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Geier excited about being on Broncos' practice squad

By Allen Gemaehlich

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Riar Geier hoped the opportunity he had would be enough for the Denver Broncos to keep him.

Although the former Fruita Monument High School football standout was released Saturday, it turned out he did enough to stick around.

Geier, a tight end, was one of eight players signed this week to the practice squad.

"It's not exactly what I wanted, but I have an opportunity to stay with the team," Geier told The Daily Sentinel.

"I talked to coach (Josh) McDaniels and GM Brian Xanders and they said they wanted to bring me back to the practice squad. Being cut never is easy. It's the first time for me, but I adjusted. I got to go watch the Buffs win."

The University of Colorado, Geier's alma mater, defeated Colorado State 24-3 on Saturday at the Broncos' home, Invesco Field at Mile High.

As a practice squad player, Geier will be on the 'scout' team representing opposing teams' tight ends. He will play defense and special teams in practice as well.

This week, Geier is mimicking Jacksonville tight end Mercedes Lewis.

"It is definitely interesting," Geier said. "I haven't done this before, but it will be cool to watch other tight ends and see what they do. For me, I want the team to win, so I'm going to do the best job I can."

"That's what's awesome about the practice squad. I have a lot of work cut out for me to make an NFL team, but luckily I'm on a practice squad and get to stay around football."

Geier was waived Saturday along with tight ends Nathan Overbay and Kory Sperry, but only Geier was resigned to the practice squad.

The Broncos waived tight end Marquez Branson, who was third on the depth chart through the preseason, on Sunday and acquired tight end Dan Gronkowsi from Detroit in exchange for cornerback Alphonso Smith.

Another former Grand Valley football standout, Ben Garland, was placed on the reserve/military list. Players on the reserve list remain on the team, but are inactive and can't practice with the team.

The former Air Force defensive end and college free agent has to complete a two-year commitment with the Air Force and apply for early leave before he can return to the Broncos in 2012.

Garland, a Central High graduate, has yet to decide between pursuing a professional football career and pilot training. He has until April to make that decision.