

DENVER BRONCOS UK MAGAZINE



AUGUST 2016

INSIDE:

SEASON PREVIEW

2015 REVIEW

WADE PHILLIPS INTERVIEW

FAN'S VIEWS

EXCLUSIVE OFFERS

EDITION #1

Hi Broncos Country,

Welcome to a special season preview magazine from the gang at Denver Broncos UK. Throughout the magazine we reflect on a brilliant 2015 campaign that ended in a glorious victory over the Carolina Panthers at Super Bowl 50. We also take a look ahead to the 2016 season and discuss what lies ahead for our beloved franchise after a trying offseason. Also look out for an exclusive interview with the Broncos defensive coordinator Wade Phillips. Let's look forward with optimism to the 2016 season. Go Broncos!

Thomas Ritchie, Founder



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The image shows the Denver Broncos logo, which features a stylized horse head in orange and blue, with the word 'BRONCOS' in white and 'DENVER' in orange below it. Below the logo, the text 'EXCLUSIVE BRONCOS OFFER' is written in white. This is followed by the large, bold text 'ENJOY 15% OFF DENVER GEAR' in white. At the bottom, it says 'SIMPLY ENTER' followed by a red box containing the text 'BRONCOSUK' in white, and then 'AT THE CHECKOUT*' in white.

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- MEET THE TEAM -



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Admin
Fan since 1986



DAVE HASELDEN

Facebook Group founder
Fan since 1987



STUART BRUNT

Admin
Fan since 1998



MARK JONES

Admin
Fan since 1982



DANIEL FORD

Technical Manager
Fan since 2011

- THIS ONE'S FOR PAT! - 2015 REVIEW -

By Rob Newell

As Denver Broncos fans, you already know that the 2015 season ended with the Broncos hoisting the Vince Lombardi trophy, but join me for a brief look back over the season at how the Broncos won their third Super Bowl.

Two years after having a record setting offence but ultimately falling short in Super Bowl 48, John Elway had stuck to his belief that he needed to change things up especially on the defence, Wade Phillips returned as defensive coordinator and Gary Kubiak replaced John Fox as head coach. Kubiak's zone blocking run game offence which used a mobile QB as a threat was not something that was likely to mesh with Peyton Manning. Indeed from the outside looking in, it appeared as if there was not a happy mix between Manning and the system he had run throughout his pro career and Kubiak, yet the Broncos started 6-0 going into the bye week

thanks largely to a reborn defence that was proving its worth each and every week, getting QB pressures, sacks and takeaways as well as putting points on the board themselves. Defence may win Championships, but when it's a defence as good as this, it can damn well win games every bit as much as offence.



After the bye, the Packers were in town and Manning and Kubiak seemed to have come to an understanding, instead of his usual shotgun position Manning moved forward into the pistol with a tailback behind him and on that night everything would work for Denver, racking up a 29-10 victory in what would prove the most impressive all-round performance of the regular season. Two

defeats would follow though to Indianapolis and Kansas City, the Chiefs game saw Manning set the NFL passing yardage record but ironically it was perhaps his worst ever game and he was replaced by Brock Osweiler. It would later emerge that Manning had an injured foot.

Installing Osweiler led to Kubiak putting in more of his running style offence and CJ Anderson began to make the RB position his own, in victories over Chicago, New England and San Diego, but defeats to Oakland and Pittsburgh left Denver in a position where they might not even make the playoffs. As was once famously said, “on to Cincinnati”, but not to Andy Dalton who was injured, this would be Osweiler v AJ McCarron.

Cometh the Hour, Cometh the Man, or in this case, Cometh the Defensive unit. With the season on the line the defence stepped it up and Brandon McManus kicked the winning FG to put things back on track. Week 17 vs the heavily depleted Chargers should have been a formality but it wasn't and with the Chargers leading in the second half Anderson fumbled, Kubiak turned back to Manning and the whole season shifted, right there, right then.

Manning hardly threw the ball when he came in, but he called the protections and called the correct running plays as Denver came back to win. The defence, sensing a shift in momentum, also ramped it up as Malik Jackson and Derek Wolfe got pressure up the middle to complement DeMarcus Ware and Von Miller on the edge,

the team never looked back and clinched the number one seed. Coming into Divisional round Kubiak announced Manning was again the starter and Denver had the chance to avenge a regular season loss to Pittsburgh, but this time Pittsburgh was missing Bell and Brown. Two early scores and the defence did the





rest, to hold on 23-16 to set up the final ever Manning-Brady bowl, when Manning and Brady meet at the Championship game the odds tend to go with number 18, but this was more about number 58 as Miller in particular got to and disrupted Brady time and time again. As is often the case though with the Pats, it came to the last play but as was also often the case this

year, the Broncos defence held on and a date with the Panthers and league MVP Cam Newton was arranged in Super Bowl 50.

Newton was the number one pick in the draft the year Miller was selected number two, that draft also had JJ Watt, a now 3 time defensive player of the year, but he would swap all of those awards to do what Von Miller did that night. The league's best offence was not a match for his speed and power and Miller was dominant, directly responsible for setting up both Denver touchdowns as well as covering slot receivers when required. DeMarcus Ware was almost equally dominant off the other edge and Denver were World Champions once more.

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- QUARTERBACK QUANDARY -

By Dave Haselden

After becoming Super Bowl 50 champs the QB quandary wasn't as it was now. It was one where we knew Manning would retire, but had to wait until he announced it, meaning the Heir apparent Brock Oswieler would take over Signal calling duties.

Manning announced his retirement and Judas, I mean Brock refused to even negotiate with the teams, instead choosing money over staying loyal to the team that put him in the shop window.

That meant we only had Trevor Siemian on the Roster. The Broncos cut Dysert last season for Trevor, saying they liked this kid, so in all honesty I wasn't worried. He is actually the veteran at the club in only his 2nd year and knows the system, so for that if he started I wasn't worried. Every QB linked with us someone had a moan, yet no one had the answer, from Kaepernick to Fitzpatrick, no one was happy.

The Mark Sanchez trade came out of the blue, and one thing that struck me was his passion and eagerness. This is what is needed from any position. We went from someone not interested to someone begging for the chance. He made 2 conference championships and that in itself is no mean fete. I like what I have seen on tape, and his attitude is infectious. He is already a leader and it's showing.

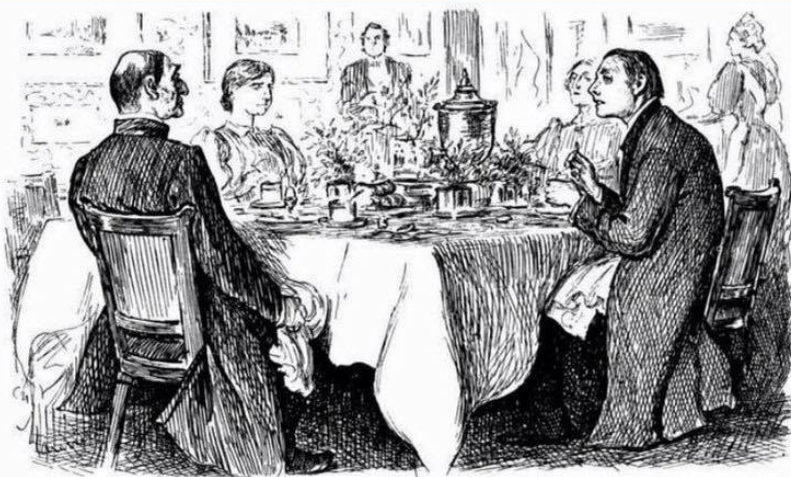


It wasn't any surprise at all that we drafted a QB and in the first round too, signalling our intent. Paxton Lynch was always Denver's man. They had him over



before the draft and stayed he was their no. 1 target in the draft.

They weren't interested in Wentz or Goff, Paxton was the man they wanted, and after trading up with Seattle, they got their man. He is tipped as our future franchise QB, however I don't think he'll start the season, that honour I feel will fall too Sanchez and that will simply be down to experience. Whichever way it turns out, I'm excited too watch the battle unfold. We are in good hands at QB regardless of what others may think.



"One day, Sir, I hope to become one of the Gridiron Gentlemen..."



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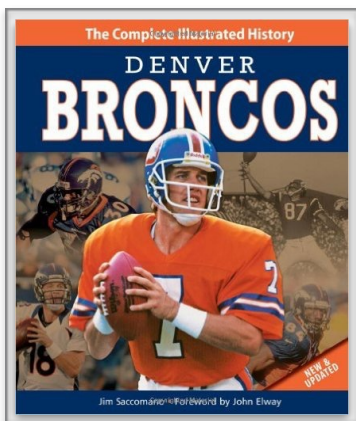
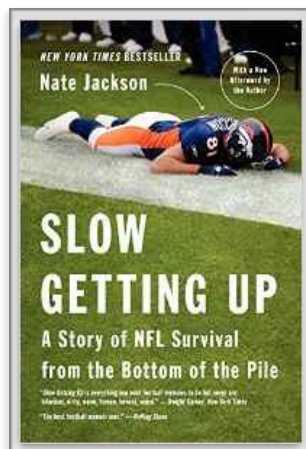
- DENVER BRONCOS BOOK REVIEW ROUNDUP -

By Alex Harrison (@alexrjharrison)

The following books were all bought via Amazon.co.uk and so can be fairly easily obtained by UK fans.

Slow Getting Up By Nate Jackson

An unauthorised, no-holds-barred account of life in the NFL, playing for the Broncos as a TE and how the NFL treats its players, Nate's book is a riveting read. It's all about life as a "bit player" and how it's a constant battle to be a starter, to recover from injuries. His style is full of humour and honesty and he has a knack for grabbing your attention "Jay (Cutler) throws me a fastball with an arc that leads me to the sideline. I burst to track it down and a lightning bolt hits me from behind. My hamstring rips off my assbone with a bang, the sound of my season ending right there." - ouch, but great stuff!



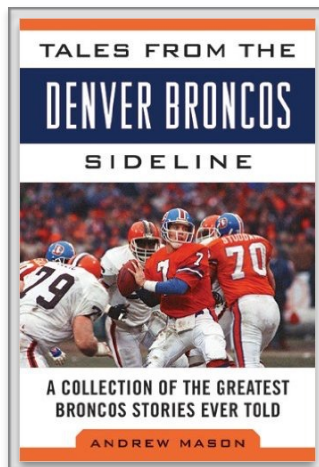
Denver Broncos - The Complete Illustrated History By Jim Saccomanno

The author has spent 3 decades working for the Broncos in their PR department, so in addition to the full Broncos history this book has a lot of great insider photos, quotes and facts. If you are a Broncos fan this one is a must own - it really is everything you want to know and it is regularly revised and updated as seasons pass!

Tales from the Denver Broncos Sideline

By Andrew Mason

Another guy from the Broncos media department, Mase has produced a pretty good collection of anecdotes and moments from various games and Broncos history. I found it to be an ok read - lots I didn't know about, but most of the quotes are lines from press conferences and so it's a bit lacking in opinion and insight.



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- KEYS TO WINNING SUPER BOWL 50 -

By Michael McQuaid

On the morning of Super Bowl 50, I remember reading an article by Sky Sports analysts, NFLN analysts and CBS analysts, with only two people giving the Broncos any change that evening. Were we really that underrated?

Two weeks previously, I'm sure a lot of us nearly had a heart attack when the Patriots went for 2, in Mile High. There is no doubt that we can look back in 50 years time at this season and regard it as a classic one. It had everything for us Broncos fans. Here, I describe the 4 key reasons why we won the Super Bowl

1. GARY KUBIAK

Bringing in Kubiak was a bold decision by Elway - and boy did it pay off. You could suddenly see in pre-season the belief the team has in the coach. Kubiak gave the Broncos something John Fox couldn't - acceptance, and another chance. It was a fresh appointment that really paid off. The hope now is Gary can lead us to another championship in the future. The arrival of Paxton Lynch can hopefully steadfast the offence, however this may take time.

2. LESSONS LEARNT

The Broncos have learnt so much over the previous few years in the playoffs. Patriots, Ravens, Colts, Seahawks defeats all led to this. There is no doubt the team has learnt from mistakes previously, and picked up from this. We see a more mature Broncos team last season, which ultimately paid off.

3. BELIEF

From this, it was quite clear that the team finally believed they could win that third championship. The confidence from the squad during the Steelers game was immense. There is no doubt that the maturity and experience shown by the organisation this year lead to a team worth so much more than money. The team was one, and believed they could do it.

4. THAT DEFENCE

Well, what can I say in a paragraph?

That Chiefs TNF game. Wade Phillips. DeMarcus. Von.

Tears in my eyes... Just let me See Americas Game... Now.

- WHY I'M A BRONCO -

By Dean Godbold

How do you start following a team that to this date that I have never seen, but yet be so passionate about them and the sport.

Well, although I always had an intrigue in my teens about the sport, it never had the TV coverage in the UK like it has nowadays so although I know a bit about it it was still a sort of taboo to me.

I would like to say that I follow the Broncos because of the Elway helicopter or the grace of Terrell Davis rushing for 2000 yards, but it was basically Madden, I can't remember what year it was but I was always a sports nerd and apart from Football (soccer) my second passion was Horse Racing. So I picked that years Madden game up and started a franchise in which I had to pick a team and after 10 minutes of going through the teams it came down to 2, the Denver Broncos and the Indianapolis Colts because I liked there logos. I went for the Denver Broncos.

Though I was a more casual fan back then I always checked the scores, however I rarely watched games because of the time difference. In 2006 I got really serious and I started watching all of the sky sports games and recording the late games, which is probably the time when UK coverage really started to take off. Then I found NFL Gamepass in 2009, and when I found out that Patriots @ Broncos wasn't on TV when we started the season 6-0 or 7-0, (can't remember exactly!) under Kyle Orton I had to watch and my love for the game just got bigger and bigger.

My lowest point is not Super Bowl 48 but the loss to the Ravens the year before because I was truly gutted and to this day think that was the best year Manning played in Denver and the biggest Highlight, well it wasn't that long ago.

Though I have never been to an NFL game I made a promise to myself that the first game I will ever see will be in America and hopefully one day at a certain place in Colorado I might just be in the stands shouting IN-COM-LETE. This is exactly what the NFL and Denver Broncos mean to me.

- OFFSEASON REVIEW -

By Stuart Brunt

This offseason was never going to go well but few saw the apparent self destruction of the roster and the egotistical low balling of the GM to the teams best player. This is the sort of thing you read on Twitter everyday and has some Bronco fans jumping ship.

Firstly only 3 key starters have left the team (Manning has retired, Jackson went to the Jags as a free agent along with Trevathan who has joined former coach John Fox in Chicago). That's 9 of the starting 11 from the leagues best defence returning to compete for Super Bowl 51. Now on the other hand, the dumpster-fire offence has had a good shuffle. Under performing players like Evan Mathis and Louis Vasquez have been released, Ryan Clady has been traded to the New York Jets, Ryan Harris has left for the Steelers and Tyler Polumbus retired.

The big news this off season is that Brock Osweiler decided to leave Denver for Houston. I really expected Brock to take the reigns from Peyton and take the Broncos forward with the help from a QB friendly offence run by coach Kubiak, but he chose 82 million Texan dollars instead.

I have one issue with this off season so far. The lack of urgency to lock our key players up. John Elway, the God of the Bronco world and rightly so, needs to lock key players up a year earlier than he is. Elway has been burned by the Thomas deal which could of been cheaper the year before and imagine the contract

Von Miller would of got last year. Sanchez will lead us to the playoffs. There I said it. The Broncos will average 24 points.



Granted, he might not of performed like he did last year but still we wouldn't have this headache hanging over us until the 15th July. With Sanders needing to get paid and with Marshall and the other restricted free agents needing to be paid, it all leaves less and less wiggle room for the Miller deal, which by the way will get sorted before 15th July. The longer we leave it the more players get big guaranteed money and just adds to the idea Von Miller deserves this much or that much. With Fletcher Cox getting \$63 million guaranteed and now Andrew Luck getting \$87 million guaranteed, and I think Von Miller is worth more to the Broncos than they do to their teams, I wonder how much he will cost us. Sanchez will lead us to the playoffs. There, I said it.

The Broncos will average 24 points a game this year despite the tough schedule. I think we will go 8-0 at home and 4-4 on the road. That,s my take just from the off season. We had a brilliant draft, again taking talent over positional needs and despite the lack of faith in the media I really think this team will go all the way. Acquiring Sanchez is an upgrade on the Peyton of last year, being able to play offensive line players in their correct positions and the signing to a team friendly contract by Okung steadies our run and pass game. Jared Crick coming over along with Phil Taylor will mask the loss of Malik Jackson and from what I read in the media Corey Nelson is quickly on his way to becoming better than Trevathan.

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- WADE PHILLIPS INTERVIEW -

Thomas Ritchie: How did it feel to win the Super Bowl and prove all the doubters wrong?

Wade Phillips: Winning the SB was great but being the decided underdog made it that much better!



TR: What was it like to work with such a talented defence and turn them into the best in the league?

WP: Talent is wonderful - playing to you potential is what you strive for.

TR: What are your thoughts on the upcoming season from a Broncos perspective and what are your aims?

WP: The only thing better than winning the Super Bowl is winning it again

TR: What is like playing in front of such great fans at Mile High stadium?

WP: Our fans give the team great energy--that translates to inspired play.

TR: Do you like the ring!?

WP: The ring is the best



Photo courtesy of Wade Phillips

- REST OF THE WEST -

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

By Arrowheads Abroad

1. **Talented Roster** - Did you know that the Chiefs had 9 players in the NFL top 100 in 2016? Yes that's right NINE. Justin Houston, Derrick Johnson, Eric Berry, Tamba Hali, Marcus Peters, Travis Kielce, Jamaal Charles, Jeremy Maclin and Alex Smith all made the list. The Chiefs has above average talent at all positions.
2. **The return of Jamaal Charles** - I know what a lot of you will be thinking. After Jamaal went down last year you could argue that the Chiefs offence got better. And by thinking that you would be right. Other player had to step up and the system, changed. Alex Smith took on a lot more responsibility instead of letting Jamaal be the work horse. Now ass a fresh Jamaal into the new style offence with the Likes of Kielce and Maclin, all of a sudden we may have a points scoring machine on our hands.
3. **Arrowhead** - Arrowhead stadium gives us the edge in all of our home games. Until you have been there, you will never really understand how loud it is there. When we are playing well and the Arrowhead is rocking, KC is the hardest city in the US of opposing teams to visit.



OAKLAND RAIDERS

By Steve Poland

1. **Injuries** - They have to stay healthy. They can't afford to miss starters for any length of time as the depth is still not at where the other teams are and anyone missing could prove costly.
2. **Derek Carr continuing to develop** - He can't take a step back and must continue to grow in his 3rd season. He needs to play like last year or better for the Raiders to win the division.
3. **Divisional Issues** - The rest of the division have issues and are there for the taking. What will happen at QA for Denver? The Chiefs were Jekyll and Hyde last season, which are they really? Ans San Diego and River and little else.



SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

By Alex Harrison

1. In 2015 the team was decimated by injuries to key players like Antonio Gates, Malcolm Floyd and Keenan Allen, which helped contribute to their 4-12 record, their work since 2012. They need to stay fitter.
2. Before the 2015 draft, Melvin Gordon and Todd Gurley were seen by many experts as pretty close, talent wise. No longer. Gurley has a breakout rookie season for the now LA Rams, where Gordon has a pedestrian 2015, coming close to looking like a bust. The running game must get better.
3. **Defense** - The defence against the pass must improve and that means more pressure up front on opposing QB's and better coverage in the secondary, While Jason Berrett was great, the Chargers lost Eric Wedder to free agency and coverage therefore remains a real question.



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