
Subject: When the Denver Broncos signed Case Keenum to a
Posted by [linchao](#) on Wed, 28 Nov 2018 03:35:38 GMT

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two-year <http://www.ramsfootballauthentic.com/samson-ebukam-jersey-authentic> , \$36 million deal last spring, they figured they were getting the quarterback who had led the Vikings to within one step of the Super Bowl. Instead, they've gotten the journeyman he was with the Texans and Rams. At least so far. Keenum's eight interceptions are tied for the league lead and are one more than he threw in 15 games last year. He's been especially turnover-prone in the red zone and he's the only quarterback in the NFL who has thrown an interception in all six of his team's games so far. Keenum's 15 sacks put him on pace for 40, nearly double what he had last season or in 2016 when he served as Jared Goff's tutor in Los Angeles. Last week, Broncos general manager John Elway gave Keenum a vote of confidence, saying on Orange & Blue 760, "I think that Case has done a nice job. It's always an adjustment getting used to a new offense and a new coaching staff and what he's used to. He's provided leadership, he's provided that grit." Then, Elway hit the scouting trail, flying to Eugene, Oregon, with top personnel assistant Matt Russell to check out Ducks QB Justin Herbert, who is expected to be the top quarterback in the 2019 NFL draft if he leaves school after this season. Keenum acknowledged Tuesday that his adjustment has been a rocky one. "It's tough," Keenum said. "You look at guys that have been in offenses for two, three, four, 10 years. The guy who played last night (Packers star Aaron Rodgers) has been in that offense a while and you start to know it like the back of your hand. You have just seen so many different plays and so many defenses you know what tends to get open." On the other hand, this is his "first time throwing with these guys," said Keenum, quickly adding, "These are definitely not excuses. I'm not sitting here making excuses Youth Aqib Talib Jersey , but I think we're getting better. That's the goal, and it takes time." The Broncos (2-4) have lost four straight heading into their game Thursday night at Arizona (1-5). They hung tough in two of those losses, both at home, against two of the league's top teams. They lost 27-23 to the Chiefs (5-1) in a game in which Keenum missed a wide open Demaryius Thomas for the potential game-winning score in the closing seconds, and the Rams beat them 23-20 Sunday thanks to penalties and an interception that cost the Broncos at least 10 points, including one on Emmanuel Sanders for taunting after what he mistakenly thought was a 44-yard touchdown. Last week, offensive coordinator Bill Musgrave bunched his receivers closer to struggling left tackle Garrett Bolles at times and used more two-back sets. Still, he didn't call many more runs for rookie running backs Phillip Lindsay and Royce Freeman, who have combined for four TD runs and a 5.19-yard average per carry despite the imbalance in play calls. The Broncos rushed just 17 times and threw 41 passes against L.A. During their skid, they've run 80 times and thrown 159 passes. "When you're playing (from) behind, you're trying to stick to your game plan and keep running the ball here and there," Keenum said. "But especially with the later it gets, you need to make explosive plays. That gives the defense, especially the defensive line, a chance to tee off. ..." "It's tough. But we put ourselves in that position early and we've got to make sure we don't do that again this week." Bolles, the team's first-round draft pick in 2017, continues to struggle -- he leads the league with six holding calls a year after committing an NFL-high 10. And losing left guard Ronald Leary to a torn Achilles on Sunday means Max Garcia returns to the spot he occupied next to Bolles much of last season. Bolles said Leary's injury was "a tough one for me. It made me super emotional, but I have to move on. I have to help Max as much as he helps me and we have to get the job done." Coach Vance Joseph said Sam Jones, a rookie from Arizona State, will be the backup guard against the Cardinals. "I trust the offensive line no matter who's in there," Keenum said. Notes: S Su'a Cravens (knee surgery) and WR-KR Jordan Taylor (double hip surgery) both

practiced for the first time this season. "It was good to see Jordan back out there and also Su'a Womens John Sullivan Jersey , but it's a jog-through today," Joseph said. "We'll go fast tomorrow, as far as the 7-on-7 red zone and the team red zone, so we'll see how they feel." Saints coach Sean Payton expressed concern on Monday that his first-place team eventually will falter if it fails to improve the way it defends snaps from within 20 yards of its own goal line."There's a ton of football left," said Payton, whose Saints (7-1) are riding a seven-game winning streak as they prepare to travel to Cincinnati (5-3). "There's a ton of things we have to improve on and we need to improve on, or it's going to hurt us later. Red zone defense -- that has to get better."While Payton emphasized that there are a number of corrections that need to be made from week to week, a half-season's worth of poor numbers on red zone snaps is "the one area that is bothering me."Saints opponents have scored touchdowns on 20 of 28 drives (71.4 percent) that have included at least one play run from inside the Saints 20. That ranks 28th out of 32 teams in defensive red zone efficiency."You can't find any team having success later in the season with the numbers that we currently have," Payton warned. "We've got to find a way to improve that."Payton's caution comes even as his team holds the inside track to the No. 1 seed in the NFC playoffs following a 45-35 victory over the previously unbeaten Los Angeles Rams on Sunday. In that game, the Rams ran red-zone plays on five separate possessions. Three of those drives ended with touchdowns, one ended with a field goal and another ended when the Rams were stopped just short of a first down on a fake field goal. Technically, that represented an improvement in defensive red-zone efficiency relative to the club's percentage over eight games. It just wasn't good enough to allay Payton's anxiety. Because the Saints are scoring nearly 35 points per game, they're likely to win even if their defense gives up a lot of yards, as long as it thrives at stopping opponents short of the end zone and forcing field goals -- or creating turnovers. Linebacker Damario Davis said the key to improving in the red zone is preparing better during the week for the plays that upcoming opponents have been most adept at running in that area of the field."It comes down to understanding how teams want to attack you down there and being locked into what they're going to try to do," Davis said. "Knowing your assignment and doing your assignment -- I just think it comes down to that."But Davis also suggested that the Saints defense won't want to become so preoccupied with its red zone play that it neglects other aspects of the game plan."We have our goals every week. All of them are important," Davis said. "You've got to be good in the red zone. You've got to be good on third down. You've got to be good on first and second down in the pass game. You've got to stop the run. You've got to find a way to get takeaways. Those are our goals every week. When we do those, we're usually successful. When we don't, it's not a good day."
