

# NFL notebook: Ex-Buff McChesney signs with Broncos

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The Denver Broncos signed guard Matt McChesney and two others to future contracts on Thursday.

McChesney, a former Niwot High School and University of Colorado standout, played defensive line at CU and also while on the rosters of Miami, the Jets and St. Louis. McChesney spent 2009 training camp with the Broncos before being designated released/injured on Sep. 9.

Also signed by the Broncos were center Dustin Fry and punter A.J. Trapasso. All three will be officially added to Denver's roster in February.

McChesney was in Denver's training camp before being placed on injured reserve Sept. 4 and then released. Fry was on Carolina's practice squad this season. Trapasso split his rookie 2009 season on the practice squad with Tampa Bay and Tennessee.

## Colts will use Stover

Colts coach Jim Caldwell said he plans to use kicker Matt Stover during the playoffs instead of four-time Super Bowl winner Adam Vinatieri, regarded as the best clutch kicker in NFL history.

Caldwell explained his decision Thursday, saying Vinatieri had not fully recovered from midseason surgery on his kicking knee, and that Stover had done a "great job" since joining the team in October.

The Colts won't put Vinatieri on injured reserve and intend to carry both kickers on the active roster, meaning Vinatieri may yet kick if he can get healthy.

## Raiders decline

### Gannon's offer

Rich Gannon said Thursday he won't be calling Raiders managing general partner Al Davis again anytime soon.

Gannon called the Raiders earlier this week offering guidance to the team and quarterback JaMarcus Russell.

Raiders senior executive John Herrera said Wednesday that neither Davis, Russell, coach Tom Cable nor the Raiders needs any help from Gannon and that "maybe it's Rich that needs the help."

## Notable

Starting cornerback Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie returned to practice for the Cardinals on Thursday, but wide receiver Anquan Boldin remained sidelined because of a sprained left ankle.

Jets linebacker David Harris practiced after missing two days while recovering from a sprained right ankle.

New Browns team president Mike Holmgren decided Thursday to retain coach Eric Mangini, whose job security was in jeopardy after the Browns started 1-11. But the team regrouped and finished with a four-game winning streak, Cleveland's longest since 1994, to help save Mangini. Team spokesman Neal Gulkis said Mangini's staff will return as well.

U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer has been reassured by Bills owner Ralph Wilson that he has no intention of entertaining offers to relocate the team to Los Angeles.

Plaxico Burress' application for a work-release program was denied by the New York Department of Correctional Services because of the nature of his crime. The former Giants and Steelers star pleaded guilty in August to attempted criminal possession of a weapon for having a loaded handgun in a nightclub that went off and shot him in the leg.

San Francisco tight end Vernon Davis will be an honorary captain for the U.S. men's curling team next month at the Vancouver Olympics. The opportunity came about after Davis gave curling a try in November and loved it.

Commissioner Roger Goodell announced that players on the two Super Bowl teams who miss the Pro Bowl this year will get paid a full share.

A massive 621,000 square-foot "umbrella" that would shield fans from rain is the centerpiece of a proposal unveiled Thursday to upgrade the Dolphins' home for future Super Bowls.

Bills interim coach Perry Fewell has met with the Giants about their vacant defensive coordinator's job.

Dallas Pro Bowl linebacker DeMarcus Ware missed practice Thursday because of a sore back. The problem isn't considered serious and Ware is expected to play in Saturday night's home playoff game against Philadelphia.

Seahawks safety Deon Grant is having wrist surgery and defensive end Patrick Kerney will undergo elbow surgery.

Steelers special teams coordinator Bob Ligashesky has become the second assistant coach fired by coach Mike Tomlin in as many days. Offensive line coach Larry Zierlein was also fired this week.

An employee of the Philadelphia Eagles has apologized for twice spitting on the midfield star at the Dallas Cowboys' new stadium and posting video of it on the team Web site. Eagles Web site editor Dave Spadaro posted the apology on the Eagles site Wednesday night. The video has been removed from the site.

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FLOWERY BRANCH — The Atlanta Falcons today signed eight players to reserve/future contracts, including: center Rob Bruggeman, wide receiver James Swinton, quarterback D.J. Shockley, wide receiver Andy Strickland, center Blake Schlueter, defensive end Maurice Lucas, running back Antone Smith and offensive guard Jose Valdez.

All eight players competed on the Falcons practice squad this past season. Valdez and Lucas spent the entire year on the practice squad after being signed on September 6.

Shockley is a Falcons 2006 NFL Draft selection. In 2006 and '08 he served as the team's third quarterback and in 2007 was placed on injured reserve after suffering a knee injury in training camp.



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