

Friday, July 7, 1989

Cowboys trade Brooks to Broncos for future conditional draft picks

DENVER (AP) — The Denver Broncos on Monday acquired defensive tackle Kevin Brooks from the Dallas Cowboys in exchange for future conditional draft picks.

The Broncos were believed to have given the Cowboys third- and fifth-round choices in the 1990 draft, but team officials declined comment.

The 6-6, 284-pound Brooks was a No. 1 draft choice of the Cowboys in 1985 and has been a starter since 1987.

He is a player of unquestionable physical ability, but the Cowboys have questioned his effort throughout his career.

Brooks, 26, who recorded five sacks in the 1988 season, asked to be traded in late June.

Coach Dan Reeves flew to Dallas last week to meet with Brooks and discuss the potential deal with former Cowboys head coach Tom Landry.

Sources said Denver outbid five other teams — Cleveland, Minnesota, Tampa Bay, Detroit and the Los Angeles Raiders — for Brooks' services.

The Cowboys originally sought a first-round pick for Brooks.

A transaction between Denver and Dallas was supposed to have been completed last week, but complications arose when the Broncos used their first-round pick in the 1990 spring draft to take Alabama running back Bobby Humphrey in the supplemental draft last Friday.

The Broncos then became reluctant to relinquish two more picks in the same draft for Brooks, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported.

The Broncos apparently were the only team to offer multiple draft choices for Brooks.

The addition of Brooks is the latest attempt to upgrade a defensive line that has been among the least effective in the NFL. Last season, Denver ranked last in the NFL in run defense.

Brooks, from Michigan, has played right tackle throughout his pro career. His acquisition could mean that new Bronco defensive coordinator Wade Phillips plans more extensive use of the 4-3 alignment instead of Denver's more traditional 3-4.

Jackson replaces Pitino as Knicks coach

Former assistant becomes NBA's youngest head coach at 33

NEW YORK (AP) — Stu Jackson became the NBA's youngest coach on Monday when the New York Knicks gave him the job vacated by Rick Pitino, citing a smooth transition as more important than experience.

Jackson, 33, was a Knicks assistant the last two years under Pitino, who resigned in May to become coach at the University of Kentucky.

However, Jackson has never been a head coach at any level.

"I may lack years of experience, but having spent the last two years with this team, I feel I'm experienced enough with this team," Jackson said.

"He has as much experience in the pro game as Rick had when he became head coach," General Manager Al Bianchi said. "It's an easier transition when you take a man who is already here. No one was coming in here that I didn't know. There are going to be no more surprises."

To offset the inexperience factor, Bianchi hired Paul Silas and Ernie Grunfeld as Jackson's assistants.

Silas and Grunfeld have a combined 25 years' experience as NBA players and Silas was head coach of the San Diego Clippers for three years.

Grunfeld played for the Knicks for four seasons before becoming their radio analyst two years ago.

"I will rely heavily on Paul's experience and Ernie is well liked," Jackson said. "I think we will have one of the most outstanding staffs in the NBA."

Jackson said his biggest adjustment as a head coach "will be my relationships with the players. My personality won't change, but now I'll be making decisions instead of suggestions. Sometimes those deci-

sions won't be taken favorably."

Jackson played at the University of Oregon for Dick Harter, now coach at Charlotte, and was a graduate assistant under Harter for two years beginning in 1981. He later was an assistant at Washington State and Providence.

"I'm certain he'll do fine," Harter said. "He has a good knowledge of the game."

Jackson's situation has been compared to Pat Riley, who had two years' experience as an NBA assis-

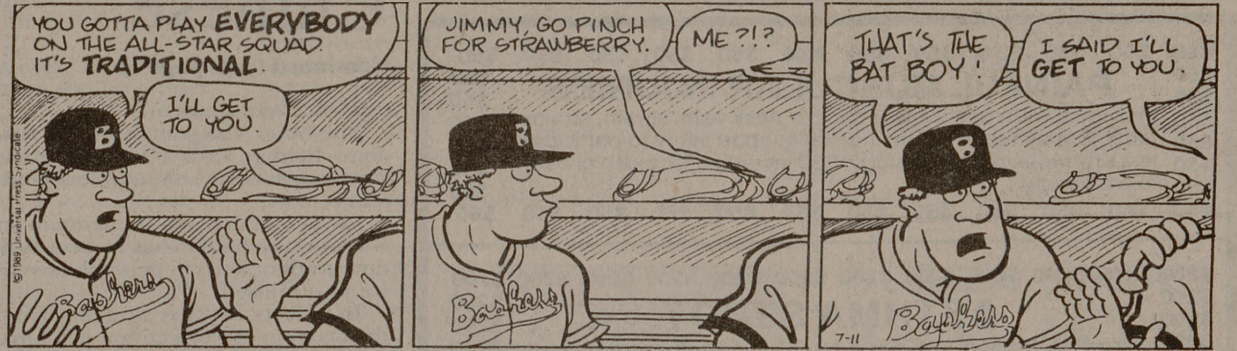
tant before being named head coach of the Los Angeles Lakers in November 1981. Riley went on to win four championships in eight seasons.

"The situation was a little different with me," Riley said. "I was given the job as an interim coach. They weren't sure what they wanted to do or whether I could do the job. One thing led to another, the team responded well, and I'm still here."

Riley predicted that Jackson will do a good job with the Knicks because he understands the difference between the college and pro games.

TANK McNAMARA®

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Schmidt's appearance ceremonial for All-Star

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — A locker was provided for Mike Schmidt for Monday's All-Star workout. He didn't need it, though.

His Phillies uniform hung neatly pressed on two hangers and his maroon cap was on the top shelf. In the locker to the left, San Diego's Tony Gwynn was putting his uniform on.

Mike Schmidt took his off forever in May.

Schmidt, who retired on May 29, was the leading vote-getter at third base by the fans for the National League All-Star team.

He finished his career with 548 homers, three MVP awards, and 10 Gold Gloves.

On Tuesday night, he will be introduced to give the fans one more chance to say goodbye.

Why not play one more game? "I'm not really part of this anymore," Schmidt said. "This was a great honor and I'm thankful to the fans, but it wouldn't be fair to the other players."

Schmidt made a tearful farewell to baseball on the day of his retirement in San Diego and said his farewell again a couple of days later in Philadelphia.

"It was a lot harder than I thought it would be," Schmidt said. "But every day it gets a little easier. There are other things I'm working on now."

"I think playing in this game would have been taking a step backwards. If I made an out it wouldn't have been fair to the others. If I get a hit, people would say I left too soon."

"I had lots of great honors in baseball and I won a World Series," Schmidt said. "There was really nothing left for me to prove... it was just time to go."

Knowing that time — and acting on it — is one of the most difficult decisions a professional athlete must make.

"If you think you can still do the job, fine. But I didn't think I could anymore," Schmidt said.

Lee, Bynoe pay \$65 million for Nuggets

Denver becomes first minority-owned major sports franchise

DENVER (AP) — Bertram Lee and Peter Bynoe became the first black owners of a major professional sports franchise Monday by buying the Denver Nuggets for \$65 million, but sought to make their race a secondary issue.

"We're mindful of what this event means," said Lee, who owns businesses in several cities. "But color is not an issue we're trying to downplay or play up. We carry a heavy responsibility. We'll probably be looked at more closely, but it's a challenge we accept."

Previous owner Sidney Shlenker called the agreement, which is subject to approval by NBA owners, a historic occasion.

He said Lee and Bynoe were "minorities in more than the color of their skin. They are minorities in their code of ethics and their code of integrity. They'll make Denver a better place for having been here."

Lee, 50, previously tried to purchase the San Antonio Spurs, New

England Patriots and Baltimore Orioles. He owns television and radio stations in Washington, D.C., Utah and Nebraska and also is chairman of BML Associates Inc., an investment holding company in Boston.

Bynoe, 38, is executive director of the Illinois Sports Facilities Authority, which is responsible for building the new home of the Chicago White Sox.

Lee said he disagreed with Dr. Harry Edwards, the black sociologist who is a consultant to major league baseball and the NFL's San Francisco 49ers.

Edwards has warned that blacks should seek ownership of franchises in conjunction with whites to avoid facing the situation of receiving no credit for success and all the blame for failure.

"I don't think the color of our skin will be the standard against which we will be principally measured," Lee said. "I think this is a positive. The

diversity in this country is something we should celebrate. It's something that has made this country great."

Bynoe said it is "clear to us when we look in the mirror each morning who we are. But we've never used it as an excuse or carried a chip on our shoulder. If we become role models — if we manage to set a standard for performance — we'll be very satisfied."

Lee said he wants an efficiently run and profitable club and Bynoe said the surest way to make money is to win a championship. Both acknowledged that changes would be made, although Coach Doug Moe's job appears safe for the time being.

They announced one change at Monday's news conference, installing former Utah Jazz executive Dave Checketts as the club president. Pete Babcock, who had been president and general manager, remains as general manager with jurisdiction over basketball operations.

The new owners promised the

team will remain in Denver and hinted that Moe would be retained. Checketts will become a minority owner but the bulk of the franchise belongs to Lee and Bynoe.

Lee called Checketts and Babcock "probably the strongest NBA management team that I know of," and promised they would be given free rein to run the franchise.

"We look on this as a business proposition, but we're also sports fans," Lee said. "We see this as a challenge. We have the opportunity to build a franchise which has seen both good and bad times but which has a solid foundation."

Bynoe said he and Lee have three goals in any venture.

"First, we want to make money," he said. "Second, we want to have fun doing it. Third, we want to have a positive impact on the community."

Both new owners planned to maintain at least parttime residences in Colorado.

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