

# 2026

## DENVER BRONCOS DRAFT GUIDE

### The blueprint for Denver's next leap

A premium illustrated scouting book built around the Broncos' post-Waddle roster, their limited but critical draft capital, and the prospects who make the most sense at pick no. 62 and beyond.

*Tight end. Linebacker. Interior power.  
Longterm back-end answers.*



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A visual Broncos-only roadmap from roster pressure points to a seven-pick mock haul.

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# EDITOR'S NOTE

Denver already made the splash. This draft is about tightening the frame around a roster that now has to win with precision.

The Broncos bought explosiveness with the Jaylen Waddle trade. They also bought themselves a harder draft: no first-rounder, no third-rounder, and almost no margin for wasted swings.

- Pick 62 has to return a real role player - preferably one who can help Bo Nix immediately.
- The middle of the board should chase dependable football IQ: tight ends, linebackers, interior defenders, safeties.
- Day 3 can still bring juice if Denver hunts for specialty traits instead of chasing a generic depth chart.
- \* This guide is built around one central question: how do the Broncos turn seven picks into a smarter, tougher, more flexible roster by May?

## IMMEDIATE IMPACT



## NEED FIT



## LONG-TERM VALUE



The Broncos do not need more abstract upside than they can actually develop. They need role clarity, coverage range, and offensive help that makes life easier on their young quarterback.CV

# STATE OF THE BRONCOS

The big move was Waddle. The quieter story is that Denver mostly kept its core together, which makes the remaining spots easier to isolate.

## WHAT CHANGED

- Jaylen Waddle adds speed and separation juice to the receiver room.
- J.K. Dobbins returns after leading Denver in carries and yards in 2025.
- Alex Singleton and Justin Strnad are back, but ILB still feels unresolved.

## FOUNDATION PIECES

- Bo Nix stays the center of the build.
- Waddle plus Courtland Sutton changes defensivespacing.
- The pass rush and corner talent keep the defense above-water.

## WHERE DENVER STANDS



## THE READ IN ONE LINE

Denver is closer to “functional contender” than “major rebuild.” That is exactly why this draft should be about precision support pieces instead of swinging at low-probability luxury picks.

- The offense needs one more matchup player at tight end.
- The linebacker room needs a younger coverage answer behind veterans on short-term deals.
- Denver can still layer defensive line and safety depth without forcing the issue at the top of the board.


# WHERE THE ROSTER IS STURDY - AND WHERE IT SQUEAKS

A high-level pressure map of the current build.

## OFFENSE

<b>QB</b>		Bo Nix gives Denver clarity.
<b>WR</b>		Waddle + Sutton = real stress on defenses.
<b>RB</b>		Dobbins returns, but Day 3 depth makes sense.
<b>TE</b>		Pass-game upside and in-line reliability remain split.
<b>OL</b>		Starter quality is decent; succession depth still matters.

## DEFENSE

<b>EDGE</b>		Still disruptive off the edge.
<b>IDL</b>		Could use another big body with pass-rush upside.
<b>LB</b>		Veteran baseline; not enough future certainty.
<b>CB</b>		Top-end talent is in place.
<b>S</b>		Starter quality now, succession question later.

## THE TWO-TIER PLAN

Tier 1: TE and LB for immediate rotation value. Tier 2: IDL, S, RB and developmental OL depth if the board falls right.

# DRAFT CAPITAL

Following the Waddle trade, Denver now operates from a seven-pick card with its first selection at No. 62 overall.

## BRONCOS 2026 PICKS

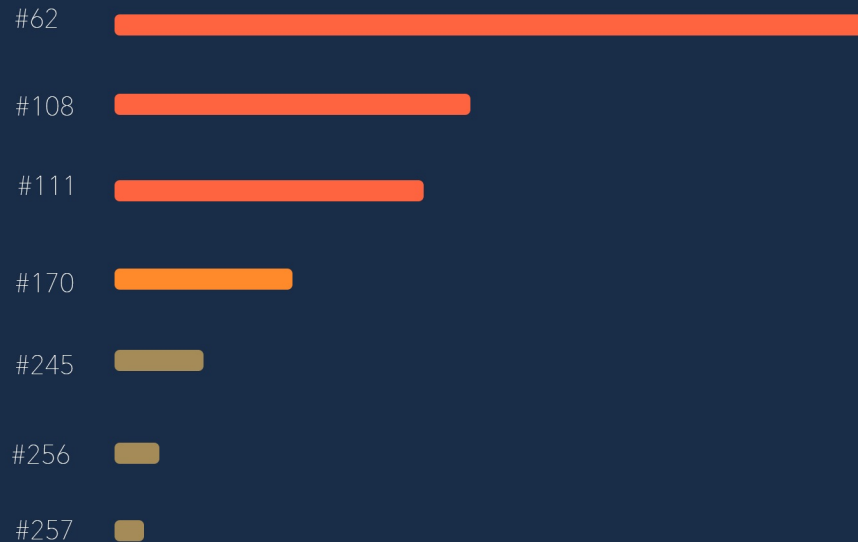
- R2 #62** First swing comes late on Day 2
- R4 #108** Day-3 starter hunt begins
- R4 #111** Back-to-back leverage picks
- R5 #170** Traits or role player
- R7 #245** Special teams + trait
- R7 #256** Compensatory dart
- R7 #257** Mr. irrelevant range

### 1. NO LUXURY SHOHPPING AT 62

This pick should hit a starting need or heavy rotation role.

### 2. DOUBLE-TAP THE MIDDLE

Picks 108 & 111 solve two needs in one burst.



Capital is top-heavy on Day 2 and early Day 3. The smart play: use 62 on a clean fit, then let 108/111 attack volume.

# BIGGEST TEAM NEEDS

This board favors value and fit, but these are the pressure points that keep showing up.

## 1 TIGHT END

### Why it matters

Denver re-signed pieces in the room, but still lacks a complete answer with receiving punch and solid in-line value.

### Ideal archetype

Mismatch receiver or complete TE2 with enough edge as a blocker.

URGENCY 

## 2 LINEBACKER

### Why it matters

Singleton and Strnad steady the room for now. Denver still needs range, coverage juice, and a younger runway.

### Ideal archetype

Coverage-capable second-level mover who can survive in space.

URGENCY 

## 3 D-LINE

### Why it matters

The rotation can play, but another big interior body with length and pop would keep the front fresh and nasty.

### Ideal archetype

Mass plus arm length, early-down anchor, pass-rush growth potential.

URGENCY 

## 4 SAFETY

### Why it matters

The starters are solid enough. The longer-term contract horizon says Denver should still think ahead.

### Ideal archetype

Ball production, special teams value, range to play either shell.

URGENCY 

## 5 RB/OL DEPTH

### Why it matters

Not urgent at the top, but exactly the kind of Day 3 value pocket smart teams hit.

### Ideal archetype

One specialty trait: burst, pass pro, swing tackle length or interior versatility.

URGENCY 

# WHY TIGHT END IS STILL THE LOUDEST HOLE

Denver brought bodies back. It did not erase the gap between “available” and “difference-maker.”

## WHY IT MATTERS

- The room still lacks a true matchup tilter who can stress seams or win detached from the formation.
- Denver also needs a more complete in-line answer than a pure move piece if the offense wants to stay multiple.
- That tension makes TE the cleanest “help Bo Nix now” investment on the board.

## TE ROOM CHECK

MISMATCH  
THREAT



IN-LINE  
RELIABILITY



DAY-1 DRAFT  
LOGIC



**The route-room question is simple: do the Broncos want a “Joker” pass catcher or a steadier in-line player? The ideal answer might be getting one early and one late.**

- Early target profile: Eli Stowers or another pass-game stressor.
- Later target profile: Sam Roush / Matthew Hibner-style TE2 depth with clearer blocking utility.

# LINEBACKER RESET

The starters are serviceable. The future still needs range, coverage, and a second-contract answer.

## ROOM TEMPERATURE

- Alex Singleton and Justin Strnad give Denver veteran snaps, but neither solves the long-run athletic ceiling of the room. That is why so many Broncos-oriented
- draft conversations keep circling back to off-ball linebacker. The ideal fit is a player who can survive in
- coverage first - then still play downhill with some edge.

## TWO PROFILES DENVER CAN CHOOSE FROM

### KYLE LOUIS

Pitt | Round 3 range

Coverage-first mover with playmaking instincts. Smaller body, but he changes space fast.

COVERAGE



### JAKE GOLDAY

Cincinnati | Round 2 range

Bigger body with real athletic upside and more size to survive traffic. Cleaner at No. 62 if available.

SIZE/POWER



## DENVER VIEW

**If the Broncos want a future starter, linebacker should not be left until the bottom of Day 3.**

# TRENCH SUPPORT NOW, SAFETY RUNWAY LATER

Two quieter needs that make a lot of sense once the top of the board is gone.

## DEFENSIVE LINE

**Denver does not need a savior inside. It does need another large-framed disruptor who can keep the front from thinning out over the course of a long season.**

- Darrell Jackson Jr. represents the ideal size/length swing: 6-5, 315, with early-down power and growth potential.
- Chris McClellan-style depth makes similar sense if Denver wants a rotational interior body later.
- This is a good 108/111 conversation if TE or LB comes first at 62.

## SAFETY

**This is not a panic spot for 2026. It is exactly the kind of succession need smart teams address one year early.**

- Bishop Fitzgerald is a ball-production bet for early Day 3.
- A.J. Haulcy is the stronger Day 2 investment if the Broncos want a more physical, versatile safety body.
- Either way, adding one defensive back with real turnover juice would fit the roster arc.

### SHORT VERSION

Denver can walk away from this class without a safety and survive. Leaving without extra interior depth would be riskier than it looks.

# BRONCOS DRAFT PHILOSOPHY

The best Denver class is not the flashiest class. It is the one that makes the current roster easier to deploy.

## WHAT DENVER SHOULD PRIORITIZE

- Immediate role clarity
- Coverage and space ability
- Physicality without wasted snaps
- Traits that travel to special teams or sub-packages
- Offensive help that gives Bo Nix cleaner pictures

## EARLY PICKS

**Invest in players who can touch the ball, cover in space, or hold up in the core six special-teams roles if they are not immediate starters.**

SCHEME FIT



CLEAN PROJECTION



UPSIDE



## LATE PICKS

**This is where Denver can chase one defining trait: raw burst, blocking utility, position flex, or turnover production.**

- TE2 / TE3 with block-first utility
- RB depth with receiving value
- Safety or linebacker with teams upside

# TOP BRONCOS TARGETS

Four names who line up cleanly with Denver's roster reality, pick range, and timeline.



The pass-game answer. Stowers is an explosive mismatch piece with the kind of movement skill that can force safeties to widen.

FIT



Big, athletic, and built for the future. If Denver wants a cleaner long-term linebacker projection, Golday checks the boxes.

FIT



Mass, arm length, and real run-defense weight. He lets Denver add trench force without burning the earlier picks.

FIT



Physical and versatile with ball production. Not a desperation pick - but a strong value if Denver wants to get ahead of the curve.

FIT



# DAY 3 FITS AND SPECIALTY ROLES

The late board is where Denver can pair utility with one standout trait.



**SAM ROUSH**  
 TE - Stanford (Day 3)  
*Best value: inline blocker*

If the Broncos hit TE early with a pass catcher, Roush is the complementary TE2 profile that keeps the run game honest.

FIT 



**MATTHEW HIBNER**  
 TE - SMU (Day 3)  
*Fast-riser receiving TE*

A little more movement and catch upside on Day 3. He gives Denver another way to hedge the room.

FIT 



**BISHOP FITZGERALD**  
 S - USC (DAY 3)  
 5-11, 201, 4.55 Forty

Turnover production, positional versatility, and future-proofing in the secondary. A very Denver-ish late value.

FIT 



**ADAM RANDALL**  
 RB - Clemson (Day3)  
 6-3, 232, Pass-game upside

A converted receiver with size-speed intrigue. Exactly the kind of late offensive tool bet Sean Payton could enjoy.

FIT 

# ROUND-BY-ROUND TARGET BOARD

If Denver stays disciplined, the draft can tell a coherent story from 62 to 257.

ROUND 2 | PICK 62

**ELI STOWERS**

Pass-game Mismatch with top-30 visit

TOP VALUE

ROUND 4 | PICK 108

**DARRELL JACKSON JR**

Massive interior body with real upside

TRAITS BET

ROUND 4 | PICK 111

**KYLE LOUIS / BISHOP FITZGERALD**

Coverage help

SCHEME FIT

ROUND 5 | PICK 170

**SAM ROUSH**

Useful role player with block-first TE2 appeal

SAFE PICK

ROUND 7 | PICKS 246/256/257

**HIBNER/RANDALL/ DB**

Special teams value plus one specialty skill.

SLEEPER

# DREAM SCENARIOS

What the aggressive version of this class looks like if the board bends Denver's way.

## MOVE UP A LITTLE

From 62 into the mid-50s for the last top-tier TE or LB. Cost stays reasonable; premium fit improves.

### OUTCOME

**Win:** Denver secures a real Day-1 helper before the board dries up.

## DOUBLE DOWN ON THE MIDDLE

Stay at 62, then use 108 and 111 on two starting-needs pieces.

### OUTCOME

**Win:** Denver exits Day 2/early Day 3 with three usable contributors.

## DEFENSE AFTER OFFENSE

Take TE first, then hammer LB + DL with the next two picks.

### OUTCOME

**Win:** The whole class feels roster-coherent by Saturday morning.

# REALISTIC SCENARIOS

Three outcomes that feel more “Denver in late April” than fantasy-board chaos.

## STAY PUT AT 62

Take the best TE/LB on the board, then let 108 and 111 clean up the other side of the roster.

### WHY IT WORKS

Best blend of value and discipline.

## TRADE DOWN A TOUCH

Move into the late 60s or early 70s, add another Day 3 asset, then hit two value picks.

### WHY IT WORKS

Useful if Denver likes a cluster more than one name.

## BEST PLAYER AT 62, NEED AT 108/111

Accept the board early, then force roster logic with back-to-back fourth-rounders.

### WHY IT WORKS

Most likely if the run at TE gets ugly.

## FINAL VERDICT

**A successful Broncos draft does not need a star headline. It needs to make the roster make more sense.**

### WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

- One immediate offensive helper.
- One future starting linebacker or safety.
- One new trench body.

### BIGGEST PRESSURE POINT

**If Denver misses on the first pick, the whole class loses a lot of oxygen fast.**

### THE ROUTE ROOM TAKE

**Precision over panic. Denver has already made its loud move. Now it has to make the right ones.**