage like that. But you are not going to find many guys tougher than Emmanuel, we all saw that last year. He did a good job for us again today."

BRONCOS CORNERBACK AQIB TALIB

On his interception return for a touchdown

"It was a third and long play, and coach (Defensive Coordinator Wade Phillips) called a vision defense. I saw our D-line got pressure on [Colts quarterback Andrew] Luck, so I kind of just sat down in my zone with anticipating seven stop, and that's what he ran. I was able to make the play, make a guy miss and go home."

On why he is successful in turning interceptions into touchdowns

"Because I practice it. Ask my coach—when I get an interception in practice, I go score on it. Practice makes perfect."

On if he wants the coaching staff to play him on offense

"I'm still trying to get into this game shape. Maybe when I get in this good game shape, I can turn [it] on. Right now, I'm sticking to the cornerback."

On whether the start to this season is reminiscent of 2015

"I feel like that's the NFL. You could look at all the games around the league, you'd probably see three blowouts and the rest of the games are close games where somebody's got to stop somebody in the fourth quarter. That's just the NFL, that's the nature of our league. We hang our hat on that."

On if the defense discussed being called dirty

"No, we didn't talk about it at all. We just played full speed through the whistle. We played Bronco football, and that's what we are going to continue to play."

On Broncos OLB Von Miller's late strip sack

"We knew they had no timeouts and they were going to throw the ball down six points. We just wanted to get after them and make them throw something fast. Von did what he do. He's the best at it. He's the best pass rusher in the game right now and he showed it today."

On wearing down the Colts late in the game

"When guys come up here to play us, they definitely are a more winded than us in the fourth quarter. We definitely wear on guys in the fourth quarter."

On what he told Broncos OLB Shane Ray following his first career touchdown

"I just told Shane, 'Congrats, you're on the board, baby.'"

On Denver's approach to Luck

"I think we had a solid game plan. Last year, we matched up. When you match up, your game plan is different. We stuck to our game plan and did what we do today against Luck, and we didn't change anything up. We changed some things up last year and it was terrible. We went out there and played 'Bronco D' today and showed that he doesn't have our number."

BRONCOS OUTSIDE LINEBACKER SHAQUIL BARRETT

On OLB Von Miller being clutch

"He most definitely comes through in the clutch. He's the guy I want rushing off the edge on fourth-and-ten and last play of the game. I already know he's going to get it."

On what he's learned from Miller

"I've learned a lot from Von. We've got some of the same type of pass rush moves. We're always working on that in practice. I've got some of his moves. [OLB] Shane's [Ray] more of a D-Ware-type of guy. I'm still trying to learn from D-Ware also."

On Miller's strip-sack

"It's a move he worked on this week. He's a great pass-rusher. His quickness is his go-to, but then he'll switch it up with the power and keep the guys off balance."

On secondary players allowing the pass rush to get to the quarterback

"With those guys we know we're going to have a little bit extra time to get back there if we don't cleanly beat the tackle or guard. We know to just keep going because we know we're going to have great coverage in the back-end if we don't get them right away."

BRONCOS INSIDE LINEBACKER TODD DAVIS

On whether the defense accomplished what they wanted to do

"That was a huge emphasis for us. If we can score on defense, I think it's like an 80% chance that we're going to win the game, so that's a huge emphasis. Great touchdown by [OLB Shane Ray] and great pick-six by [CB Aqib Talib]. He does it all the time, so it was a great job."

On the defense winning after scoring two defensive touchdowns

"I don't know what the odds are, but they have to be 100 percent. It was huge for us. It was a great way to close out the game. It was a clutch time for us. For that second touchdown, it was huge."

On the defense's ability to force turnovers and get into the endzone

"We just play hard. We just come to the ball. We come to practice every day ready to play. When we have the game, we come to the ball, we hit hard and we make the plays we need to make."

On Miller's three sacks of Andrew Luck

"That's who Von is. Not only were they three sacks, one of them was a sack-fumble for a touchdown. Von's a great player and he always inspires me and the rest of the team, so for him to get three sacks, it was huge."

On playing the Cincinnati Bengals on the road next week

"They're a very good team. We'll start preparing for them next week, but we just got to come to play. We've played them the last couple years and they've always been a challenge for us, so this week we've got to come ready to work."

CORNERBACK CHRIS HARRIS JR.

On if the game went as expected

"We knew that it was going to be a dog fight and we knew that we had to play great defense today. We wanted to come out and make sure that we're light years than we were against the Panthers and I think we were today."

On what made the defense play well today

"I think the D-line did a great job stopping the run, first. Then, everybody in the back end did their job. 'Lib' [CB Aqib Talib] had a great game, 'Robe' [CB Bradley Roby], everybody played their role. I had to lock down [WR] T.Y. [Hilton]. In the past, he had better games and I had worse games so today I won the match-up and we won."

On putting pressure on QB Andrew Luck throughout the game

"He made a lot of runs with his legs. He didn't put his body on the line like he did as much last year. Last year he ran even more than what he did today so I think that was a difference."

On if Luck playing more safe was a nod to the defense

"I think that he knew that he was going to get hit today, if he did. He was smart today, he didn't take a lot of shots, but he didn't take a lot of chances so that's the type of effect that we want to have on a quarterback. You ou don't take that many chances with us."

On if this year's defense is similar to last year's

"We feel like we're going to be better. We'll just continue to work and continue to get better. At this point last year, we didn't think we were this solid like we were today. We didn't shut down Andrew Luck at this time last year so now we're ahead of the game. We have a tough match-up on the road next week, another great receiver [WR] A.J. Green so it's a challenge every week, especially at my position."

On the defense playing well against elite quarterbacks

"You can see that our team has a lot of heart. If the game's on the line on defense, you can almost guarantee that's we're going to finish the game and win it for us. We like that. We were in that position all year last year so coming into this year, same thing. We're accustomed to it, we're used to it and we like winning on defense."

On how much scoring is emphasized in the defensive philosophy

"[Head Coach Gary] Kubiak said D-line, you stop the run, we have playmakers, we have a chance to get picks. That's exactly what happened. We were able to shut down the run, wait for them to make the mistakes and once we got our hand on the ball, anybody can go score."

BRONCOS INSIDE LINEBACKER BRANDON MARSHALL

On Colts QB Andrew Luck's long third down scramble

"That was tough. We have to do better about staying in our lanes. I know we'll do better next time."

On whether there is room for improvement despite being 2-0

“There’s always room to improve, no matter what. Whether it’s game two or 16, we had a lot of room to improve last year when we barely beat the Chargers. But we improved a lot going into the playoffs. There’s always room for improvement.”

On if there’s a belief that the defense will always come through in close games

“There’s always belief. We know that we’ve got the best defense in the league. We are the best defense in the NFL. No matter how much time or who we’re playing against, we know we’re good.”

On if the offensive play today was encouraging

“The offense balled out today. [QB] Trevor [Siemian] did his thing, [RB] C.J. [Anderson] did his thing, [WR] Demaryius [Thomas], everybody did their thing. The O-line played well. People are sleeping on the offense, but they moved the ball.”

On if people are sleeping on the defense

“I think they are, definitely. Everybody’s sleeping on this defense. I’m pretty sure we woke them up today. We scored two touchdowns on defense. I think Luck had 150 yards passing and he’s one of the best quarterbacks in the league. They’re definitely sleeping on us.”

On his continued decision to kneel during the national anthem

“The flag is a symbol. Just like kneeling is a symbol. I think the real issue behind it is nobody wants to talk about that. Everyone wants to talk about the veterans, and this and this, but a lot of the vets support me.”

On why people assume his protest against police brutality is a protest against all police

“People want to label it as that. They want to say, ‘You’re against the whole police even though they put their life on the line’. But I’m not against the police as a whole. There are some police officers who haven’t upheld the peoples’ rights. I don’t know if they look at some individuals as people or humans. They get in the heat of the moment and they look at them as just a suspect. They don’t look at them as someone who has a family or might have a kid. The majority of police officers are good, but there are some that don’t uphold the law or the standard that should be set.”

BRONCOS OUTSIDE LINEBACKER SHANE RAY

On the defense forcing turnovers in fourth quarter

“We got put in a bad spot and we had to go out there and make a play. [OLB] Von [Miller] did a great job of getting the strip. I just had to be aware to be able to pick the ball up and score. It’s all of us working together; I couldn’t have done it without them. I thank Von for that opportunity.”

On returning the fumble for a touchdown

“I was going to score, without a doubt. Every fumble I’ve picked up I’ve scored, so I’m just going to add to the list.”

On the defense scoring touchdowns

“We work together. It’s our job to either give the offense the ball back or of course score ourselves. We take advantage of every opportunity. We’re well coached on that and we practice it every day. I’m just glad I got the opportunity to use my coaching and go help my team out.”

On feeding off the energy of the rest of the defense

“Von is probably harder on me than anybody on the team and pushing me every day. Without them I couldn’t do the things I’m able to do. Today was another opportunity to step up.”

On performing well against Panthers QB Cam Newton and Colts QB Andrew Luck the past two weeks

“Those are two good quarterbacks. We’ve just got to stay aggressive and play how we’re going to play. We did an excellent job today. It was a hard fought battle, but we were able to pull it out.”

On whether the defense is better this season

“I believe so. I think we’re getting better every day. Every opportunity we get we take full advantage of it. We don’t even want to think about last year. We’re working on this year. We have some great guys and lost some great guys. We have to reload every year. We don’t know who’s going to be here or what could happen. Our goal is to be better than we were.”

BRONCOS WIDE RECEIVER EMMANUEL SANDERS

On the win against the Colts

"That was huge. We stand here 2-0, what more can we ask for? We're ready to go on the road vs. Cincinnati, a great opponent and try to make it 3-0."

On watching the defense perform in the fourth quarter

"Our defense, they're playing exceptionally well, we know that. We know we have one of the best, if not the best. I feel that we have the best defense in the league, the best secondary in the league and [OLB] Von [Miller] just showed what he can do so it's fun to watch those guys. It's a whole bunch of great players, a whole bunch of Pro Bowl players doing it."

On the offense making crucial plays to sustain drives

"That's what it's about. Obviously, you want the stats, you want the 100-yard games, you want the touchdowns, but at the end of the day, what's more important is the win and we got that. Back in the lab next week of keep getting better and keep striving to hopefully be the best team in the playoffs, and hopefully make a run."

On taking a big hit in the first quarter

"That hit hurt. That was probably one of the hardest hits that I've taken. A lot of hits look like they hurt, but they really don't hurt. That one right there hit me dead in my stomach so I had to go to the sideline to catch my breath for sure."

On issues with the offensive production

"At the end of the day, all that we can do is to just keep getting better. I'll tell you, I'd rather try to get better with two wins, than losing so everybody is smiles around here. We're sitting here 2-0 and I know the Broncos fans are excited, and so am I."

On if he expected a big game with WR Demaryius Thomas nicked up

"I had three catches all in the first quarter and then after that I didn't have a catch. It's definitely tough going to practice and you bust your butt all of practice, having great practices going into the game thinking that you're going to have a big game and you don't. At the end of the day we got the win so no complaining from me. I'll be back at work on Wednesday trying to get better, trying to put up a 100-yard game and try to show everybody that this guy over here from Denver is one of the best receivers in the league."

On the 13-play drive after the Colts scored in the second half

"That's huge. The whole time I've been saying that [QB] Trevor [Siemian] is calm, cool and collected and he's been showing that. I think that he's going to continually show that he has great poise for a quarterback. I think he has the capabilities to lead us to a lot of wins and hopefully to a Super Bowl."

BRONCOS SAFETY DARIAN STEWART

On whether it was the type of game the defense wanted to have

"That's always our goal. Just come out and just try to dominate. [Colts Quarterback Andrew] Luck gave us a problem today. He's hell when he's running the ball, so we just tried to contain him as much as we could."

On the defense sacking Luck five times

"Like you said, we got five sacks, but he made some plays with his legs. Like I said, we did a good job overall of getting off the field on third downs."

On the defense's ability to score

"That's big. You get two defensive scores, the percentage of you winning goes way up, and that's what we were able to do today."

On being flagged for unnecessary roughness

"That's just me playing ball. It seemed like [Luck] just went down really late, and it was incidental contact."

On if it was frustrating that he was flagged for unnecessary roughness

"Very frustrating, but it is what it is. I just hope I'm not fined."

On if the team said anything to outside linebacker Shane Ray after he scored his first NFL touchdown

“Nah, just congrats. I was happy. That took us up two scores so I was definitely just happy that we got that one.”

On the move CB Aqib Talib made on his interception return

“That’s good vision. He’s got great vision and that just shows his playmaking ability.”

BRONCOS WIDE RECEIVER DEMARYIUS THOMAS

On how his hip feels

“It’s alright. My legs were heavy and I wasn’t myself, but I held my own.”

On the screen pass going for a long gain

“I’m disappointed because I got caught. If I wasn’t a little banged up, I think would’ve scored. It was a great play. We converted it, got some big yards and got into scoring range.”

On CB Aqib Talib’s interception return for a touchdown

“Every time he gets a pick he’s impressed me with his moves. He used to play receiver so it’s nothing I haven’t seen. It was a great play and a great touchdown.”

On the defense scoring twice in the fourth quarter

“That was big. That’s one thing our defense always does, they come up big when we need them. They were able to get two turnovers and put points up on the board for us to make it 14 point game. That’s why they’re the best defense in the league.”

On picking up an important third-down towards the end of the game

“I was just running a slant to get into great field-goal position. Once I caught it, I was going to do everything I could do to get a first down and keep the clock running. I just reached out and made sure I held on to the ball.”

On the offense settling for field goals

“It’s a little worrisome. You can’t keep kicking field goals; it’s any given Sunday, Monday or Thursday. One day a team might come out and score three touchdowns on our defense and if we kick five field goals we lose the game. We’ve got to figure out what we can do to get in the end zone.”

On having long drives early in the second half

“It was big, especially to keep our defense off the field and give them a rest. It put us in the position to put some points on the board and do what we do best and keep the clock rolling.”

On play of QB Trevor Siemian

“He’s a poised guy; he doesn’t rush nothing. All the turnovers we’ve had have been freak plays or tipped balls. He’s so poised that if he’s got to throw away the ball he’ll do it. He’s not going to take any crazy yards lost.”

BRONCOS SAFETY T.J. WARD

On how he felt about Head Coach Gary Kubiak’s decision to kick the field goal at the end of the game

“That just shows his confidence in us. It shows his confidence in what we can do, especially with no timeouts left. The odds were heavily stacked against the Colts.”

On why the odds were stacked against the Colts

“I don’t think they’ve had a drive that long without two or three penalties to help them along, and definitely in that short of a time. The times that they did drive the field, it was four or five minute drives, I believe.”

On if he felt they had Colts QB Andrew Luck in a similar position to other quarterbacks they have played against

“We felt that we owed Andrew Luck because he’s beaten us the last few times we’ve played him, so this game meant a lot for us to get back at the entire Colts team. I think we made a lot of mistakes today but we got through with a win.”

On if he feels Luck didn't play as tough as he did against the Broncos last year

"I honestly don't think it was going through his head. The type of player that Luck is, he just goes out there and plays the game, so I doubt that he was thinking about it at all. We were on him a lot. I thought I had him sacked and he threw the ball away and we had him wrapped up a couple of times. That's just the way he plays. I don't think he really thinks about outside forces. He just plays the game."

On if the defense is further along than it was last year

"I believe so. We're a year growing together, two years in the defense. We've got some young guys but they're learning fast. We're able to teach them a lot better because we know more. We don't always have to go to a coach to get the answer."

BRONCOS DEFENSIVE END DEREK WOLFE

On pulling ahead in the fourth quarter

"[Colts QB] Andrew Luck is a great player and he's surrounded by a great team. If you give him any space, he's going to take off with his feet, create penalties and holding calls. He did a great job of doing that today. He did a great job of managing his offense when they needed him to. At the end of the game, I think we showed how good we can be as a defense. We came out there and put a stop to that."

On pressuring Andrew Luck prior to CB Aqib Talib's interception

"He was trying to get rid of it quick at first, but it wasn't working out so we knew he was going to start holding it. If he holds it, we can get there and we're either going to get sacks and picks. It ended up working out both ways."

On being able to bring Luck to the ground

"We knew that we had a hard time bringing him down so we made sure we got him down this time. Whenever one person's got his arm around him, we've got to come up and finish him. He's a stout guy."

On OLB Von Miller getting faster as the game goes on

"I think the other guy just gets slower. They get tired and he has more and more energy. He's like a shark when there's blood in the water. He just gets going faster and faster."

On feeding off of teammates' play

"We feed off of each other, Von and I especially; we work well together. We run games together and we set things up for each other. We thrive off of each other's success."

On batting passes down

"I get screamed at every day about it. [Defensive Line coach] Bill Kolar screams at me every day if I don't bat the ball down. I should have had a few today. I'm not going to get praised for just that one. I'm going to get yelled at for the ones I didn't get."

COLTS HEAD COACH CHUCK PAGANO

Opening statement

"This is a tough one to swallow because we had a ton of opportunities, as bad as things looked at times. We came out offensively and got a drive that ended in a field goal, which is fine, but after that we really couldn't get anything else going in the first half. It obviously wasn't good enough. The defense hung in there and we got it to a one score game. Then coming out in the third quarter, we put together a 13-14 play drive where we went 80 yards and scored a touchdown. Then, we're sitting there in the fourth quarter and it's a three-point game. I know [Colts QB] Andrew [Luck] would love to have it back, we'd all love to have it back, but you have to take care of the football in that situation. Guys fought and played their ass off. We had a ton of opportunities on both sides to make plays. When those opportunities show up, you've got to capitalize on them. There were plenty of times on defense where we'd get to a third down but we couldn't get off the field in critical situations. We just have to keep grinding. Its only two games. This is the third year in a row [the Colts have started 0-] but, we've got a good locker room with great character guys. These guys will come back and work hard tomorrow just like always. We have 14 games left. It's a long, long season. We're beat up. We've got to get some guys back. We lost some more guys today but nobody is going to feel sorry for us. We'll come back tomorrow."

On letting another close game slip away

“You’re right there in a three-point game in the fourth quarter. You know it’s going to come down to three or four plays late in the football game. You don’t know when those plays will come. We give their defense a lot of credit here in Denver as we do with every team we play. They have a heck of a defense, we know that. They were obviously a little bit better than us today and made more plays. You can’t turn the ball over and you can’t have pick-six and strip fumbles returned for touchdowns. It’s too hard to overcome.”

On whether they tried to cover up their decimated secondary with some different defensive looks

“With all the players we have out, you can ask the guys out there to play to man-to-man over and over and over and it’ll only be a matter of time before something will get them. You have to change things and mix in some zone coverages to help those guys. They’re out there giving it everything they have. You just have to change some things up and do some different things. You have to run some zone pressures and four-man rushes and play some different coverages at times.”

On CB Malcolm Butler’s interception and subsequent injury that kept him from scoring a touchdown on the play

“I’ve never seen anything like it. I was thinking probably the same thing that was going through everybody else’s head at the time. It’s a pick-six and nobody is going to catch him. Then, he goes down like he was shot. It was his hamstring. He went in and didn’t return. It was unfortunate.”

On whether the lack of playing time for Butler in the preseason may have had anything to do with the injury

“We’ll go back and look at the tape but I think we all saw the same thing.”

On whether his team is now playing with a different kind of urgency

“Our urgency is the same no matter what. We’re not going to change. We’re going to worry about coming in tomorrow, looking at the tape, making corrections and getting ready for San Diego. We have a really good football team coming in and we have to find a way to get a win. I think the urgency is always there. Every game matters and we have 14 left. All we’re worried about as coaches is the next game. We’ve got to try to find a way to get some guys back and get some things cleaned up and get a win.”

On what it might take to win some of these close games that have gotten away from them the first two weeks of the season

“It’s very frustrating. We’ve got to finish. We’ve got to find a way to finish. That’s we’re trying to do. I know we have a good football team. We’ve got a quarterback who, obviously, will win a ton games and who we’ve won a ton of games with. It’s frustrating to be right there and not get it done. We’re not going to make excuses. These guys battled and fought their tails off the entire time. You have to get yourself ready to win this football game in this environment and we had a chance. Again, we just didn’t close it out. We have to figure out a way to close it out.”

On identifying what has gone wrong with the injuries

“I can’t. I can’t answer that. I don’t know how to answer that for you.”

On the Broncos’ strip-sack at the end of the fourth quarter

“[Broncos OLB] Von Miller, he’s Von Miller. We did a good job at some points in the game giving the quarterback time. I think he’s a great, great player. There’s a reason he was the MVP of Super Bowl 50. He’s a great player and he made a great play. We have to be better, especially in that situation. It’s hard, mentally.”

COLTS QUARTERBACK ANDREW LUCK

On the interception he threw to Aqib Talib

“He made a good play. He obviously got to the ball before our guy did. You guys saw what happened after that.”

On the Broncos defense

“They’re a very, very good defense. You see it on film and you see it when you play them.”

On having an opportunity to win at the end of the fourth quarter

“We had our opportunities. We did lose it. That’s exactly what I’m saying. Credit to them for creating their own opportunities, we didn’t take advantage of ours, and they won.”

On OLB Von Miller's play

"He's a very good player and we have the utmost respect for him. We've played him before, and we understand how good he is."

On the lack of offensive rhythm for the Colts

"They did a good job, and we did some OK things. We didn't really create that much of a rhythm until that second half, but it was a tight ballgame. I think it was a one-score game going into that second half. We had our opportunities and we didn't capitalize."

On the play of the Broncos corners

"They're very good. They can cover multiple ways. They defend well in man, they defend well in zone and they defend well in blitz and dog. They do a really nice job of that."

On if his he was throwing into smaller windows than usual today

"Windows in the NFL are always small, no matter who you play. That's the beauty of playing offense."

On if being 0-2 is especially frustrating given that they had an opportunity to win both games

"No, not necessarily. 0-2 is frustrating, and there's only one level of frustration with losing, and that is wanting to win."

On if he struggled with accuracy today

"I'll have to watch the film. They do a nice job of disrupting rhythm and timing. I didn't throw it that well. That's probably the simple answer."

COLTS SAFETY MIKE ADAMS**On the Colts' tackling**

"I think we tackled well for the most part, but in key situations, we didn't – key situations like third-and-long. We had them stopped a couple times and we didn't finish the tackles. That was the difference in the game, getting off on third down when we needed to."

On the missed opportunity for a pick-six by Colts CB Darius Butler

"That was a big turn-around. I was just kidding with him, telling him if he wasn't so slow and falling down. That was a big turn-around in the game. Unfortunately, he got hurt on that and that hurt us because another DB goes down. It's just like we're playing musical chairs a little bit. But we're fighting."

On what the Colts need to do to recover from an 0-2 start

"Get healthy first. I think we're playing good ball given our situation, but we're not asking anybody to feel sorry for us. We've got to go out there and play. We've got to go out there and make those plays. I don't care if it's the *Bad News Bears* or whatever. If they're out there, they're capable, and we've got to treat it accordingly and make the plays when it's time."

On his thoughts on Broncos QB Trevor Siemian

"I like him. I told him 'much respect' after the game. He hung in there. I got a couple good shots on him and he still stuck in there and threw the ball, got the ball off. I think he's surprisingly a good quarterback, for a young guy just getting his second start in a real game."

On if it's difficult to gameplan for a young quarterback

"No. It's difficult only in the fact that you've only got so much film. Other than that, it's not too difficult because we just treat it accordingly."

On if he expected the Broncos to come out and run the ball

"No, I didn't. I expected them to come out slinging, given our situation at DB, that we're thin and we're hurting. I thought they were going to come out slinging the ball. But they didn't. They stayed balanced like they did last game. I don't know the ratio, but they pretty much stayed balance."

On how difficult it is for the Colts to deal with continued injuries

"It's tough, but we've got to deal with it. Like I said, I'm not asking anybody to feel sorry. Don't feel sorry for us. We're NFL players. If they're out there, they're capable. If they're on the team, they're capable. That means they're liable to make plays as well. On third down, we have to get off the field. If we get an opportunity, we have to make that tackle and get off the field."

COLTS CORNERBACK DARIUS BUTLER

On getting off the field on third down

"That's a critical time in the game. In the NFL it's third down, what you do in the red zone and creating turnovers, that's going to win you and lose you games. We didn't execute in critical situations and we have to regardless of who we're playing. You have to execute and get off the field to win games."

On if he can bounce back from his hamstring injury

"I have to. I have no choice. The bug is hitting us, but we can't make excuses. We need to step up and do the necessary things to stay out there."

On sustaining the injury

"It just grabbed on me as soon as I went to open up. I was feeling fine throughout the game. Once I made that interception, I went to open up and it grabbed on me."

On what he saw on his interception

"I was actually on a blitz. I was supposed to blitz on that play. I saw 10 [Broncos WR Emmanuel Sanders] motion over, and it's just one of those plays where you see it a few times and I just kind of reacted to it. It was a reaction play. All I saw was the end zone, I went to open up and, unfortunately, my hamstring pulled on me."

On next steps with his injury

"I get an MRI tomorrow and then see how serious it is."

On if he thinks his hamstring injury is related to his ankle injury

"It could be. Your body compensates for injuries at times. I felt good, like I said. I went through everything I usually do pregame. It happened, I think, midway through the second quarter, so it's not like it was a not loose thing. It just happens."

On the Colts' continued string of bad luck with injuries

"It's sad, but I guess that's where we are right now. I hope we break this injury curse or whatever it is. You've got to break it, get healthy and stay healthy."

COLTS TACKLE ANTHONY CASTONZO

On what he saw on Luck's sack fumble

"First of all, hats off to our defense they kept us in there. Our offense, early in the game, didn't really do much and the defense really kept us in there. Hats off to them for putting us in the position where we could go down and win the game. As for that last play, I don't really know what happened. I was out trying to battle and do my job, so we will have to see it on film."

On wanting the ball in Andrew Luck's hands

"Anytime we go on the field with our quarterback we expect to score. So, it's no different in that situation."

On starting 0-2 for the third consecutive season

"I didn't realize that. You don't want to start that way. We know what kind of team we are though. We know we are not a true 0-2 team. We know we are a good football team, there is no reason to freak out."

On Denver's talent on defense

"We've played against them in the past and we know what kind of team they are. They have good linemen and a good secondary. They aren't a team that's going to give up big plays. We know it's going to be an all-day grind against them and that's what it was. That was a dog fight out there."

On slow starts last two weeks

“Don’t really know. It’s just when the plays are there we have to make them I guess. We will have to look at the film and see what exactly it was but it’s just a little thing here and there that can spark our start.”

COLTS RUNNING BACK FRANK GORE

On the Denver defense

“We’ve got to take our hats off to Denver. They’re a great team. We played them tough, but we have to come out with the win. We got the opportunities, but we have to make them count. We didn’t today.”

On the late strip sack of Colts QB Andrew Luck

“[Broncos OLB] Von [Miller] is a great player. That’s why he was [Super Bowl 50] MVP last year. He’s a great player, he made a great play, that’s it. That’s football.”

On if they can still be contenders this season

“We’ll be fine. We just have to keep grinding as a team, stay together and we’ve got to get healthy—that’s probably one of the main keys. Not making excuses, we still have to go out there, play and do whatever it takes to get the win. We have to finish. When we had the ball, we should have finished.”

On Colts CB Darius Butler’s injury after making an interception

“That’s been hurting us all year, since camp, injuries. It’s all timing. We’re going to keep grinding as a team, we’re going to stay together and we’re going to keep working. We have 14 more games. 0-2, but you watch the film and there are some great things that we can grow off of, but we also got to get better. ”

COLTS NOSE TACKLE ZACH KERR

On the Colts’ tackling

“It’s just something we’ve got to get better at. I don’t want to use excuses early in the season because we’re professionals and that’s what we do for a living. We tackle for a living. That’s our job, to tackle people. So I can’t blame it on anything but just not finishing. We’ve got to finish better and obviously this week and last week kind of shows that.”

On why the Colts defense hasn’t been clicking this season

“I wish I had a crystal ball to look into for you to give you an answer. That’s how football goes sometimes. I look at football like a boxing match. In boxing matches, they throw 300-something punches, land 168 of them, two of them might be a big punch. We run 60 plays, five of them might work perfectly and two of them might be a big play. Football is just a weird game. It’s an imperfect game for imperfect people. Obviously we didn’t come out with a W, that’s what we wanted to do, but credit to the Denver Broncos. That’s a good football team over there. They’re 2-0 and they’re doing a good job.”

On what he wants to tell Colts fans following their 0-2 start

“Stay with us. We’re going to come out there very Sunday and do the best we can as long as they come out there every Sunday and do the best they can. We work in unison. Don’t give up on us. We’re just humans. We’re still working and we’re going to get to where we need to be eventually.”

On his thoughts on Broncos QB Trevor Siemian

“I think he’s a good football player. He’s in the NFL starting at quarterback. It’s hard to do that. Hats off to him. He did a good job today. He definitely got them in the right checks, threw a couple of great passes on third down to move the sticks. He did a good job today. I can’t say anything bad about the guy. He played a hell of a football game today. I think his confidence was good. I didn’t think he looked rattled at all. I think he looked pretty relaxed the whole football game, even taking some of the hits. I kind of talked to him when he was taking some of the hits and nothing. He laughed it off. Tough guy. I think he’s a good football player. He’s going to be a good football player.”

On his confidence in Colts QB Andrew Luck to mount a comeback drive at the end

“Every time I think Andrew has the ball in his hand, I think he’s going to score a touchdown. That’s it. Every time Andrew has the ball, I think it’s a touchdown.”

COLTS OFFENSIVE LINEMAN JOE REITZ

On Broncos OLB Von Miller's strip sack in the fourth quarter

"He got me around the edge. He got to [QB] Andrew [Luck], and the rest is history. I need to be better, especially in critical situations."

On his mentality after giving up plays like the strip sack

"I think you're hard on yourself every week. There're always plays you can get better at, but you can't sulk. You can't feel sorry for yourself. We've got turn it around, get on a plane, get home and tomorrow we'll get ready to play San Diego in six days, and find a way to get a win. There's no time to feel sorry for myself, sulk, or any of that stuff."

On starting the season 0-2

"Obviously you'd like to be 2-0, but we've been 0-2 before. A couple years ago we were 0-2 and played in the AFC Championship game. We've got a lot of ball left. This team's got a lot of resolve and a lot of grit. There're 14 left, but you've just got to go back to work. There's no magic potion, no secrets or anything. You go back and you get to work. We'll find a way to play a better game on Sunday."

On what about this team makes him believe they'll be able to turn it around

"I think we've seen it. We're out here going against probably the best defense in the NFL, last year they were. There were times we marched right down the field. We've done some good things in the first couple games but we've got to finish. We've got to do better with critical situations, especially myself."

COLTS RUNNING BACK ROBERT TURBIN

On starting the season 0-2

"There have been teams that started rough, then all of a sudden they hit a streak, something turns. How does that happen? You just stay the course. You keep doing the same old thing. You believe in the process and you trust the process. If you believe that you will get there, you will. Just be patient. We'll be fine. It's a long season."

On Broncos QB Trevor Siemian

"He did a good job. Obviously he's worked very hard to get where he is. I don't know him, but he's earned everything he's gotten this year. He earned the right to be a starting quarterback. They had a competition in training camp and he proved to be able to lead their team. Give him credit. He's done a good job."

On why he's confident they'll be able to bounce back from 0-2

"It's a long season. It's long for a reason. Things can change at any time. As players, we have to continue to work, and with work comes success. Believe in yourself and believe in the process. Trust your team and you'll get what you want. I think we have enough grit to be able to turn this around eventually and start to get some wins. We're confident. We're not worried about anything."

On how confident he was that they'd be able to score on the fourth quarter drive

"We were in the same position last week. Down by a touchdown, got the ball, and drove right down the field to score and go up with 30 seconds to go. We're confident about our offense and what we can do. We're confident as a team about what we can do. It's about gelling together and putting it together on the field for four quarters. That'll lead to more W's for us."

On the strip sack in the fourth quarter

"They're a championship defense for a reason. They make special plays and have special players that can do a lot of different things for that defense. That makes them great. You have to give them credit at the end of the day."