

# Draft pick could compete for Broncos center job

By Pat Graham  
Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD — Peyton Manning will be taking snaps from a Baylor center next season.

As for which one, well, that could be part of the intrigue of training camp.

The leader in the clubhouse, of course, is incumbent J.D. Walton, who's started every game over the last two seasons for the Denver Broncos.

But the offensive lineman Walton once helped mentor at Baylor could soon be pushing him after

the Broncos drafted Philip Blake in the fourth round of the NFL draft on Saturday.

The team also took cornerback Omar Bolden of Arizona State earlier in the fourth round, defensive end Malik Jackson of Tennessee in the fifth and linebacker Danny Trevathan in the sixth.

"When we look at it, probably as good as it could've gone," Broncos boss John Elway said of the draft.

Blake actually shifted over to center for the Bears after Walton was taken by

the Broncos in the third round of the 2010 draft. Before he left, though, Walton gave Blake some valuable pointers on playing the position.

For that, Blake will be forever grateful.

"J.D. Walton is a real good guy," Blake said.

This could be quite a transition for Blake as he goes from snapping the ball to speedy Heisman Trophy winner Robert Griffin III to Manning, one of the best NFL QBs to ever line up under center.

"It will be different,"

Blake chuckled. "It will be a good experience."

There's another option as well: Blake can slide over and play guard if necessary. That versatility might come in handy, especially with right guard Chris Kuper mending from a broken left leg.

"I'm very comfortable at guard and at center," said Blake, who's from Toronto and became interested in football after his mom brought home the John Madden Football video game when he was a teenager. "I played guard at the

Senior Bowl, and I played center at Baylor, so I have the versatility to help out on the line."

That's precisely why the Broncos took him.

"He's very strong. He's experienced," coach John Fox explained. "He has played multiple positions so he understands offensive line play. I thought he was an excellent pass protector, as far as once he got his hands on you, you weren't going very far."

"Where he ends up fitting will be up to him."

The Broncos acquired

the pick in which they selected Blake as part of the deal that sent Tim Tebow to the New York Jets.

The trade also netted Denver a sixth-rounder, which team used on Trevathan.

Bolden sat out last season after tearing the ACL in his left knee during spring practice. Still, he was such a valuable member of the Sun Devils that his team voted him a captain.

He also returns kicks, which is an area of need after the Broncos lost Eddie Royal to free agency.



## Triggers training to begin

Trinidad Triggers players Brett Mendoza, left, and Daniel Pembroke check out the bats that were sent to the team. The Triggers will begin spring training today at 9 a.m. at Central Park.

Mike Albanese/The Chronicle-News

## SPORTS BRIEFS

Associated Press

### N.Y. Mets outlast Rockies in 7-5 victory

DENVER — Dillon Gee didn't let one tough inning get him down.

Gee shook off the rough patch in an otherwise strong outing, Lucas Duda backed him with a homer and single to drive in four runs, and the New York Mets beat the Colorado Rockies 7-5 on Saturday night.

"You can't get caught up in the big inning here because they're going to happen," Mets manager Terry Collins said, referring to a three-run outburst against Gee in the fourth. "You've got to keep pitching. He just came back in the dugout and got ready for the next inning."

The Rockies' Michael

Cuddyer said Gee (2-2) kept the Rockies hitters guessing, preventing them from putting consistent hitting

### Pickens shuts down Chivas in 4-0 win

COMMERCE CITY — Matt Pickens reached a personal milestone while shutting down Chivas USA. It was of secondary importance to the Colorado goalkeeper.

Pickens had his third shutout of the season to tie the Colorado record of 25, and the Rapids beat Chivas USA 4-0 on Saturday night to snap a three-game losing streak.

"It's nice," said Pickens, who also received a bottle of champagne for his efforts. "The most important part of tonight was we won the game."

# 22 Raton student poets help Shuler mark birthday with poetry reading

By Tim Keller

Special to The Chronicle-News

RATON — Joined onstage by a pair of professional Albuquerque poet-educators and impresario Bill Fegan, 22 Raton High School students closed their evening performances of new poetry by singing "Happy Birthday" to the Shuler Theater on the 97th anniversary of the venerable theater's opening.

"Poetry Rocks!" returned to the Shuler Theater Friday night for the second of what now appears to be a long run ahead of student poetry performance.

Albuquerque poet-educators Manuel Gonzalez and Tracey Dahl spent the last two weeks of April, National

Poetry Month, working with the students of Raton High School in their English classes.

The program culminated in the school's 6th Annual Poetry Marathon all day Friday in the school's library, with more than 100 students sharing newly-written poems with classmates, staff, and community guests.

That night, the Shuler Theater hosted 22 of the students in an 80-minute program highlighted by the students' performances of their new poems.

Emcees Gonzalez and Dahl also performed their own poetry, and Fegan closed the show with a poem by Henry Wadsworth

Longfellow.

But Fegan preceded his closing poem with remarks that moistened eyes throughout the crowded theater.

He noted that the performances hosted by the Shuler Theater each year are generally written by professionals far away and removed. Like many in the audience, Fegan said he was deeply moved by the students' recitations of their own emotive poetry, noting that the evening was unique in presenting new writing by local residents. He urged the community to assure that the now-annual event continue far into the future.

Raton's Whited Foundation funded the inau-

gural years of Raton's Poets-in-the-Schools program, and its board members were present for Friday night's show at the Shuler.

With New Mexico Arts funding added for 2013, the school is already working with New Mexico CultureNet to bring its poet-educators back for next year's program.

After the singing of "Happy Birthday" Friday night, the Shuler crowd moved next door to pack the Isabel Castillo Performing Arts Center for a catered reception where the 22 young poets were the guests of honor.

The student poets included Austin Johnson, Ashley Neurauder, Rachel Sanchez, Colton Milson, Eli Romero, Renee Martinez, Jake Alexander, Marisa McCarty, Jerry Jiron, Tyler Coffey, and Tegan Thompson.

Also featured were Catera Moody, James Neary, Rhiannon Barela, Jeremy Gentry, Megan Holland, Clair Willden, Joshua Roberts, Diane Ford, Maria Gallegos, Kristina Jansen, and Joshua Trujillo.



Tim Keller/Special to The Chronicle-News

Eli Romero was the first student poet of the night and the only one to delivery his new poetry in the form of rap music.

### 2012 Real Property Notice of Valuation Las Animas County Assessor's Office 200 East First Street, Room 203 Trinidad, CO 81082

For Tax years 2011 and 2012, the county assessor is required by law to appraise all real property at a June 30, 2010 level of value. 2012 is the second, or intervening year of the current two (2) year cycle. For most properties, the valuation for assessment for the 2012 tax roll year will be the same as it was for 2011. These figures appear on your 2011 property tax notice under "Actual Value." It represents the actual value of your property as of 6/30/2010, based upon sales of comparable properties within your property's local real estate market, and as required by law. The residential assessment rate is projected to be 7.96%, and all other property is generally assessed as 29%.

From May 2 through June 1, 2012 owners of real property may protest the value or the classification established by the assessor. This protest period provides an opportunity for taxpayers to inform the assessor of errors in classification, property description, or other discrepancies that may result in a reduction in value or a change in classification. The assessor must make a decision concerning your protest and mail you a written Notice of Determination on or before the last working day in June.

Colorado law requires the county assessor to hear objections to real property, classification and valuations beginning no later than May 2, 2012. Objections to the valuation or classification of real property must be postmarked, delivered, or presented in person to the county assessor's office no later than June 1, 2012.

If, for any reason, we change the valuation for the 2012 tax roll year, we will notify you by May 1, 2012. You have the right to appeal your value each year, regardless of value changes. For additional information, contact the county assessor's office at 719-846-2295.

Daniel A. Espinoza  
Las Animas County Assessor

## PUBLIC AUCTION

### Trinidad Golf LLC d/b/a Cougar Canyon Golf Links

On Behalf Of The CO Dept of Revenue

Tuesday, May 1st - 11:00 AM

Inspection: Tuesday, May 1st - 10-11:00 AM

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