

2020 CLEVELAND BROWNS DRAFT RECAP





CLEVELAND



On April 28, 2020, the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission, Destination Cleveland and the Cleveland Browns announced the 86th NFL Draft will be held April 29 - May 1, 2021 in Downtown Cleveland. The event will bring NFL fans together at iconic locations around FirstEnergy Stadium and the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame to celebrate the game of football and show the world what makes Cleveland a destination city.

The NFL officially awarded Cleveland the 2021 NFL Draft in May 2019 during the annual Spring League Meeting in Key Biscayne, Fla., following a review of the proposal by the Fan Engagement & Major Events Advisory Committee and full NFL ownership.

As part of this event, the NFL Draft Experience, a free football festival, will encourage NFL fans to test their football skills and enjoy interactive exhibits and autograph sessions, as well as take pictures with the Vince Lombardi Trophy. This experience will be open all three days of the event.

The Cleveland Browns, who played their inaugural season in 1946, will also be celebrating their 75th anniversary throughout 2021.



CLEVELAND BROWNS 2020 DRAFT RECAP | 85TH ANNUAL NFL DRAFT
THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020 - SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2020

2020 CLEVELAND BROWNS DRAFT RESULTS

RD.	NO.	PLAYER, POSITION, HEIGHT, WEIGHT, SCHOOL
1	10	Jedrick Wills Jr., T, 6-4, 307, Alabama
2	41	(a-traded to Indianapolis)
2	44	Grant Delpit S, 6-3, 208, LSU (a-from Indianapolis)
3	74	(b-traded to New Orleans)
3	88	Jordan Elliott, DT, 6-4, 303, Missouri (b-from New Orleans)
3	97	Jacob Phillips, LB, 6-3, 228, LSU (c-from Houston)
4	115	Harrison Bryant, TE, 6-5, 230, Florida Atlantic
5	155	(d-traded to Buffalo)
5	160	Nick Harris, C, 6-1, 293, Washington (a-from Indianapolis)
6	187	Donovan Peoples-Jones, 6-2, 204, WR, Michigan (e-from Arizona)
6	188	(d-traded to Buffalo)
7	224	(f-traded to Tennessee)

a - April 24, 2020: The Browns traded 2020 2nd round pick to Indianapolis for 2020 2nd and 5th round picks.

b - April 24, 2020: The Browns traded 2020 3rd and 7th round picks to New Orleans for 2020 3rd and 2021 3rd round pick.

c - Aug. 8, 2019: The Browns traded RB Duke Johnson Jr. to Houston for a 2020 conditional third round pick.

d - Aug. 29, 2019: The Browns traded 2020 5th and 6th round picks to Buffalo for G Wyatt Teller and a 2021 7th round pick.

e - May, 19, 2018: The Browns traded DB Jamar Taylor to Arizona for 2020 6th round pick.

f - Aug. 31, 2019: The Browns traded 2020 7th round pick to Tennessee for WR Taywan Taylor.



JEDRICK WILLS JR.

SCHOOL ALABAMA

POS TACKLE

HT 6-4

WT 307

R D 1, N O 10, O A 10

CAREER TRANSACTIONS Originally drafted by the Cleveland Browns in the first round (10th overall) of the 2020 NFL Draft.

KEY NOTES

- Started 29 games at right tackle for the Crimson Tide, including 28 straight to end his career.
- Earned second team All-America accolades from the AFCA, Associated Press, The Sporting News and Walter Camp in 2019.
- Selected by Pro Football Focus as a third team All-American at tackle in the same season and was named to the All-SEC First Team by the Associated Press and league coaches.
- Earned CoSIDA Academic All-District honors for his efforts in the classroom as a junior and sophomore.
- Allowed only one sack as a junior and only 3.5 quarterback hurries.
- Helped anchor the Tide's offensive line that ranked third nationally, allowing just .92 sacks per game, surrendering only 12 sacks in 406 pass attempts during the 2019 season.
- Part of Alabama's offense that ranked No. 2 nationally in scoring (47.2 ppg), third in passing (342.2 ypg) and sixth in total offense (510.8 ypg).
- Helped block for the ground game, which accounted for 5.5 yards per rush (1,665 yards and 18 touchdowns).

PERSONAL

- Native of Lexington, Ky. and attended Lafayette High School.
- Selected to the Under Armour All-America Game, the only player from the state of Kentucky to be invited.
- First team All-State selection as a senior and a second-team honoree in 2016 by the (Kentucky) Courier-Journal.

T JEDRICK WILLS

4-23-20

OPENING STATEMENT:

“Excited to be a Cleveland Brown. It is a dream come true getting picked in the NFL Draft. Nothing but excited to get to work.”

ON HOW EXCITING IS IT TO LAND WITH A TEAM THAT LOOKS READY TO WIN:

“I am very excited. I know those guys want the same exact thing I do. It is going to do nothing but make us stronger if we all have the same goal in mind, which is to win. I am going to do everything I can to put us in that position.”

ON HOW HE CAN MESH WITH QB BAKER MAYFIELD AND THEIR PASSION WHEN PLAYING THE GAME:

“He plays with great determination, and I do the same exact thing. I know that he is a great quarterback and he is somebody that is striving to put the team in a great position to be like a championship team. With us coming together, I feel like it is going to help make us better.”

ON HOW HE FITS A WIDE ZONE BLOCKING SCHEME AND HIS VIEW ON SWITCHING TO LT:

“I think I fit in perfectly fine with the wide zone scheme. At Alabama, we ran multiple different types. I did just about everything, and wide zone was in our packages. I feel like I am going to adapt easy, just learn the plays and get to work. As far as switching to left side, I think it is something that is going to be in the best interest for the team. I predict it is coming very soon. It is going to be something I will need to work and learn that position.”

ON IF HE IS LEFT-HANDED OR RIGHT-HANDED AND THE DRAFT PROCESS IN RECENT WEEKS DURING A NON-TRADITIONAL PRE-DRAFT TIME:

“To start off, I am right-handed. I am not ambidextrous, I am strictly right-handed. During this process, I have been working out at home with a trainer from high school, here located in town. I have been able to get into the gym every day and do what I can do. As far as the whole coronavirus, it really did not change my routine too much because all I did was work out, football and go home. Just been trying to stay out of the way.”

ON IF MOST NFL TEAMS ENVISIONED HIM CONVERTING TO LT:

“Even when I first declared for the draft, it was something that was questioned from almost every team. Only the Chargers and the Buccaneers were two teams that told me I would play strictly right tackle. I know the Browns just signed somebody (T Jack Conklin) who also plays right tackle, but I thought that I would be end up moving to left.”

ON WHAT IS HE DOING TO PREPARE FOR THE TRANSITION TO LT DURING A DIFFERENT OFFSEASON:

“The No. 1 thing is learning the plays and getting the playbook down because without that, I would not be able to actually play so that process and then just really practicing left tackle. (Former Browns T) Joe Thomas reached out to me and kind of knew that I would be going to that position right away. As soon as I can start that position as fast as possible and kind of send him some videos, get some pointers and clips from his direction, I feel like I will be in good hands.”

ON IF HE ALSO PLAYED RT IN HIGH SCHOOL:

“Correct.”

ON HOW MUCH HE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO TRANSITIONING TO LT AND THE CHALLENGES IT PRESENTS:

“I am very excited. Football is full of challenges. Whenever I can get to it, I am ready.”

ON IF THOMAS CONTACTED HIM BEFORE OR AFTER THE DRAFT:

“Before and after. He had just hit me up on Twitter DM and just told me that he had a talk with (Executive Vice President of Football Operations and General Manager) Andrew Berry. He told me that he really likes my game. Just now, he gave his number and was like, ‘Call me sometime if you every need any pointers.’ He knew I was going to be playing left tackle and if I need any pointers on tips and videos or things like that, he will just be there to help me out.”

ON IF HE WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THOMAS' ASSISTANCE:

“Most definitely. He is a Hall of Fame player.”

ON WHAT IT MEANS TO KNOW HE WAS THE BROWNS' TOP CHOICE:

“It means a lot. That was something that I preached on because I firmly that I was. With them believing in me and kind of expressing their feelings about that, it makes me feel good and it makes me feel welcomed. I am going to prove them right.”

ON WHAT HE LEARNED MOST FROM ALABAMA HEAD COACH NICK SABAN:

“He really just taught me how to be a professional. Came day in and day out to work. I knew if I was not going to do that then I was not going to play. I knew I had to carry myself in a different manner.”

ON IF HE HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH MAYFIELD AND IF HE KNEW MAYFIELD BEFORE TONIGHT;

“Before [tonight], no. I never really talked to him. He hit me up as soon as I got drafted. He shot me a text and just gave me his info. Same thing, he let him know that I was going to be there and he was going to be there for me and if I need anything just to reach out.”

ON HIS CELEBRATION WITH FAMILY TONIGHT:

“Just a pre-celebration get together – eat and what not. Of course, you get drafted and celebrate. Now, just kind of enjoy the moment.”

ON HOW MANY PEOPLE WERE WITH HIM:

“The CDC guidelines were 10.”

ON IF HE IS IN LEXINGTON:

“Correct.”

ON HOW INFLUENTIAL HIS PARENTS AND FAMILY HAVE BEEN:

“Very influential. Brought me up my whole entire life and been there for me through whatever and whatever I needed. They just kind of created me, taught me right from wrong and so on and so forth.”

ON HIS PARENTS BEING FORMER COLLEGE ATHLETES AND THAT BEING AN INFLUENCE ON HIM:

“Yeah, I have been around sports my whole entire life. I started at a young age.”

ON IF HIS DAD TOOK HIM TO GAMES WHEN HE WAS YOUNG:

“That and he also used to coach me for a couple of years. When I got little older, he moved onto middle school and high school ball.”

ON WHAT HE REMEMBERS FROM MEETING THE BROWNS AND OFFENSIVE LINE COACH BILL CALLAHAN AT THE COMBINE:

“At the combine, it was more of them just getting to know me for a couple of minutes and then straight into film and playbook work just trying to see how my mind processes and what I know. That type of stuff. The Zoom interview meeting was just me and Andrew Berry. He just kind of connected with me and getting to know me. Very little talk about position and playing actual football but more on the other side.”

ON CALLAHAN'S INVOLVEMENT IN COWBOYS T TYRON SMITH'S TRANSITION TO LT AFTER PLAYING RT IN COLLEGE AND IF SMITH PROVIDES A MODEL FOR THE SWITCH:

“Most definitely. I know it is going to be a tough transition, but I have full faith in him getting me to that point.”

ON WHAT HE KNOWS ABOUT CLEVELAND AND WHAT HE WANTS THE CITY AND FANS TO KNOW ABOUT HIM:

“It is close to home. I think I have only been there a couple of times when I was younger for tournaments and what not. I'm not too familiar with the culture, but I just want them to know that they picked somebody that was going to work with what they can do to be a leader in the community and I need them to teach me the culture there in Cleveland.”

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EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF FOOTBALL OPERATIONS AND GENERAL MANAGER ANDREW BERRY

4-23-20

OPENING STATEMENT:

“(T) Jedrick Wills, we are incredibly excited to add Jedrick to our organization. Jed was one of the guys that we had targeted coming into this evening. He was a guy for us where just his performance over the past two years at Alabama, the way that he attacked our Spring process and just the overall make of the individual, we thought he was a guy that really fit in terms of talent, make-up and need and was really just kind of perfect for us this evening. Jed, from our perspective, a very well-rounded skillset, great feet, athletic ability, coordination, advanced in pass pro and very physical in the run game. Just a really well-rounded player for us. The other thing that really impressed us with Jed, particularly this spring, was obviously just his preparation and organization around his preparation habits and routine. It is very difficult on clubs but also on prospects with obviously all the restrictions with COVID-19. One thing that really resonated with us, in particular when we interviewed Jed after everything shut down, is just his approach and his process to training, whether that was physically with conditioning, strength training or his on-field work and working at left tackle and then obviously the preparation that he’s put into the classroom. We are really excited to add him. The last thing I’ll mention before opening up to questions is, I spoke with (LB) Mack Wilson last night – we get in the habit of speaking with former teammates on a number of prospects that we consider coming into the weekend – and when I was asking Mack about the Alabama guys and we got to Jed, Mack, he paused and he goes, ‘Man, Jed is a baller,’ It is a very simple phrase, but it is something certainly we agreed with and we are excited to have him to the organization. I think he has a ton of potential. A lot of work to do, but we are happy to add him to the team.”

ON WHAT SEPARATES WILLS FROM T PROSPECTS TRISTAN WIRFS AND MEKHI BECTON WHO WERE ALSO AVAILABLE:

“I don’t know that it is really fair to compare prospects. What I can say for Jedrick is here is an individual who came in as a true freshman, was a contributor at perhaps the most competitive program in college football, as a true sophomore and a true junior and was really the blindside protector for the program and consistently matched up against edge rushers in the most competitive conference in college football. What he was able to do at such a young age over an extended period of time was certainly impressive to us, as well as just all of the people that we spoke to around the Alabama program including (Alabama Head) Coach (Nick) Saban. We just felt that he checked all the boxes for us coming into this weekend.”

ON HOW WILLS WILL BE ABLE TO TRANSITION TO LT AFTER PLAYING RT IN COLLEGE:

“I do think that there is going to be some physical reprogramming or gaining a little bit of comfort. From our perspective with Jed, the reason that he was playing the right side at Alabama is because they had a very successful left-handed quarterback. In terms of the actual physical skillset – his speed, his athletic ability and his ability to pass-protect – all of those are top notch from our perspective, and we think that he can really play either side of the line of scrimmage.”

ON HOW WILLS FITS THE OUTSIDE ZONE BLOCKING SCHEME AND HOW IMPORTANT IT WAS TO FIND A PLAYER TO MATCH THAT OFFENSIVE SCHEME:

“We do think that Jed is a very clean fit for our offensive system and largely because of his athletic ability and his movement ability. They ran a lot of wide zone at Alabama, too, so it was a bit of an easier translation for us because it is not like he was in an offensive system where you didn’t see him do some things in the running game that we are going to require of our offensive linemen, but we think really physically he is certainly one of the prototypes for our system.”

ON IF HE WAS SURPRISED THAT THREE OF THE FOUR TOP-GRADED LTS WERE AVAILABLE AT NO. 10 AND IF THE BROWNS HAD OPTIONS TO TRADE DOWN:

“I’m never surprised by anything in the draft at this point. In full disclosure, yeah, I did expect more tackles to come off the board a little bit earlier. We did have some options to potentially move down the board. Obviously, we sat and decided to make the pick. We felt really good about Jed, and we are excited to have him.”

ON IF THE DECISION TO TAKE WILLS AT NO. 10 WAS AN EASY OR DIFFICULT CHOICE:

“There were certainly a lot of good players available at No. 10. There are going to be a lot of good players that are available through the rest of the draft. We felt very strongly about Jed. He was certainly one of the guys that we had targeted coming into Thursday night, and we were excited when he was available to us at No. 10.”

ON THE TEAM’S PROCESS MOVING FORWARD AFTER THE DRAFT TO PREPARE FOR THE SEASON, PARTICULARLY CONSIDERING CHALLENGES WITH COVID-19:

“Kevin is probably better to speak on that, but we actually have a pretty good virtual offseason plan. Yes, we are not allowed to be with these guys physically, but we are fortunate enough to have video technology where we can still provide the resources to make sure that these guys can get up to speed and get the support that they need to get up and running with the new offensive and defensive systems. All the other 31 teams are dealing with the same challenges, but we feel very equipped to make sure that our guys can hit the ground running when they are allowed back in the building.”

ON HOW MUCH CONSIDERATION THE BROWNS GAVE TO POTENTIALLY TRADING FOR REDSKINS LT TRENT WILLIAMS:

“As you know, I don’t generally like to make a habit of speaking or speculating on guys who aren’t on our roster, but we are open to anything that helps improve the team. Any decision we make, we think that it is what is really the best in that moment, and for us to get a young, very, very talented tackle that can grow with the young core of our roster, we are very excited to do. Jed has a very well-rounded skillset, he plays a premium position and we think he has the proper make-up to really flourish in our organization.”

ON WILLS WORKING AT LT EARLIER THIS OFFSEASON AND IF THAT WAS AT THE BROWNS’ RECOMMENDATION OR HIS AGENT:

“Jed knew coming into this process that there were a number of teams that would have asked him to make that switch. One of the things that he talked about is with his on-field work, once everything really shut down, he would divide it really 60-40 left tackle versus right tackle. Now, one of his frustrations that he mentioned is not being able to do it under particular supervision just because of the distance, but he really has taken the initiative to begin some of that prep work on his own. It is really a credit to him and it is a credit to his drive.”

ON IF THE BROWNS MENTIONED LT TO WILLS IN THEIR EARLY CONVERSATIONS:

“It is something that we discussed when we met with him at the combine. I can’t sit here and say that we were the only team who asked him about that, but when you speak with him, if you haven’t already, I’m sure that he will mention that it was a pretty common discussion point with him throughout the process.”

ON IF HE ENVISIONS THAT WILLS WILL THE TEAM’S STARTING LT ON DAY 1 AFTER PLAYING RT IN COLLEGE OR IF THE TEAM COULD CONSIDER HIM AT RT:

“Ultimately, that decision resides with the coach and it resides with (Head Coach) Kevin (Stefanski), but we feel confident in our ability to work with him and make sure that he is up to speed. We are fortunate to have the offensive line coach who has presided over probably the most high-profile switch from right tackle to left tackle in (offensive line coach) Bill Callahan. We feel really good about the group and the support that we’ll be able to give him.”

ON COLLABORATION WITH CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER PAUL DEPODESTA AND STEFANSKI TO ULTIMATELY SELECT WILLS:

“From our perspective, there was a ton of organizational consensus around the pick, whether it is Paul (DePodesta), Kevin (Stefanski), and myself or more broadly, our scouts, our research and strategy group and our coaching staff. There was a lot of belief in Jedrick as a person and in Jedrick as a player. We feel really good about bringing him into the organization as a whole. There was a ton of alignment with the pick.”

ON IF THERE WAS A STRONG SEPARATION IN TIERS OF THIS YEAR’S T PROSPECTS THAT MADE THE BROWNS COMMIT TO PICKING AT NO. 10 AND NOT TRADE DOWN:

“It was really more we felt so strongly about Jedrick than any really strong demarcation. We really like him a lot. He was one of the guys that we really targeted coming into the evening. It was less about perhaps running out of options and [more about] seeing a player where the overall talent level matched with some of our goals entering the weekend. It was really more about that than anything.”

ON IF THE BROWNS ENTERED THE NIGHT WITH THE GOAL TO SELECT A LT IN THE FIRST ROUND, DESPITE EARLIER COMMENTS THAT THE TEAM WOULD NOT BE PIGEON-HOLED INTO ONE POSITION TONIGHT:

“I was shooting you guys straight when I was saying that we would be flexible coming in to the weekend. Ultimately, you never really know how the board is going to fall. In this instance, it really fell in our favor, but we do go into it with an open mind and not try to be too narrow because you do need a little bit of luck to go along the way.”

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HEAD COACH KEVIN STEFANSKI

4-23-20

ON THE BROWNS SELECTING T JEDRICK WILLS:

“There are a lot of things I like about this kid. He has played a bunch of games down there at Alabama. He will turn 21 next month. I liked his makeup. I like his tenacity, his toughness, his intelligence, and then not to mention that he is a scheme fit for our team. Great movement skills. Plays with a nastiness. I think we got a winner, and I think we got the right person. I keep coming back to it and it is the truth: just trying to get some good players in here and some good people, and he fits the bill.”

ON IF WILLS' FOOTWORK SKILLS WILL BE A STRENGTH DURING HIS TRANSITION TO THE NFL:

“Yeah, I think that is a big part of his game is his athleticism. When you are evaluating really any position, the saying is ‘the tape is your résumé.’ When you watch the tape of Jedrick play, it is very evident the type of player he is. What happen postseason with the combine and the workouts, then it just stamped his movement skills that what you saw on tape was legit. I think once we got to know the person and spend some time with him and our coaches spent some time with him, we really felt very comfortable that we were getting a guy that certainly fits our scheme and certainly fits our building.”

ON WHAT MAKES THE BROWNS COACHING STAFF SO COMFORTABLE THAT WILLS CAN TRANSITION TO LT AFTER PLAYING RT IN COLLEGE:

“I am very confident in Jedrick for a bunch of reasons. First and foremost, I point out (offensive line coach) Bill Callahan. I think he is top notch at developing players. This is something that he has done before. Then you have to look at Jedrick’s skillset and you have to look at the makeup of the kid. To some players, it may be a tougher transition than others, but I am very confident that Jedrick has that ability. He has already been working on it. He was down there protecting the blind side of (former Alabama and Dolphins QB) Tua (Tagovailoa) as everybody knows. It is something that he will work at and he will continue to get better, but I feel confident that we have Coach Callahan there to lead that development.”

ON WHAT MADE WILLS THE BEST FIT FROM OTHER TS AVAILABLE AT NO. 10:

“It is that all encompassing picture of skillset and person. I go back to the tape. The first time you turned on the tape, I could envision this kid playing in our scheme and playing for our team. Certainly, I see the versatility of being able to play both sides. It solidified for us and for me with the postseason, the testing and then more than the testing would be the personality and getting to know him. I do not want to compare him to those guys because that is just really not fair at this point, but I would tell you we are very, very excited to add him.”

ON SELECTING A PLAYER FROM ALABAMA AND LOGISTICS WITH THE VIRTUAL DRAFT TONIGHT:

“I think that is a great point about playing at Alabama because you know two things: No. 1, he has been coached and he has been coached hard, and then you also know he has gone against some pretty darn good competition down there. That is an important part of an evaluation is watching a player good-versus-good. You did not have to search for a long to find good-versus-good when you are evaluating Jedrick. We feel really confident getting an Alabama guy. The second part, it was seamless, just kind of how we expected it would be. I wish I had some great story for you, but we kind of sat here, watched the board come off and got a guy we really wanted. The phones did not go down and the internet did not cut off. Felt really good about it, and we are excited to do it again tomorrow night.”

ON IF THERE ARE CONCERNS THAT COACH CALLAHAN WILL NOT GET AS MUCH TIME WITH WILLS DUE TO THIS YEAR'S OFFSEASON RESTRICTIONS, HOW WILL IT IMPACT HIS TRANSITION TO LT AND IF THE BROWNS WOULD REMAIN OPEN TO HAVING T JACK CONKLIN PLAY LT WITH WILLS AT RT:

"I think we will leave all options on the table at this point, but I do think we will have the opportunity to work virtually with Jedrick. It will not be ideal like getting your hands on him like you said, but I am really confident in Coach's ability and in a setting and explaining what he wants to see. There are various ways and we are figuring them out and we are getting creative about how we are sending the guys video of different drills and different techniques that they can do. I believe we will be able to get that done. I am confident because I think Jedrick is already on the way to doing those things. Like I mentioned, he has been well coached. He has been a left side stance before. I think it is just going to be the muscle memory over and over. Like you said, when we do get him, whenever that is, there will still be work to done and we know we are getting a young player so it is going to be a process. It is going to be a process of development, and I trust that we have the guys to get it done."

ON CALLAHAN'S INPUT WHEN EVALUATING WILLS AND TS:

"I think all of our coaches had a big voice. That is where I applaud (Executive Vice President of Football Operations and General Manager) Andrew (Berry) and his crew and how collaborative they have been throughout this entire process. It would have been ideal to have us all in the same building and be together [before the draft] and be together tonight, but we have found ways to make sure throughout this process that everybody was included and involved. Certainly for a pick like this one, we made sure that Coach Callahan was right there throughout the process. [Coach Callahan] has seen it all, and I think his expertise in this area was a big part of this."

ON WILLS' PROFICIENCY IN RUN AND PASS BLOCKING AND HELPING ACCELERATE HIS TRANSITION TO LT THIS OFFSEASON:

"I think we are going to have to be creative with this piece of Jedrick's development, just like all of our players quite honestly. Our coaches are thinking long and hard about different ways to develop the guys virtually and remotely. There are ways to do it. We are going to make sure that we exhaust all the ones we can within the framework of the rules. In terms of Jedrick's skillset, I think he is a complete player. There was some carry over to the run schemes that they ran that are similar to things that we will run. You see the ability in a downhill offense and the ability in a wide zone offense. I think he is kind of versatile to be able to do both of them. Pass protection wise, I just think he is a technician. I think he can only get better but really liked the use of his feet and his hands in his pass protection."

ON ASSESSING HOW THE BROWNS TS HAVE IMPROVED DRAMATICALLY THIS OFFSEASON, REGARDLESS OF WHO PLAYS EITHER SIDE:

"I think that is a really good point. We added (T) Jack (Conklin) in free agency and added Jedrick tonight. We will figure it out, I guess is the best way of putting it. Whether Jack is the right and Jedrick is the left, we will figure that out. I like the idea that we added two really smart, tough, versatile football players that will make us better. I am confident that the coaches will put them in position to succeed."

ON IF THERE WAS EVER A SENSE OF NERVOUSNESS ABOUT OPTIONS AT NO. 10 AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ACQUIRING NOT ONLY A PLAYER THE TEAM WANTED IN WILLS BUT ONE AT A POSITION OF NEED:

"I think draft night is always fun. You have done your homework, you have gone through the mock drafts, you kind of have a sense of where guys are going and then you get a surprise. We were sitting there kind of surprised there were no trades in front of us at any point. It is the classic letting the board speak to you. For us, we sat there and most of us were muted for a lot of the time trying to make sure there wasn't a ton of chatter. I explained it to AB, I said, 'This is like gameday. You have the headset on. I'm here to help you but I'm not just going to be in your ear and chattering to distract you.' He was outstanding just like I knew he would be. The communication was really good. It was very calm on there, which I think helps the thinking. There we are at No. 10 and we got a guy that we are really excited to have."

ON IF THE INITIAL IDEA IS FOR WILLS TO PLAY LT?

"Yeah, I think that's fair to say."

ON IF THERE IS A SENSE OF SATISFACTION WITH THE MENTALITY OF PROTECTING A BLINDSIDE, GIVEN WILLS PLAYED WITH A LEFT-HANDED QB AT ALABAMA:

"Yeah, I would say yes, I am. I do think these offensive linemen take it very, very personally when their player gets past them and then hits the quarterback. I think when you are tasked with protecting the blindside of a quarterback, you are tasked with blocking a guy who, if you get beat, the QB may not see it. I think it is a big deal. I think it is something mentality wise that you will get from Jedrick. This guy is a tough dude. I have already texted with [QB] Baker [Mayfield]. I think Baker has already texted with Jedrick. I think we will have a guy over there that understands how important that position is."

ON WHOSE NFL FILM THE BROWNS MAY WANT WILLS TO BE WATCHING AND IF THE TEAM COULD HAVE FORMER BROWNS T JOE THOMAS WORK WITH HIM IN-PERSON DURING THE VIRTUAL OFFSEASON:

"I don't think you could, no. Now, Joe Thomas as a resource? Yes. One of the best to ever do it? Yes. I will make sure Joe and Jedrick talk if they haven't already. I think we are uniquely positioned to have a guy like Joe who can be there and explain to any of our young players but particularly an offensive lineman the what to do, what not to do type of thing. Certainly, we will get those guys linked up, but I don't believe we could have them work out like that. Film wise, we have a library of film. I like to tell the coaches that one of the best ways that our players learn is through film. The nice thing for us is that we have a robust library. We will certainly have him watching tape schematically, but there is no particular player that I would ask him to emulate necessarily. I just want him to kind of get some film of some of the blocking schemes and some of the pass-protection schemes. Certainly, we will have plenty of homework for him to do in that regard."

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CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER PAUL DEPODESTA

4-23-20

OPENING STATEMENT:

"Tonight, best player available on our board happened to be a position of a real need on our team. That does not happen every year, but we were fortunate that was the case. We are thrilled to get (T) Jedrick (Willis) on our team."

ON HAVING SEVERAL OF THE TOP-RATED TS AVAILABLE AT NO. 10 AND IF THAT WAS A SURPRISE FOR THE TEAM:

"We went through a lot of different scenarios over the course of the past week and really tried to prepare for the worst. We didn't necessarily anticipate that we were going to have any of them to choose from. We had a lot of different scenarios in mind where they might not be there, but we also thought there was a real chance that at least one or two of them could be there. I think we were pleasantly surprised that three were there, but we had run through so many scenarios that we definitely thought this was at least a reasonable likelihood that we would have a shot at one of the guys we really like. We did not necessarily know we would have a shot at the top one on our board so that was a pleasant surprise."

ON THE FRONT OFFICE'S COLLABORATION AND HEAD COACH KEVIN STEFANSKI SAYING THE NIGHT HAD BEEN SEAMLESS:

"It went really well. I think I said this last week, my biggest regret to date is that we are not all in the building together today, tomorrow and Saturday in order to enjoy this together because it really has been a collaborative effort to this point. Even with this pick, it was highly collaborative when we were on the phone with everybody even at 6:30 p.m. tonight with the entire football operation - coaches, scouts, front office people and everybody. Hopefully, everyone is at home and is excited as we are collectively. It really has been seamless. We would have liked to have been there to celebrate together, but I think we made the most of it."

ON HOW MUCH DATA IS AVAILABLE RELATED TO COLLEGE TS SWITCHING SIDES IN THE NFL:

"I think probably the most prominent one and probably the most important one for us is (Cowboys T) Tyron Smith from the Cowboys. It happened to be that the coach who oversaw that was (offensive line coach) Bill Callahan. He was a dominant right tackle in college. He has been a dominant left tackle in the NFL. Fortunately for us, we have his coach. A sample of one there is not a great sample, but we know it is possible. I think Bill is excited to have him. In the case of Jedrick, too, it is a little different. He was protecting too his blindside in college with a left-handed quarterback. That is primarily why he was playing right. Obviously, they had (Bengals T) Jonah Williams up until this year, too, playing on the other side. We are confident that athletically he can do it. Bill obviously feels comfortable that he can do it. Not that it will be seamless because I think with every player, as we talked about last week, they all have their growing pains when they get to this level. I am sure he will experience some of those and also because he has to make the transition to the other side, but we are very confident he will be able to do it."

ON IF T WAS A PRIORITY IN THE FIRST ROUND:

“If things fell the right way. As I said before, we have been really focused on best player available. Now, as it turns out, we thought there were a handful of very good tackles on the board this year and that was a real need for us. I think it meshed together nicely, but it was not something we thought, ‘We have to do this.’ In terms of remaining flexible, we were in contact with teams in front of us, we were in contact with teams behind us and we were prepared for a lot of different eventualities. Earlier today, AB and I were talking and we said, ‘Well, we know when we go to bed tonight we are going to be a lot better off than we were when we woke up. We just do not know exactly how.’ We knew there were going to be some really good players available to us at No. 10. We just did not know who they were going to be. As it turns out, we got one we are incredibly excited about.”

ON IF WILLS WAS THE TOP CHOICE OF THE FOUR TOP-GRADED TS IN THE DRAFT:

“He was actually the top tackle on our board from the beginning. We were really excited. It is a really, really good group of tackles so that is certainly not to slight those other guys because I think they would have all been worthy of being taken with our pick. We were certainly excited about Jedrick.”

ON IF THE BROWNS TRADING FOR REDSKINS T TRENT WILLIAMS WAS A VIABLE OPTION THIS WEEKEND, DEPENDING ON WHAT HAPPENED AT NO. 10:

“Because he still plays for another team, I do not want to really comment too much about the player. I will say this: throughout the spring, we have tried to understand all of the available options to us, especially at a position of such importance at left tackle. I think we have kept abreast of the different possibilities. We knew there were some real possibilities in this draft, but I think that is really where our focus was ultimately. We did think we had a decent shot at one of these guys falling to us at No. 10. I think we were going to wait to see what happened there before we really pursued any other avenue.”

ON THE AMOUNT OF CONVERSATION FROM OTHER TEAMS INQUIRING ABOUT THE NO. 10 PICK AND IF IT WAS A DIFFERENT AMOUNT DUE TO THE VIRTUAL DRAFT:

“It is a good question. I am not sure. It was funny. After the 12th pick – we have a group chat in addition to our WebEx meeting going on right now – I wrote in the group chat, ‘When was the last time that we went through the first 12 picks without a transaction?’ It was about two minutes later that they announced the swap for No. 13 and No. 14 so I think I got my comment in under the wire. I do not know what contributed to it. I think the distance probably has something to do with it, but then again, even in past drafts when we are making deals, you are making them on the phone. That is no different today than it is if we were all in the draft room. The conversations that you have after you make the call or after you have the call, those are a little different. We have to run those a little differently, but I do not think ultimately that really influenced the lack of transactions. I think it was because there were a lot of really interesting players available to teams. We talked to some teams in front of us in preparation for the draft and kind of everyone said the same thing, which is if one or two players are available to us, we are going to sit and pick. I think we kind of felt the same way. If there are certain players available to us, we are going to sit and pick. Otherwise, we are interested in moving around. The way the draft fell early, it just seemed like the teams that were picking had guys on their board that they just wanted to sit and pick.”

ON IF THE BROWNS NOT INTENDING TO TRADE DOWN IF WILLS WAS AVAILABLE AT NO. 10:

“No, I think there were probably some opportunities to if we had really pushed it, but no, I think there were a couple players where we thought we were going to sit and pick for sure.”

ON WHAT SEPARATED WILLS FROM THE OTHER TS IN THIS DRAFT CLASS:

“All of them were attractive for sort of their own reasons. We thought this was a highly unusual tackle class. This is probably as good of an offensive tackle class certainly since 2016, when we had some awfully good ones come out early in the first round. You had guys like (Ravens T) Ronnie Stanley and (Texans T) Laremy Tunsil and now our own Jack Conklin – very very accomplished guys. This class at least as we sit here today, sort of matches up with that. I think when you start separating one from the other, you get a little picky because they are all really, really good. In any normal draft, any one of them could have been the top tackle available. For us with Jedrick, though, I think it was the combination of everything. It is obviously playing at a place like Alabama, the coaching he has already gotten, his athleticism and his smarts. This is a very bright guy. I think he is really advanced from a football knowledge standpoint. We think mentally he is advanced, and he is just a mature person. He is a pro I think already. That doesn’t mean he is not going to have a lot of things to learn and he is not going to have to grow in different ways, but we just really liked his approach to the game. We have talked a lot about finding players that are smart, tough and accountable, and we felt like he really checked all three of those boxes.”

ON IF ANY OF THE TOP-GRADED FOUR LTS WOULD HAVE BEEN SUITABLE FOR THE TEAM AT NO. 10 TO NOT GO OUTSIDE OF THE DRAFT FOR A LT:

“I don’t know if I would go quite that far, but there were certainly guys that we liked. We also thought there were some other non-tackles that we liked that we would have been excited to take at No. 10, if in fact there had been a run on tackles early in front of us, and we would have then gone in another direction in terms of finding an answer there. We liked him certainly quite a bit, but I think there were some at least differences in terms of the way we felt about each individual guy. That probably would have changed our strategy a little bit depending on who was there. That ultimately was something we weren’t faced with since the top guy was there.”

ON IF THE BROWNS MAY HAVE IDENTIFIED A LT OUTSIDE OF THE DRAFT IF THE TEAM’S TWO TOP LT DRAFT PROSPECTS WERE NOT AVAILABLE:

“I think it’s hard to say. I probably won’t share exactly how our board lined up, but we are certainly happy with the way it ended up.”

ON HOW MUCH OF A FACTOR OFFENSIVE LINE COACH BILL CALLAHAN’S INPUT AND HIS CONFIDENCE IN WILLS’ POTENTIAL TO MOVE TO LT IMPACTED THE DECISION:

“I don’t want to put too much on Bill because I think that would be unfair, but we certainly weighed his opinion pretty heavily in this group, and he absolutely felt confident that this was something that was possible and that Jedrick could do. That doesn’t mean it is going to be flawless, but I think he has a strong belief that Jedrick is capable of doing this. That definitely weighed heavily. If he had come to us and said, ‘Listen, this is highly unlikely that he could make such a transition,’ then I don’t think he would be the top guy on our board.”

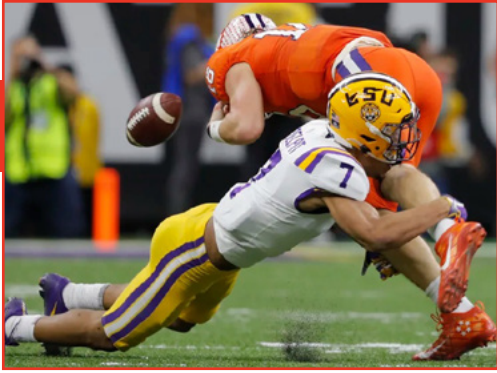
ON WHEN WILLS BECAME THE NO. 1 TACKLE ON THE BROWNS’ DRAFT BOARD:

“We had scouting meetings back in February before going to the combine. We set at least at that point and had sort of separated the top guys and maybe had a preliminary ranking, but it was far from being set in stone. In fact, it was probably in light pencil at that point. We had additional meetings in early April and then we also had meetings with our coaching staff in early-to-mid April. It wasn’t really until after all those processes were complete that we had our order. I would have said it is maybe two weeks ago when it was set the way it ended up turning out.”

ON IF THE BROWNS MET WITH WILLS VIRTUALLY IN RECENT WEEKS AND IF THEY DISCUSSED PLAYING LT:

“Our coaches did. I wasn’t on the call so I don’t know exactly what was discussed, but I know that they did address it and I think everybody felt comfortable about his ability to do it.”

###



GRANT DELPIT

SCHOOL LOUISIANA STATE

POS SAFETY

HT 6-3

WT 208

RD 2, NO 12, OA 44

CAREER TRANSACTIONS Originally drafted by the Cleveland Browns in the second round (44th overall) of the 2020 NFL Draft.

KEY NOTES

- One of the top defensive backs in LSU history, winning the 2019 Thorpe Award as the nation's top defensive back.
- Just the third LSU Tiger to win the Thorpe Award in school history.
- Two-time first team All-America in 2018 and 2019.
- Became the first LSU player named first team Walter Camp All-America in consecutive seasons (2018-19) since running back Charles Alexander in 1977-78
- Unanimous All-America in 2018 and a consensus All-America in 2019.
- Just the ninth player in LSU history to earn Unanimous All-America distinction.
- First team All-SEC selection (coaches) in 2018 and 2019, as well as earning the same honor by AP in 2018 and second team in 2019.
- A finalist for the Nagurski Award as the top defender in college football in 2018.
- Claimed the 2018 Jack Tatum Award from the Columbus Ohio Touchdown Club as the top defensive back in college football.
- Played in 40 games with 37 starts.
- Finished career with 199 tackles, 17.5 tackles for loss, seven sacks and eight interceptions.
- Had six tackles and a sack for a 10-yard loss against Clemson in the CFP National Championship Game en route to a victory.

PERSONAL

- Native of Houston, Texas and prepped at IMG Academy in Bradenton, Fla., after transferring from Lamar High School in Houston.
- Majored in sports administration.
- Lived in New Orleans, La. until Hurricane Katrina displaced his family in 2005 when they moved to Houston where they still reside.

S GRANT DELPIT

4-24-20

ON GETTING DRAFTED BY CLEVELAND:

"It is a great feeling to be a Cleveland Brown. Excited to be a Dawg and join my LSU brothers there already. Excited to win some games and make some plays."

ON REUNITING WITH FORMER LSU TEAMMATE CB GREEDY WILLIAMS:

"We go back all the way back to practice 2017. I miss my dude. It is going to be great to play with him again. It is going to be great to have one of the best secondaries in the NFL also. I am looking forward to it."

ON EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF FOOTBALL OPERATIONS AND GENERAL MANAGER ANDREW BERRY BEING IMPRESSED WITH HIM AT THE COMBINE AND IF HE ESTABLISHED A REAL CONNECTION WITH THE BROWNS THERE:

"I think we had a special connection. I try to be myself in all the interviews. I do not try to fake anything. I think they really just liked that, and I can tell we were on a good page when the meeting was over."

ON ALSO JOINING FORMER LSU WR ODELL BECKHAM JR. AND JARVIS LANDRY AND IF CLEVELAND IS TURNING INTO 'LITTLE TIGERS' IN THE NORTH:

"It is turning into big tigers are up there (laughter). They call it the LSU of the north. Now, that is really turning into truth. I can't wait to compete against those guys and seeing we are so close - we are so close to winning. We just need a championship mentality. I am going to bring that to the defense, for sure."

ON PLAYING THROUGH INJURY AND HOW IT IMPACTED HIS TACKLING:

"I'm so tired of hearing that I can't tackle. I might tackle you for asking that question (laughter). I had a high-ankle sprain in the middle of the season around Week 7 or Week 8. It was tough. On Sunday mornings, I could barely walk, but I wanted to be there for my team. I think that me being hurt was something that I wasn't worried about. I came to LSU with my dream. I was not going to let a sprained ankle keep me from off the field when we were trying to win a National Championship. I wanted to show all my brothers that I wasn't selfish, and it worked out."

ON LOOKING FORWARD TO PLAYING IN THE NFL AND PROVING HE CAN BE RELIABLE WHEN HEALTHY:

"I can't wait. Now, I have something to prove. For me going into the season and dealing with this adversity, coming out a better overall man and a better overall football player, I'm so excited to get back on the field. You don't even know. I pray that this virus exits itself from existence, but I'm just ready to play football."

ON IF HE EVER CONSIDERED SHUTTING HIMSELF DOWN DUE TO THE PAIN AND SORENESS FROM HIS HIGH-ANKLE INJURY:

"I literally had to. Arkansas, I sat out one game. After the Ole Miss game, I got up and I had to just lay back in bed because I couldn't walk. I don't want to make [excuses] for it, but it was a hard injury that I had to deal with. We sat down with Coach O (LSU Head Coach Ed Orgeron) and (LSU Director of Athletic Training) Jack Marucci, and Coach O said, 'It is best that you sit.' I really couldn't practice full speed on Tuesdays. I had to wait until the end of the week to start practicing full speed. It just wasn't going right. Towards the end of the season, I got a little bit of rest and started playing on it better, but it still wasn't 100 percent."

ON IF HE PROVED SOMETHING TO HIMSELF PLAYING THROUGH INJURY, INCLUDING THAT HE MAY HAVE BEEN TOUGHER THAN HE REALIZED:

“Without a doubt. I wasn’t going to let a minor injury keep me off the field when we were undefeated and really in general be there for my defense and be there for my team. I definitely proved that to myself, and I hope I did to others, too.”

ON REMEMBERING WHEN HE HAD TO LEAVE NEW ORLEANS DUE TO HURRICANE KATRINA:

“I remember. I remember we got into the car and drove to Memphis, Tennessee first. We just thought it was going to be a couple of days, and then we were not able to come back and drove from Memphis to Houston. It was a tough time, but we got through it and it worked for the best.”

ON WHERE HE LIVES NOW:

“I’m back in New Orleans. My family moved back when I came to college, with my little sister.”

ON THE BROWNS 2020 DEFENSIVE BACKFIELD AND IF THEY WILL BE THE NEW ‘TOP DOGS’:

“Without a doubt. Top dogs in the NFL. We are coming in with that swagger, with that mentality and really a dog mentality – pun intended. I think that we are going to have the best secondary in the NFL with Greedy, (CB) Denzel (Ward). I am coming in with that mentality and win as a team and defense.”

ON IF HE SAID THE BROWNS WILL HAVE THE BEST SECONDARY IN THE NFL:

“The best. You can headline it, all caps (laughter).”

ON THE DRAFT EXPERIENCE AFTER NOT BEING SELECTED IN THE FIRST ROUND:

“It was a humbling experience. It was. I was not having high expectations and I am not saying I expected it to go in the first round, but I do not think my play on the field relates to that. It is all about team needs at the end of the day. It was a humbling experience. I am just blessed to be Brown at this point. I could not go to a better organization.”

ON IF HE BELIEVES HIS 2018 YEAR MAY HAVE BEEN OVERLOOKED BY SOME TEAMS DURING THIS YEAR’S DRAFT:

“Yeah, I guess teams draft after one year now – I am playing (laughter). I think that year was a great year for me. I was healthy. That was probably the biggest difference, but I did play a lot of free safety this year. It was just showing that I could do it and showing my versatility on defense. It worked out.”

ON IF HE HOPES TO OFFER THE BROWNS GREAT S PLAY RATHER THAN GOOD S PLAY, GIVEN THE TEAM HASN’T HAD GREAT S PLAY IN A WHILE AND HIS CONFIDENCE HE CAN DO SO:

“It is just has to do with you as a person. Me as a person, I have 100 percent confidence that I am the best player on the defense at all times – this was in college and even as a kid growing up. I always said that, and I showed it. I do believe that I will be the best and bring that to the team and make everyone around me better.”

ON THE AFC NORTH HAVING SOME ALL-TIME GREAT SS IN ED REED AND TROY POLAMALU AND PLAYERS WHO HE MODELS HIS GAME AFTER:

“They had great safeties in this division. Like you said Ed Reed, Ryan Clark for the Steelers, Troy Polamalu for the Steelers and the list goes on and on. I am really excited to be able to step into that division and make my mark. Hopefully, it ends up in a lot of wins and a lot of shut outs.”

ON THE ATTITUDE, SWAGGER AND INTENSITY OF LSU PLAYERS:

“I think we bring a great locker room presence, as well as being dogs on the field. When you go shopping as GMs and coaches, LSU for sure produces nothing but great athletes, great people and a great general attitude towards the game, as well, so you are getting a playmaker of course but also a great guy.”

ON HOW LANDRY AND BECKHAM CAN HELP MAKE HIM BETTER:

“They are the best of the best. There is not really much more I can say about that. They are great in the locker room. Showing a guy like me the ropes, I am looking forward to it on and off the field.”

ON IF HE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO PLAYING AGAINST FORMER LSU AND BENGALS QB JOE BURROW TWICE A YEAR:

“I’m very excited to pick Joe off twice a year, three times a year, however many times we meet (laughter).”

ON BEING A LEADER IN LSU’S LOCKER ROOM, THE SIGNIFICANCE OF IT TO HIM AND WHAT HE CAN ADD TO THE BROWNS’ CULTURE:

“Very serious, I take that very serious. One of the guys that [didn’t teach me] how to be a leader but taught me how to think like a leader is (Tampa Bay LB) Devin White. He came out my sophomore year, and he really just told me some things I could do and told me some things I could work on to become a better leader and ultimately bring that to the league. I have a lot of phone calls to make and a lot of guys to talk to, but [I want] to bring the things I do to win and anything I can do to help the team.”

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EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF FOOTBALL OPERATIONS AND GENERAL MANAGER ANDREW BERRY

4-24-20

OPENING STATEMENT:

“Grant Delpit, excited to add him to the team. We really viewed him as a big versatile playmaker. He has been a really kind of an impact player for LSU over the past two seasons. Our appeal to Grant is the fact of his coverage abilities. He is a guy who can play the post. He can play you at the line of scrimmage. He can cover tight ends and walk over a slot and hold his own against receivers. He has been a consistent ball producer throughout his career at LSU. The other thing that stood out to us about Grant is just his toughness. He played through this season and really a lot of the year with a high-ankle sprain that would have put a lot of players out of commission for a longer period of time. The other thing is everyone we talked to at LSU talked about how bright Grant is and how quickly he can he can process and understand anything football related. We found that to be the case. When we met with him, he was certainly one of the more impressive interviews that we had at the combine from a football intelligence standpoint. We are excited to add him to the roster. We think he is a talented young safety that can be a productive member of our team.”

ON IF CB GREEDY WILLIAMS CALLED DELPIT A ‘BALLER’ WHEN ASKED ABOUT DELPIT, GIVEN BERRY’S COMMENT OF LB MACK WILSON’S FEEDBACK ON T JEDRICK WILLS:

“We got a lot of positive feedback on Grant with everyone we spoke to.”

ON REUNITING WILLIAMS AND DELPIT AND HOW THEIR FAMILIARITY HELPS THE TEAM:

“I would say honestly we did not necessarily go into it with that in mind. We really evaluated independently. Certainly, hoping some of that familiarity could lead to potential synergy this fall, but at the end of the day, everybody has to earn their playing time and earn their jobs. We think Grant is a very talented player.”

ON IF THE BROWNS BELIEVED DELPIT WOULD STILL BE AVAILABLE AT NO. 44 WHEN COMPLETING THE TRADE WITH THE COLTS:

“We did.”

ON IF DELPIT’S HIGH ANKLE SPRAIN LAST YEAR AFFECTED HIS TACKLING, GIVEN IT WAS A QUESTION FOR SOME EVALUATORS THIS YEAR:

Every player, every young player is going to have things that they are going to have to work on coming in you know. No player is going to be perfect. It is actually something that we talked about really in February at the combine. The one thing was Grant was accountable. He never made an excuse for it or anything along those lines.”

ON IF DELPIT IS MORE OF A FS OR SS AND HOW HE FITS WITH THE SS THE BROWNS ADDED IN FREE AGENCY:

“I will answer your last question first. We think he fits well within that room. No jobs are given. Everybody is going to have to compete for their playing time in the fall. In terms of Grant’s skillset, one of the things is we really feel like he can fit in any safety role because of his versatility. I think it would be unfair to task him as just a free, just a strong or just what we would call a big nickel. The appeal is that he really does have the modern-day safety skillset from a coverage standpoint because of that versatility. That is something that we are really excited to have.”

ON WHAT SEPARATED DELPIT FROM OTHER REMAINING SS:

“What set Grant apart is one, his track record. He is a very accomplished college football player, and then - I know I have mentioned it a couple of times - the versatility because he can wear a variety of hats and perform them all at a very high level. That is just a skillset that is very difficult to find. It just allows you a lot more flexibility as a defensive coordinator when you have a guy who can play the post proficiently, who can play in the line of scrimmage, cover tight ends and play big nickel. We think that is something that Grant will be able to do at the NFL level.”

ON IF THERE WAS A REASON TO EXPLAIN DELPIT’S MISSED TACKLES IN 2019:

“I think that he would be the first to admit that it is something that is going to be a focus of him as an area of improvement coming into the NFL. I wouldn’t make any excuses for him. He hasn’t made any excuses for it. He did deal with the high-ankle sprain, but he wouldn’t even give that as a reason for the primary issue. We think the total package and what he does well is going to play really well in our defensive system.”

ON HOW MUCH TIME THE BROWNS SPENT WATCHING DELPIT’S 2018 FILM DUE TO HIS 2019 HIGH-ANKLE INJURY:

“A lot. Really for all of these guys that we scout, we really do put weight on the final two college years. It is not just the most recent season. In Grant’s case, there was definitely a stronger focus on both last year and before he did have the high-ankle sprain in late October because you could see it affected his movement later in the year.”

ON IF THERE WAS A SENSE THAT DELPIT WAS A FIRST-ROUND TALENT SELECTED IN THE SECOND ROUND, PARTICULARLY GIVEN HOW HE PLAYED IN 2018 AND HOW HE WAS GRADED PUBLICLY A YEAR AGO:

“I don’t know that we think of it in terms of whether we are getting a first-round talent just because of the public prognostications over the past year, but we do think we are getting a young talented football player. I will leave it for others to comment on that piece of it. We do know that we are getting a smart, tough, accountable, versatile and ball-hawking ball producer that can wear a variety of hats in the defense and we think could be a good contributor for us both in the short term and in the long term.”

ON IF HE BELIEVES IN ‘BIG SCHOOL FOOTBALL GUYS’ AFTER SELECTING PLAYERS FROM LSU AND ALABAMA WITH THE TEAM’S FIRST TWO PICKS:

“I actually think talent comes from everywhere, and just because our first two picks this year came from the SEC and two of the more established college football programs in the country doesn’t mean that is the only area that we are going to bring in players for the roster. It just happened to work out this way, but there are good football players across all college football conferences and across all college football levels. We won’t be bound to just Power 5 conferences or the SEC.”

ON WHY DELPIT WAS ONE OF THE BETTER INTERVIEWS AT THE COMBINE:

“When we went into the school, a lot of the feedback was just how smart Grant was and how quickly he could pick things up. In his particular interview session, our focus really was on football context, checks, adjustments, a mini-install with our system and a review of some the things that he did at LSU. He really excelled in that setting. Just really bright, really sharp and can process very quickly so that was one of the more impressive things about him for us.”

###



JORDAN ELLIOTT

SCHOOL MISSOURI

POS DEFENSIVE TACKLE

HT 6-4

WT 303

R D 3 , N O 2 4 , O A 8 8

CAREER TRANSACTIONS Originally drafted by the Cleveland Browns in the third round (88th overall) of the 2020 NFL Draft.

KEY NOTES

- Earned first team All-America honors from Pro Football Focus and was a second team All-American by the Associated Press in 2019.
- Landed on the All-SEC first team (Associated Press) and the All-SEC second team (coaches) in 2019, as well.
- Earned 2018 All-SEC second team honors from Pro Football Focus.
- Started 12 of 25 career games with all 12 starts coming in his redshirt junior season in 2019.
- Finished his Mizzou career with 68 total tackles, 5.5 sacks, four pass breakups and forced fumble and one blocked kick.
- Finished his final season with 44 tackles, the fourth most on the team and tops among interior defenders and defensive linemen.
- His 44 tackles on the season were the most for a Mizzou defensive lineman since DE Charles Harris had 61 in 2016.
- The 44 tackles were also the most in a single season for a Mizzou interior lineman since DT Harold Brantley had 54 in 14 games during the 2014 season.
- Transferred to Missouri in 2017 after a year at Texas.

PERSONAL

- Native of Missouri City, Texas and attended Westside High School.
- An All-America, all-state and two-time all-district honoree.
- Selected to participate in the 2016 U.S. Army All-America Bowl.
- Named to the All-USA Texas Second Team by USA Today.
- Competed in shot put and discus for the Westside track and field team.

DT JORDAN ELLIOTT

4-24-20

ON JOINING THE CLEVELAND BROWNS:

“It is a blessing. It was actually something that I was looking forward to. There is no controlling the draft, but that was the team that I wanted to go to from the start. I just thought that going to the Browns I can make a difference on their D line and contribute to the defense.”

ON DESCRIBING HIMSELF AS A PLAYER:

“I consider myself a playmaker that disrupts the middle, a pocket pusher in the pass game and just a disciplined run stopper. That is what I consider myself to be.”

ON THE TALENT LEVEL IN THE SEC CONFERENCE COMPARED TO THE BIG 12:

“I’m not going to say its is a lot different. Just scheme wise, things are different so you get more opportunities in the SEC to make plays. The Big 12, it is a passing league but it has a lot of quick passes and a lot of screens. The SEC I feel is more of a pro-style type of league.”

ON WHY HE WANTED TO PLAY FOR THE BROWNS:

“Honestly, it was just a feeling that I had a long time ago, probably when I first met before the draft. It was just something about calling my name by the Browns. My family members would have dreams about me going to play for them. I just felt like it was something that was meant to happen.”

ON WHAT HE LEARNED FROM TRANSFERRING AND PLAYING ON THE SCOUT TEAM FOR A YEAR:

“Really just becoming a complete team player, doing it for my teammates and really falling in love with that process. That is something that being on the scout team and looking at the other D linemen, going against the [offensive line] that week and giving them the best looks, that was something that I fell in love with. It was like the competition for me. That was my gameday, every practice. Just trying to be better than the person that they are going to go against so it is easy for them on game day. I feel like that was the most valuable lesson I learned from that year.”

ON WHEN HE HAD THE FIRST FEELING HE WANTED TO BE WITH THE BROWNS AND THE FAMILY MEMBERS WHO WERE DREAMING FOR HIM JOINING CLEVELAND:

“That was at the combine. It was my mom’s boyfriend. It was real random. I don’t even talk about the process with anybody so for him to have that dream, it kind of just let me know that is where I need to be.”

ON IF HE FEELS LIKE HE IS ON THE RIGHT TRACK AND IS STARTING TO COME INTO HIS OWN AND MATURE AFTER LAST YEAR AT MISSOURI:

“Yeah, for sure. Maturity is a part of growing. It is a part of life. At this point, I feel like I’m at a stage in my life where I’m ready to just contribute and do it consistently.”

ON LOSING 30 POUNDS:

“I cut out red meat and chicken. I only ate turkey and fish for a long time. Right now, I’m on a no-meat fast so I just eat vegetables and stuff. That is something that I did probably a year and a half ago. Just cut out the red meat and chicken, and then I just started losing weight, working out more and it all came together.”

ON SOME SCOUTING REPORTS QUESTIONING HIS MATURITY AND IF HE HAD TO CONVINCe TEAMS THAT HE HAS MATURED SINCE ENTERING COLLEGE:

“I feel like I didn’t really have to convince any teams. Just the coaches that I had, they will tell you straight up just where I came from, how far I have grown just from my freshman year at Texas I was blessed to have the same position coach. HE has seen me grow over the years, and at this point in my life, maturity is not an issue at all. I’m just ready to work and ready to get to it. I don’t have any distractions in my life so I’m blessed and just ready to get to work.”

ON VERBALLY COMMITTING TO MULTIPLE COLLEGES DURING HIS RECRUITING PROCESS:

“That was part of that immaturity. That is not me anymore. When you wake up in the morning, you hope you are not the same person you were the day before. It is all about growth. That is just my mindset. That was just a small piece of the puzzle.”

###



JACOB PHILLIPS

SCHOOL LOUISIANA STATE

POS LINEBACKER

HT 6-3

WT 228

R D 3 , N O 33 , O A 97

CAREER TRANSACTIONS Originally drafted by the Cleveland Browns in the third round (97th overall) of the 2020 NFL Draft.

KEY NOTES

- Led the Tigers in tackles in 2019 (113) after finishing second on the team behind first-round draft pick Devin White in 2018.
- Played in 39 games with 26 starts, including all 15 games in 2019.
- Posted 218 career tackles with two sacks and an interception.
- Led the SEC in total tackles (113) and ranked No. 7 in the league in tackles per game (7.5).
- Added 7.5 tackles for 22 yards in losses and a sack.
- Had eight tackles and a tackle for a loss in win over Clemson in national championship game.
- Named SEC Defensive Player of the Week for his performance in first career start as he returned an interception 45 yards for a touchdown and added seven tackles in season-opening win over Miami in 2018.

PERSONAL

- Native of Nashville, Tenn. and attended East Nashville High School.
- Son of Derrick and Tami Phillips.
- Majored in business administration.
- Selected to play in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.
- Earned Tennessee's Mr. Football Award in Class 3A to wrap up his high school career.

BEYOND FOOTBALL

- Is a member of the Unique Gents, a community service organization in his hometown of Nashville. The group is active in mentoring youth in his community.

LB JACOB PHILLIPS

4-24-20

ON JOINING THE CLEVELAND BROWNS:

"It feels amazing. I have been playing football my whole life. My inspiration was to be in this moment where I am getting drafted and playing in the NFL. To be drafted to such a special team like the Cleveland Browns, I feel so blessed about it. It is surreal."

ON BEING DRAFTED BY THE BROWNS AND JOINING SEVERAL FORMER LSU TIGERS:

"It feels great. Having the LSU connection in the NFL is something that most people probably do not have. Especially since the LSU, the group of guys there are so close, I know that those are the dudes there that will be able to take me under their wing and show me the ropes."

ON S GRANT DELPIT AS A TEAMMATE:

"That is my brother. I love playing with him. We made so many memories at LSU, all the years that we played together for two years. I am happy to take that next step and playing with him. I know we pushed each other at LSU so I know we are going to push each other in the league."

ON IF HE HAD A SENSE THE BROWNS WOULD SELECT HIM:

"We talked virtually, and I assumed the Browns were one of the teams that would pick me just from my conversation with the coach. Talking to my agent, coming in today, he had a list of teams that were considering me today, and they were one of them. I am glad that they were the ones that picked me."

ON WHAT DOES HE THINKS ABOUT THE SITUATION HE IS STEPPING INTO AND THE IMPACT HE CAN MAKE:

"That was one of my key things: One to be the outcomes of this draft coming into room where I will get an opportunity and I feel as though I will be given an opportunity in Cleveland. I am ready to work. I am ready to put in every ounce that I can to succeed and help the team win. I just want to make sure that I bring that winning tradition I had in college to Cleveland."

ON IF THERE IS A PLAYER THAT HE ADMIRER WATCHING GROWING UP:

"As admiring in watching, I always loved watching the LSU guys that came through before me. But I know my game is different from everybody else's. I tend to just try and stick with what I can do and what fits me. Just try to work at that."

ON WHAT IS GOOD ABOUT SO MANY FORMER LSU PLAYERS ON THE BROWNS:

"I think being at LSU, you got to be able to survive. That is just the culture there. With us being there, I feel like we will bring that to the team and I can not wait to learn from all the other dudes that are on the team, and help us win."

ON WHAT HIS FAMILIARITY WITH WRS ODELL BECKHAM JR AND JARVIS LANDRY:

"I do not necessarily personally know him, but I know he is an LSU great and I know how talented he is and how much he loves the game. I can not wait to be around somebody who truly loves the game and the unselfish player like he is."

ON WHAT IS GOING TO BE LIKE TO TACKLE BENGALS QB JOE BURROW:

"I am going to enjoy it. We could not tackle him in practice so I am going to enjoy it."

ON IF WAS A TOUGH DECISION TO DECLARE FOR THIS YEAR'S DRAFT:

"No sir. I felt like I was ready for that next step. Now I know my team, I can not wait to get to work. Just show my capabilities."

ON HOW HE WOULD DESCRIBE HIMSELF AS A PLAYER:

"I think I am somebody who rangy, can make plays all over the field, regardless of who is the ball carrier or the receiver or the running back. I also feel like I have a high-motor, I can do multiple things, I am versatile and also I can bring my vocals to a defense. I am not afraid to speak and I am not afraid to try and lead."

###

HEAD COACH KEVIN STEFANSKI ROUNDS 2-3 RECAP

4-24-20

OPENING STATEMENT:

“Really an exciting night for the organization. We added three good players to the defense at all three levels – a defensive lineman, a linebacker and a safety. I think each one of them is a schematic fit for us in what we want to do. On top of that, we were able to add a future third-round pick next year. A very productive night and looking forward to having another good day tomorrow.”

ON OF THERE IS A COMMON THREAD BETWEEN THE BROWNS' FOUR PICKS BEYOND PLAYING IN THE SEC:

“We did not go into this saying, ‘Let’s only draft SEC players.’ Now, if you are only going to draft from one league, it probably would make sense to draft from that league. It just is how it shook out. We are always looking high and low. We will find a good player wherever they may be. We certainly do not make that a huge part of our evaluation. I can tell you, though, when you are watching these guys, the lights are bright in that conference and to see the guys perform under those types of elements certainly does not hurt in evaluation.”

ON THE SCHEMATIC FIT FOR OF EACH OF THE BROWNS' PICKS:

“With (S) Grant (Delpit), there is a versatility to his game. You saw him play every job in the backend, except corner. He can be in the post. He can be down low. He can play nickel. He can play dime. A guy that can play across the defense was impressive. He is certainly a playmaker, and something we will stress is making plays on the ball. That is something that has shown up in his career. With my man, (DT Jordan) Elliott out of Missouri, the quickness. That is a big thing for our defensive line in terms of getting off of the ball. That is something I think he has and something that needs to be developed. I think I should mention with each one of these guys, none of them are finished products, even like we talked about (T) Jedrick (Wills) from the first round. Something we can definitely work with. The quickness [of Elliott] and getting off the ball was impressive. We want to play multiple guys along that front. I think that is where he gives us depth in that regard. With (LB) Jacob Phillips, we really liked the length, the speed and the ability to play in the system. Those linebackers have to run. You see him running in that system they play down there at LSU. You see him running down the sideline going to make great tackles. Just a high-effort, high-motor guy. He just turned 21 earlier this month. Another young player we feel like we can develop.”

ON IF HE HAD TO TAKE OFF HIS 'OFFENSIVE COACH HAT' AS THE BROWNS SELECTED MULTIPLE DEFENSIVE PLAYERS TODAY:

“I don’t need that reminder, but I am the head coach; I don’t want to ever be accused of being the offensive head coach. Certainly, we wanted to add good players to our team, and it so happened that it was three players on the defense tonight. I feel really good about adding those three players. That was something that was important to us. I can promise you, the coaches were very excited throughout this draft to try to keep everybody abreast with what we are doing via text message or whatever. It was pretty cool to see the excitement with some of the guys who we were able to add.”

ON IF THE BROWNS COULD POTENTIALLY ADD A WR IN A LATER ROUND WHO COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE TEAM, GIVEN THE DEPTH AT THE POSITION IN THIS YEAR'S CLASS:

“I think we feel like that across the board, honestly. If you look at our board and kind of work across left to right, you see players that you feel pretty confident in that have a chance in the third day of the draft to be a contributor. Some of those guys may contribute on special teams and then develop into a player or a starter down the road, but certainly, we see depth at a bunch of different positions.”

ON DELPIT'S COMMENTS ABOUT THE BROWNS HAVING THE BEST SECONDARY IN THE NFL AND HIS TAKE ON A PLAYER HAVING AN IMMEDIATE SWAGGER AND CONFIDENCE:

"Certainly, you want some bravado, especially in that back end when you are the last line of defense. Corners, safeties and DBs typically are the guys that bring some energy. I can promise you, our team in general won't be about talking. We will be about being about it. That will be something that I promise you we will talk about as a team, but I don't mind guys that have a ton of confidence. I think you need to bring confidence when you are playing in the back end."

ON COMPARING DELPIT'S 2018 TO 2019 SEASON:

"I think when you are doing your homework - our scouts do an outstanding job at this - it is really never about one year. Our scouts have done their work on them when they were sophomores and sometimes freshman, and then they check them out when they are in their junior year. That evaluation is really across years. It is always something that we are thinking about and there are always circumstances with every player. Whether they played good one year, bad one year or great one year, there are always reasons. That is our job to sift through all of those."

ON ELLIOTT AND HOW HIS GROWTH AND MATURITY WHILE AT MISSOURI:

"Elliott is the type of guy that you identify in a draft, and you want to get your hands on these guys. You want to develop these guys. You see a skillset. I'm excited to see this kid work with (defensive line coach) Chris Kiffin and our coaches. I see a physical skillset. I see a good person and a guy that I think fits the mentality of what we want to be. I'm just excited about adding a physical player and a disruptive player and then see if adding him to our scheme, maybe adjusting certain things about how he plays. I'm just excited about what that future may hold for him."

ON WHAT LOSING 30 POUNDS IN A YEAR AND A HALF SAYS ABOUT ELLIOTT:

"He's a disciplined eater (laughter)."

ON THE YOUTH OF THE BROWNS LBS:

"I think the youth is a good thing. It is a hungry group. We are going to roll a bunch of guys out there and see what we have. Once we get our hands on these guys, age obviously age matters and then you think about how young (LB) Mack (Wilson) was last year. You are always looking for these guys to progress. Once we get our hands on them, we will see where they are, but I think it is a really intriguing group. I think (linebackers coach) Jason Tarver, (senior defensive assistant) Ben Bloom and (defensive coordinator) Joe Woods have some guys to work with. The nice part is while they may be young, I really think there are a bunch of guys that understand there is a ton of work that needs to go into this. I think they are ready for that, but the youth doesn't really bother me so much as just getting our hands on them and starting to develop these guys."

ON STARTING HIS COACHING CAREER WITH YOUNG TALENTED QB'S IN THE AFC NORTH WITH BENGALS QB JOE BURROWS AND RAVENS QB LAMAR JACKSON, IN ADDITION TO ESTABLISHED VETERAN STEELERS QB BEN ROETHLISBERGER:

"I think it is a great division. It is a historic division. I have watched the tape of these games, and I can't wait to hear what it sounds like in these stadiums. I'm excited about it. There is no easy out in the NFL. These divisions are just loaded, and I came from one that I thought was pretty stacked, and we are walking into one that I think is pretty stacked. It is great competition. I think our guys will rise to that competition, but it is certainly something that we are looking forward to."

ON IF HE IS INVOLVED IN THE BROWNS' DECISIONS TO TRADE DOWN:

“I would say we are all involved. We have this zoom setup or whatever it is WebX so we are all in the room remotely together. All those conversations are ongoing and it is collaborative. Certainly, I feel part of it and I know there are a bunch of others that would say the same thing. At the end of the day, we also know that AB (Executive Vice President of Football Operations and General Manager Andrew Berry) has to make a decision and we all chime in and give him our best thought and then we trust the direction he takes us.”

###

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF FOOTBALL OPERATIONS AND GENERAL MANAGER ANDREW BERRY ROUNDS 2-3 RECAP 4-24-20

OPENING STATEMENT:

“First of all, thanks everybody for staying around for a long evening. I will start with our trade from No. 74 trade down from No. 74. Once we got to No. 74, we actually had a number of players that we really liked. When the opportunity with New Orleans came up, we felt like it was an opportunity for us where we could move back really a small amount in the third round and still pick from a number of players that we thought were really good fits for the roster. Specifically to (DT) Jordan Elliott, for us, we see Jordan as a player that has the right physical skill set to be a 3-technique in our defense. A guy with quickness gap, penetrating ability and who was very disruptive at Missouri. A really good fit in our scheme. Like the guy’s talent and like the guy’s upside for our defense. In terms of (LB) Jacob (Phillips), Jacob, really has the physical characteristics of what we would consider our modern-era linebackers. He has length, athleticism and speed. A really rangy guy, who is also good in pass coverage. We love his ability to play in space. We love his ability to run. We think he is going to be a really good fit within our group.”

ON IF THE BROWNS WERE LOOKING TO ADD PICKS IN 2020 AND IF THE TEAM THOUGHT IT COULD STILL ACQUIRE THE PLAYER DESIRED AT NO. 44 WHEN TRADING DOWN FROM NO. 41:

“Yes, I will start with the trade from 41 first. That is one where we felt pretty good that we were going to have a guy that we wanted by just moving back three spots. It was an opportunity for us to really pick up an extra pick at pretty much minimal costs. In terms of adding picks into the future, we will always go into a draft [and consider] if we can if we can get a Day 2 pick in in a following year, but there is the tradeoff relative to what are you sacrificing at the time that you would make the pick. In this particular instance, we felt like we did have a number of guys that we would like to have on the roster so we did not feel like we weren’t necessarily trading away from talent, so to speak. We felt good about the guys we added.”

ON SELECTING ALL SEC PLAYERS IN THE FIRST THREE ROUNDS:

“I can assure you that we did not plan it, but these are all really good football players in arguably the best conference in college football. It is certainly a good place to start for us, but it just happened to work out that way.”

ON IF IT IS TRUE THAT DEFENSE IS A THEME FOR THE DRAFT, GIVEN THE BROWNS YARDS PER RUSH ALLOWED LAST YEAR:

“I would say that the run defense in particular is not necessarily a focus. We are looking to add players that we think fit our defense in our scheme and then fit our culture and can improve the competition and talent across the across the roster. The particular dimensions of run defense or pass defense will really come with it. It is not necessarily with an eye to stop the run, but we do have guys that we think will help us in that regard.”

ON WHAT THE BROWNS ARE TYPICALLY HOPING TO ACQUIRE ON DAY 2 OF THE DRAFT:

“Once we get into the later stages of the draft, whether it is early Day 3 or late Day 2, you generally are seeing players who may have a little bit more to go in terms of the developmental curve, but you are looking for players that have the physical characteristics where they can be significant contributors or eventual starters within the context of your scheme. Both the players that we took later in Day 2 fit that mold. I mentioned earlier with Elliott, he has the physical characteristics we are looking for in a 3-technique in our defense. Jacob with his speed, length and range really fits what we are looking for in our WILL linebacker spot. We are excited about those guys. We are excited about adding some competition and getting our coaching staff working with them.”

ON IT BEING EVIDENT ELLIOTT HAS GROWN AND MATURED IN RECENT YEARS AT MISSOURI:

“Yeah, and talking to individuals around the program they talked about it. I think even as you have probably learned with Jordan, Jordan has an incredible level of self-awareness. That was one of the things that really resonated with us and stuck with us, particularly when we met with him at the combine and then again when we had what we would call our virtual top 30 [visits], is really just his eye toward self-improvement, his ability to reflect and just the strides that he has made even in college. We do think that he is a player that is on the come. We are excited to work with him and see if we can get him to his potential.”

ON IF HE FEELS THE BROWNS HIT IT OFF WITH ELLIOTT IN THEIR INTERVIEWS, GIVEN ELLIOTT’S COMMENTS:

“It is funny, I got several, several texts over the course of the spring, specifically from Jordan’s agents like ‘Hey, man, this this guy he really wants to be in Cleveland. He really wants to be a Brown.’ That is always sort of neat because you could tell with him it was coming from a very authentic place. Very rarely do those situations just like work out that way. That was not something that we were necessarily aiming to do as we as we entered the draft, but when the opportunity came to pick him at what we thought was the appropriate point, it ends up being a really cool story. We are happy to have him as a part of our team.”

ON IF IT IS A ‘HAPPY COINCIDENCE’ THE BROWNS DRAFTED TWO DEFENSIVE PLAYERS FROM BENGALS QB JOE BURROW’S COLLEGE TEAM:

“A very happy coincidence. Hopefully, that gives us a little bit of an advantage here moving forward.”

ON ASSESSING THE BROWNS LBS AND IF THE TEAM IS STILL TRYING TO FIGURE THAT POSITION GROUP OUT:

“I would push back and say that we are really trying to figure out all of our groups. We have not hit the field yet. Guys have not earned jobs. They have not earned playing time. We think that we have a talented core. We brought in other talented players, but guys will really have to earn their earn their stripes. In terms of the linebacker room specifically, it is a very young group. You have two players who are entering their second year and another that we are adding who is a rookie, but that is exciting because it is a room of opportunity. Obviously, we lost (Jaguars LB) Joe (Schobert) this offseason who was the elder statesman and very experienced – the same thing with (Packers LB) Christian (Kirksey). It gives young players an opportunity to step up and establish their own roles within the system. We are excited to see that and see how that plays out over the course of the spring and summer – hopefully, the spring, and then the summer.”

ON HOW BURROW AND RAVENS QB LAMAR JACKSON MAY IMPACT THE BROWNS DRAFT PLANS, IF AT ALL:

“We don’t really look at it that way. We know that we have two young, talented passers that are now in the division. We are really going to operate more from the standpoint of how can we build the best offense and how can we build the best defense and use our resources, whether they are picks or they are dollars appropriately rather than for a specific player on another team. Even though those guys are going to be in the division for a very long time, that is also four of what will potentially soon be 17 games. We are not going to build our team or build our defense just with those two players in mind, but we understand the challenges we face moving forward against two very talented young quarterbacks.”

ON THE IDEA OF CONTINUING TO ADD TO THE DTS AND IF THERE IS A NEED FOR A MORE VETERAN PRESENCE AT THE LB IN ADDITION TO B.J. GOODSON, GIVEN THE YOUTH IN THE ROOM:

“To answer your first question in terms of the defensive line, I think if you look at what San Francisco did last year and really even what (former Browns defensive coordinator) Steve (Wilks) did last year here, the defensive line, they are almost like hockey lines. We are really past the days where you just play your starters and those are the only four guys that play. For us, it is important to have depth within that position group where you can wave guys in and out of the game. If you look at some of the things that we have done over the course of the offseason, it really is to bolster the talent, particularly with that second group. Adding Jordan, adding (DT) Andrew (Billings) and adding (DT) Adrian (Clayborn) early in the spring we think gives us a good opportunity to do that. In terms of the linebacker room, I think that there was a day when Joe Schobert was an unknown and he was a second-year player transitioning to being an off-the-ball linebacker for the very first time and calling the defense for the very first time. I do think it is important as we look at all the position groups and all of our position groups evolve over the course of the years on the roster that we do give young players an opportunity to produce and succeed. The only way they get a chance to do that is by playing. Now, we are not going to play for another five months so it doesn’t mean that we are not going to look for opportunities to continue to upgrade the roster at all spots, but we do have a lot of faith and want to make common practice the ability to give young players a chance to perform.”

ON CHARACTER TRAITS THAT ATTRACTED THE BROWNS TO THEIR SELECTIONS:

“For really all of the guys that we take, we really do look for players who are tough, smart and accountable. That doesn’t mean that, like all of us, every guy is perfect, but guys who love the game, they have physical and mental toughness, they have high football acumen and they are accountable for what they do both in the building and off the field. We do feel like we have brought in a group of guys who embody those characteristics.”

ON IF THE BROWNS WERE CONSIDERING AVAILABLE LBS WHEN THE TEAM WAS SLATED TO PICK AT NO. 74:

“Without going into specifics, we did have a couple of players across positions that we liked, and Jordan and Jacob were among them.”

ON IF IT IS MORE CHALLENGING TO JUDGE CHARACTER THIS YEAR WITH FEWER IN-PERSON INTERACTIONS, PARTICULARLY SINCE COLLEGE COACHES MAY BE MORE INCLINED TO NOT MENTION NEGATIVES:

“I guess that is where I would push back a little bit. Our area scouts do a great job of building a network of contacts and relationships within their regions so that we can get honest feedback. Sometimes, I think there is this belief that when area scouts go out, they go to a school and they are trying to find what is wrong with a guy. A lot of times, we want to go in with the focus of ‘OK, help us understand the individuals so if we select them and we bring them to Cleveland, we can create an environment where they can be as successful as possible.’ That is really our approach as opposed to going to find flaws or what is wrong with a kid or an individual because we are all imperfect beings and all of us have made mistakes. As long as they have those core characteristics, we feel comfortable bringing them into the building.”

ON IF HE WAS AWARE OF S GRANT DELPIT'S SWAGGER AND CONFIDENCE, INCLUDING GIVEN DELPIT'S COMMENT ABOUT THE BROWNS HAVING THE BEST SECONDARY IN THE LEAGUE:

"I certainly love confidence. Love performance the most. Every guy has to earn their playing time and prove it on the field. We think that Grant is very talented, and it is good that he has confidence because if you are playing in the secondary in the NFL, you really do need confidence. It is a tough job but Grant, no different than every other player on our roster, has to earn his playing time and earn his stripes, and we will see where it goes from there."

###



HARRISON BRYANT

SCHOOL FLORIDA ATLANTIC

POS TIGHT END

HT 6-5

WT 230

R D 4 , N O 9 , O A 1 1 5

CAREER TRANSACTIONS Originally drafted by the Cleveland Browns in the fourth round (115th overall) of the 2020 NFL Draft.

KEY NOTES

- Honored with the 2020 John Mackey Award, as the nation's most outstanding tight end (only G-5 winner in the awards' history), be
- Earned the university's Athletic Academic Achievement Award as a senior, as well as Conference USA All-Academic honors as a junior and senior.
- Earned unanimous All-America status, as he was voted first team by the AFCA, Associated Press, FWAA, Sporting News and Walter Camp.
- First team All-Conference USA honoree in 2018 and 2019, as well as second team in 2017.
- The most highly-decorated player in FAU football's 19-season history.
- Became the 10th player since 2010 to be drafted out of FAU.
- Historically, he is the second FAU tight end to be drafted with Rob Housler, who was taken in the third round and 69th pick overall by the Arizona Cardinals in 2011, being the first.
- In 2019, became just the third Owl to surpass the single-season 1,000 yard mark.
- Tallied 148 career receptions, 2,137 yards and 16 touchdowns in his four years.
- Was instrumental in the Owls' Conference USA Championships in 2017 and 2019 and was a guiding force in FAU securing Cheribundi Boca Raton Bowl bids in the same seasons.

PERSONAL

- Native of Macon, Ga. and attended John Milledge Academy in Milledgeville, Ga.
- Son of Brad and Alyson Bryant.
- Majored in health administration.
- Was a three-sport athlete (football, basketball and baseball) in high school.
- Named all-county, all-region and all-state as both a junior and senior in football.

TE HARRISON BRYANT

4-25-20

ON BEING DRAFTED BY CLEVELAND:

“Obviously, I have had a few teammates from FAU play for the Browns and heard a lot of great things. When I got the call, I was extremely excited and just ready to go up there, go to work and do whatever I can to help the team win.”

ON JOINING A TEAM THAT PLANS TO FREQUENTLY USE TES IN HEAD COACH KEVIN STEFANSKI’S OFFENSIVE SYSTEM:

“They use a lot of tight ends. Just knowing how Coach Stefanski and his recent play calling years and the OC’s (offensive coordinator Alex Van Pelt) play calling years how they use tight ends, just coming into that situation with some other great tight ends and being able to be in two or three two tight end sets with them, it is going to be a really cool situation and just ready to go to work.”

ON IF HE WAS A SKILL PLAYER WAITING FOR HIS MOMENT TO BREAK OUT IN HIGH SCHOOL PRIOR TO HIS TRANSITION FROM OL TO TE:

“Yes sir, I always knew I could. My high school coach he was like, ‘I think you should play tight end. I moved to tight end and it worked out for me.’”

ON JOINING A GROUP THAT INCLUDES TES AUSTIN HOOPER AND DAVID NJOKU:

“I am obviously extremely excited to join this group of tight ends and two really, really, really good tight ends. I have watched a lot of tape on Hooper, as well as Njoku. To come in and join this group and just be able to do whatever I can to help produce and make the tight end room successful, I’m ready to do.”

ON IF WHAT HE BELIEVES HE CAN OFFER THE BROWNS AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SCOUTING GLENN COOK’S COMMENTS ABOUT HIS CONSISTENCY AS A PASS CATCHER:

“First off, I feel like that can bring a lot of versatility to the team, lining up anywhere I’m asked and really lining up wherever I need to and whatever I need to do to win and help the team. Really, just developing as a pass catcher on not playing tight end until my senior year of high school, it was really in my freshman and sophomore years [in college] that I really focused on developing, learning how to run routes and become a better pass catcher. A lot of help from my position coaches, the receiver coaches and also the other tight ends FAU – we had a real close bond. One of our other tight ends (Florida Atlantic TE John Raine) who was a really great route runner, I just got to work with him, and he taught me a lot of good things. Now, it has worked out for me.”

ON THE JUMP IN COMPETITION FROM FLORIDA ATLANTIC TO THE NFL:

“I have a really close friend (Bills RB) Devin Singletary. He plays for the Bills now. Had a great rookie year for the Bills. I have been talking to him a lot. For him, he said the biggest jump and the biggest thing, obviously, is just getting used to the different speed of the game. Coming from FAU, we played Ohio State, UCF and some other big team throughout my career. We have had some faster speed of games, but nothing like what I am going to have to prepare for and get used to. I feel like that is the biggest jump is just the speed of the game.”

ON HIS MINDSET PREPARING TO PLAY OHIO STATE IN COLLEGE:

“Going into that game, the first game of my senior year, I knew that was the biggest football game of my life to just really help show what I can do and just give myself this opportunity for the next level. Going in, I knew I needed to play well, block well and catch the ball well. I actually had a drop early in the game, but I rebounded well, finished really strong that game and really put some great things on tape that I think helped me out and really helped the Browns make this decision, as well as other teams with just how they looked at me and how people thought of me. A big point in my career was that game.”

ON IF 49ERS TE GEORGE KITTLE AND CHIEFS TE TRAVIS KELCE CAN SERVE AS REFERENCE POINT IN TERMS OF THE LEVEL HE COULD POTENTIALLY REACH:

“In college throughout my four years, I watched a lot of George Kittle tape and really just watching to see how he ran routes and how he just competed. The biggest thing was how he blocked. He is a great blocker. He is really the most complete tight end. I have been mentioned in words and stuff with him. He is the best of the best, and I hope my potential is to someday be like him and be at the level he is. It is just a lot of work coming in and doing whatever I can to get to that level.”

ON HOW HIS HIGH SCHOOL COACH DISCOVERED HE SHOULD PLAY TE:

“My junior year, we were in a big state final game, and I caught [a pass] on a tackle eligible for touchdown. He could tell I could catch well, and that is when I grew a few inches and lost some weight. That is when he put me at tight end, and it worked out for me.”

ON HIS JOURNEY TO BECOME THE JOHN MACKAY AWARD WINNER AFTER NOT BEING HEAVILY RECRUITED IN HIGH SCHOOL:

“Coming out of high school, very lightly recruited. I got an opportunity at FAU, went there and I knew I had to make the most of my opportunity, and I felt like I did. Winning the Mackey Award last year was just a huge accomplishment to join that list of previous tight end names and all those great tight ends. I definitely felt like I made the best of my opportunity at FAU. Now, I am just looking to make the best of my opportunity with the Browns.”

ON FORMER COLLEGE TEAMMATES WHO HAVE PLAYED FOR THE BROWNS AND TOLD HIM ABOUT THE TEAM, AND IF THAT INCLUDED FORMER BROWNS K GREG JOSEPH AND LB ADARIUS TAYLOR:

“Yes, sir [with Joseph]. I was not [a teammate with Taylor]. The other two are (former Browns and Cardinals DT) Trevon Coley and (DT) Brandin Bryant. Since [Joseph and Coley] are at their new stops, I have not had too much contact with them, but obviously, a lot of great things about Cleveland, the fans, just the surrounding area and how great of a time they had there. I am just really looking forward to it.”

ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HIS EXPERIENCE AT THE SENIOR BOWL:

“I actually think that was really the most important part of this whole process for me of just going to the Senior Bowl and proving I could compete on that field and I could hold my own on the field with that type of talent. I went there and I felt like I had a great week picking up a lot of things. Actually, my offensive coordinator for the team I was on is actually the offensive coordinator now for the Browns (Van Pelt). I think that kind of had a thing with it and Coach Van Pelt. That was good timing to have, too.”

ON BEING THE FIRST TIGHT END FROM A NON-POWER 5 PROGRAM TO WIN THE JOHN MACKAY AWARD AND IF THAT HELPS HIS CONFIDENCE ENTERING THE NFL:

“I would say it does to a point because obviously, it is selected by a lot of people. At the same time, I really get my confidence from just the way I work off the field and preparing every week for the game. I would not say I let the trophy or that accomplishment really give me that much confidence. It is really just how I prepare and train myself to get ready for the game and practice.”

ON THE IMPACT BUCCANEERS TE ROB GRONKOWSKI HAS HAD ON HIS CAREER AND TES IN GENERAL:

“He is one of the best to ever do it, possibly the best to ever play tight end in the league. I was extremely excited when I saw him announce he was planning on coming back. I have watched a lot of tape on him, just like I have watched a lot of tape on George Kittle. I try to pick stuff from every tight end that has had success in the league, just pick little things and really just model my game after the ones who have been the best. He is a character off the field, and he has fun with it. I am not too outgoing or as much as him. I am an outgoing person but not like him. I am just looking to come in and just make a lot of great friends and great relationships in the locker room, like he did, and just have a good time and win a lot of games.”

###

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SCOUTING GLENN COOK

4-25-20

ON THE BROWNS SELECTING TE HARRISON BRYANT:

“Harrison really impressed us throughout the spring, starting at the Senior Bowl, working through the Combine and up to some of the post-combine virtual stuff we did. He is a really blue-collar young man. His work ethic is great. He is going to bring really good leadership. As a football player, his pass-catching ability is probably what stands out the most. You will probably hear that a lot, but he is an athletic, natural sure-handed guy, really tough and competitive after the catch. It got to the point where we were staring at the board and you kind of couldn’t ignore the fact that he was still up there.”

ON WHY BRYANT WAS AVAILABLE AT THE TIME, GIVEN HIS COLLEGE NUMBERS:

“I can’t really speak for the rest of the league. It could be a level of competition or questions about if he could produce at the same level in the NFL. We really just thought his skillset and adding that talent to the room fit for us, especially at that spot. We thought it was a pretty good pick.”

ON IF THIS YEAR’S COLLEGE ALL-STAR GAMES BECAME MORE IMPORTANT DUE TO THE IMPACT OF COVID-19, PARTICULARLY FOR DAY 3 SELECTIONS:

“I think we really push our guys to hone in at the at the all-star games, not because we knew this situation would come up but because you have much more access to the players, both on and off the field, that you can garner a lot of really valuable information. Between the ability to see them throughout the week in different meeting settings or just across different exposures and then definitely competing on the field, you can you can glean a lot from that week-long experience.”

ON DIFFERENCES EVALUATING SKILL PLAYERS ON OFFENSE AND DEFENSE AND THEIR SKILLSETS AS THE NFL GAME HAS EVOLVED:

“I think that those positions, at the end of the day, it is really the production on the ball. Guys get in positions in unique ways. Some of the bigger corners use their size and instincts, and some of the guys with maybe less size use more athletic traits in quickness and speed. At the end of the day, it is producing on the ball. As a receiver, for me, the price of admission is catching the football. If you can catch the football, whether it is in contested situations or underneath and making things happen after the catch, those are really the things that we look for. Really, production is key. Being able to produce in whatever manner you can consistently is really the calling card for those two positions.”

ON EVALUATING A PLAYER LIKE BRYANT FROM A PROGRAM THAT FACED A HANDFUL OF MAJOR COLLEGE PROGRAMS BUT ALSO PLAYED SMALLER SCHOOLS:

“It is a fair question. I think you really just have to hone in on the skillset. I think that is one of the things that we really liked about Harrison is from our coaching staff and our scouts, they both really appreciated his ability to get open in a multitude of ways. He is just pretty consistent at catching the football. He struggled a little bit early on this season, which was a bit uncharacteristic, but across his lifespan in college, catching the football is something that he did really well. We kind of expect him to carry that over. That is how we reviewed him and why we thought this was a good pick.”

ON THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT'S PROCESS THIS YEAR AT ALL-STAR GAMES WHEN THE BROWNS HAD NOT YET HIRED HEAD COACH KEVIN STEFANSKI AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF FOOTBALL OPERATIONS AND GENERAL MANAGER ANDREW BERRY:

"I think our group did a really good job of coming together and really just using some of the experienced guys that we did have in our group to help direct us in that time. We kind of stayed the course. We had somewhat of a layout written already in terms of assignments and responsibilities. We kind of just stuck to that and married that with AB's philosophy and planning when he came in. It worked out pretty well. It didn't throw us off too much. Obviously, you like to have your group in place, but I think we did a really good job of adjusting."

ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF STEFANSKI'S USE OF TIGHT ENDS IN HIS OFFENSIVE SYSTEM WHEN EVALUATING PLAYERS:

"I don't think it hurts to make the head coach happy. He has a strong affinity for that position. I just think with this selection, like I said earlier, he just kind of stuck out on our board based on where we had him. Obviously, we want to add talent to the roster, add competition and guys that can produce in the passing game. He kind of checked off a significant number of boxes. That is why it worked out the way it did."

ON IF BRYANT HAD GAMES AGAINST MAJOR COLLEGE PROGRAMS THAT STOOD OUT TO THE TEAM:

"No, not necessarily. I think everyone will kind of lock in on Ohio State, but we try not to take competition into too much consideration. It definitely is a factor, but he played at a major D-I school. The kid was really, really productive. Like I said just across all his exposure, you really couldn't poke too many holes in the things that he does really well."

ON BRYANT'S CHARACTER AND LEADERSHIP AS A CAPTAIN AT FLORIDA ATLANTIC:

"He is high character, blue collar and has a really strong work ethic. He is not going to say much, but you will feel his work on the field. He is just going to be a great addition from that piece, as well, just to add a lot of professionalism early on coming into the building. We are really excited about that piece of it as well."

ON IF IT WAS MORE DIFFICULT TO EVALUATE PLAYERS FROM SMALLER SCHOOLS, GIVEN THE ABSENCE OF INDIVIDUAL WORKOUTS AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES DURING A NORMAL OFFSEASON:

"It was, but I will say this is probably one of the more fun times for the pure scout. It is one of those moments where you kind of just have to rely on the tape and leverage that as much as you can. We really dug in as much as possible and inserted a lot of cross-check situations and parameters to get us more comfortable with some of those smaller school guys. Also, I think with what we are using now -- Zoom, (Microsoft) Teams, WebX and all the technology -- we really leveraged that to its maximum extent to get as much access and exposure to all these players. Regardless of where they are now, every 18-22 year old has an iPhone or some type of device so that was helpful."

ON THE LAST TIME HE LOOKED AT THIS MUCH FILM ON A PLAYER:

"I would say coming in as a scouting assistant, you probably do get a lot of the leg work of the smaller schools and really digging on that tape. I wouldn't say we watched any more tape. To a degree, it could become a little bit of an issue if you second guess yourself too much. I think we did our due diligence. We stuck to our schedule as much as possible in terms of the phases that we went through. You had a few more weeks or time here and there to say 'Oh, let me take just one extra look at this particular player,' but I wouldn't say I watched a ton more film."

ON BRYANT'S TRANSITION FROM OL TO TE:

"Just coming out of high school, sometimes there are unique transitions. He kind of came into college at 215 and he has worked his way up to about 235-240. I think he filled out maybe a little bit and maybe a late bloomer physically, but he transitioned pretty well to the position, if you ask me."

ON HOW SELECTING BRYANT IMPACTS OTHER TES ON THE BROWNS ROSTER LIKE TE DAVID NJOKU AND IF THE TEAM NEEDS AN ABUNDANCE OF TES IN THIS OFFENSIVE SYSTEM:

"I don't think we can have enough good players, first and foremost, especially at that position with some of the packages and sets that we are going to use in Kevin's offense. This isn't any indication on Njoku's future, (TE) Stephen (Carlson) or anyone else. I think you just continue to try to add good players in the right spot, add competition and see how it works out. We are still pretty optimistic about Njoku's future and like the things that Carlson did, but we think any type of competition and anything that can help our roster get better, we are going to take a look into it."

###



NICK HARRIS

SCHOOL WASHINGTON

POS CENTER

HT 6-1

WT 293

R D 5 , N O 1 5 , O A 1 6 0

CAREER TRANSACTIONS Originally drafted by the Cleveland Browns in the fifth round (160th overall) of the 2020 NFL Draft.

KEY NOTES

- Earned second team All-America from Sports Illustrated, first team All-Pac-12 for the second year in a row and named to Pro Football Focus All-Pac-12 first team, as well as Phil Steele second team in 2019.
- Won the Guy Flaherty Most Inspirational Award, the UW football program's oldest and most prestigious team honor.
- Two-time Academic All-Pac-12 honorable mention (2017 and 2018).
- Earned All-Pac-12 honorable mention honors in 2017.
- Started 40 of 50 games for his career, beginning his true freshman season in 2016, when he was 17 years old for the majority of the fall.
- Washington removed his redshirt status before the start of the season in 2016 in an effort to get him on the field as soon as possible.

PERSONAL

- Native of Inglewood, Calif. and attended JSerra Catholic High School.

C NICK HARRIS

4-25-20

ON BEING DRAFTED BY THE BROWNS AND ENTERING THE NFL:

"I am excited. This is a dream I have had now since I can remember. I have been playing football since a young age. I am excited. I am ready to get to work when all this stuff clears up and I just want to play football again so I appreciate the Cleveland Browns organization for taking the chance on me and giving me opportunity."

ON IF HE FEELS MORE COMFORTABLE PLAYING C OR G, GIVEN HE MOST RECENTLY PLAYED C BUT STARTED AT BOTH POSITIONS:

"Like you said, just because I played center last few years, I feel comfortable there, but I also feel comfortable at guard. Wherever I can get on the field the fastest and contribute will be good for me because I have those two years playing guard. Anywhere I could just start playing football will be good."

ON OVERCOMING HIS HEIGHT BEING SHORTER THAN THE TYPICAL INTERIOR OL:

"It starts with technique. It starts with also the mental aspect of the game. I take both of those pretty seriously and how I go about playing football. Also, it is just a will. I love playing O line. I like finishing people. I take pride in what I do. Honestly, I think it helps me, I get better leverage under people. I have long arms for my height. I think at the end of the day, it helps me more than it hurts me."

ON IF HE PRIDES HIMSELF ON HIS LEADERSHIP ABILITY AND HIS VOCAL NATURE:

"Yeah, it is definitely my style. I am an outgoing guy. I love talking. I love being around and I am a real social guy. If need be in a locker room where I had to take the reins and lead my guys, I was not afraid to say it. That is definitely something I pride myself on and I got to definitely do that at Washington."

ON WINNING WASHINGTON'S MOST INSPIRATIONAL PLAYER AWARD:

"That meant a lot because it was voted on by my teammates. It just goes to show how much they liked me being around and how much they fed off me. It was truly an honor for sure because that is one of the most prestigious awards on the on the Washington football team. I am just glad that my teammates thought so highly of me. I want to continue to build on that characteristic on the next level."

ON JOINING AN OFFENSE WITH QB BAKER MAYFIELD, WRS ODELL BECKHAM JR. AND JARVIS LANDRY, THE BROWNS OL AND OTHER TALENTED PLAYERS:

"Anywhere I went, I was just glad for the opportunity. There is definitely a lot of talent on the Browns. I am excited to get around these guys, get to work and find my way on the next level. Like you said, there is a lot of talent. I am excited."

ON IF HE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO LEARNING FROM VETERANS LIKE G JOEL BITONIO AND C JC TRETTER:

"Oh yeah, 100 percent. I watch those guys a lot when I watch film and just try to better my game. Those guys have been playing ball for a while. They are still doing it at a high level. I am very excited to learn from those two guys and trying to soak up everything I can from them."

ON HOW FORMER NFL PLAYER PAT HARLOW BEING HIS POSITION COACH IN HIGH SCHOOL HELPED HIS DEVELOPMENT:

“It definitely helped me in my development as a lineman. I started playing O line pretty late in my career. I started playing my sophomore year of high school. When he came around, he really instilled that pride and passion in O line play into me. I still talk to him to this day. Whatever I need, he always helps me. I was training down in Orange County at my high school, and he helped me out with technique stuff. He is just a great resource to have. He is very knowledgeable. He definitely is an idol of mine, for sure.”

ON HIS DETERMINATION TO GET ON THE FIELD IN COLLEGE, GIVEN HE EARNED A STARTING POSITION AS A FRESHMAN AFTER INITIALLY PLANNING TO REDSHIRT:

“Honestly, like you said, I went in there expecting to redshirt. I was 17 years old. I was 275 pounds at the time. I wanted that year to try to get bigger and learn the offense. When I got in, I learned the offense pretty fast, and it allowed me to play really fast and violent like I like playing. They thought I could contribute to the team that year. I sat down with (former Washington Head) Coach (Chris) Peterson and my O line coach at the time, (former Washington offensive line coach and Colts offensive line coach) Chris Strausser. They gave me a chance and asked me if I wanted to do it. I was like, ‘Hell yeah. I want to play as soon as I can because taking a year off from football sounds horrible (laughter).’ I took the chance and I learned a lot that year about how I need to build myself and about how I need to learn how to play. Honestly, it was probably the best thing for me.”

ON IF HE WAS NERVOUS IN THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF GAME AGAINST ALABAMA HIS FRESHMAN YEAR:

“Oh my God. I just turned 18. I kind of blacked out, honestly (laughter). It was definitely a great experience, and I learned a lot about what I need to do to get better. It definitely helped me in the long run and in my development as a player.”

ON IF EVER HE GETS BOTHERED WHEN PEOPLE DISCUSS HIS HEIGHT AS A DISADVANTAGE FOR WHERE HE SHOULD OR SHOULDN'T PLAY:

“That has been the case since I was getting recruited in high school was my height. It used to bother me back then, but I have learned to embrace it and just use that to fuel how I play and keep that chip on my shoulder because a lot of people do not think I can play at a high level at this height. It helps me play with better leverage. That is what I always tell people. I get under guys a little better, and I try to play with sound technique. I think at the end of the day, it helps me.”

ON WHEN HE REALIZED HE COULD COMPETE AT A HIGH LEVEL IN COLLEGE AND POTENTIALLY REACH THE NFL:

“I think it would be my sophomore in college. After I put some weight on, it made my life a lot easier. I got up to 295 and I was playing really well as a sophomore at guard. At the end of that season, when they told me they were moving me to center, I knew had a chance because that was my natural position. That spring ball and all those reps, I started to realize I can definitely play at the next level and compete. It all dawned on me during that time.”

ON IF HE HAS WATCHED FILM OF BITONIO AND TRETTER AND HOW MUCH HE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO LEARNING FROM THE VETERANS:

“I definitely watch their film. I watch tons of NFL tape. It does not matter who and it does not matter what team. I just like watching how those guys play at the next level. They are just sound players. Their technique is always on point. That is definitely something I have taken from both of those guys. They play very well together. You need to have that continuity as an O line. I am more than excited to learn and pick their brains to see how they go about not just on the field but how they carry themselves off the field and what I can learn from that.”

###

SCOUT ADAM AL-KHAYYAL

4-25-20

ON C NICK HARRIS:

"We are really excited to add Nick to the team. There is a really interesting story with him. He is a guy who came into Washington, probably you could say under recruited, went to one of the premier programs in the PAC-12 and really in the nation and all he did was work his way into the starting lineup as a true freshman and then start his final three years – one at guard and two at center. He is a guy who has had a really productive career and adds some good depth to the roster and a chance to compete."

ON IF THE TEAM SEES HARRIS AS MORE OF A C OR G AND IF VERSATILITY MADE HIM APPEALING:

"I think for Nick, center is probably going to be where he starts, I would imagine, and really where he shined at Washington, but he has played at multiple spots. Certainly, I think his lack of height – he is only 6-1 – might have caused some people to think that maybe he can't play in multiple spots, but he has done it on the biggest stage. As a true freshman, he was playing guard against Alabama in the CFP playoffs and holding his own against guys who have gone on to be productive NFL players. This guy certainly adds ability and depth to the roster."

ON HARRIS' CHARACTER:

"I think he fits that smart, tough accountable mantra that (Head Coach) Kevin (Stefanski) and (Executive Vice President of Football Operations and General Manager) Andrew (Berry) have been hitting on throughout this process. He is a guy who came in and earned his way every step of the way. He did not redshirt as a freshman. They pulled his redshirt because they couldn't keep them off the field really. He is a guy who really worked his way and worked for everything he has. He came in and was in the 270s as a true freshman. He is up in the 300 range now. He has done a lot throughout the course of his career to improve every step of the way every year."

ON ATTRIBUTES FOR A STRONG INTERIOR OL AND WHY HARRIS IS A FIT FOR THE BROWNS OFFENSE:

"Probably it varies when you are talking scheme to scheme, but certainly, for what we are trying to do in a wide zone system, Nick is a guy with really good feet, good quickness and really good range in terms of getting out in space and getting to the second level. A guy who really there is not a block he doesn't think he can make, and quite often, he makes them. He played on a line that had some other highly talented prospects so people have been paying attention to this line for a few years. Every game, he makes a play or two or a block or two where you kind of sit up in your chair and take notice, which usually offensive linemen are guys that you are not noticing them unless they do something wrong in some instances, and he is a guy who he would do things right and make you take notice of it."

ON SELECTING PLAYERS FROM THE SENIOR BOWL AND HOW HARRIS' PARTICIPATION CONTRIBUTED TO THE BROWNS' evaluation:

"In general, the opportunity to go to the Senior Bowl is just another feather in your cap and another chance to go down and compete at a high level. For Nick, he is a guy who competed against the best of the best throughout his career. He went against Auburn, who has some really good defensive linemen, last year in their opener. He went against Alabama. He went against the best teams in the PAC-12. He was not a guy who necessarily you needed to see at the Senior Bowl to see him go against the top competition, but whenever you get a chance to go to the Senior Bowl and compete, that always helps."

ON HARRIS' HEIGHT POTENTIALLY IMPACTING HIS DRAFT STATUS AND HOW MUCH THAT COMES INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN DETERMINING HIS POSITION:

"Honestly, wherever he ends up is going to be a coaching decision, but from the perspective of the line, it is not a competition about who is taller; it is about a leverage battle. For Nick, he plays with great leverage and he has some natural leverage. He really is a tough guy to get around because of his combination of leverage, quickness and athleticism. Wherever he ends up, I think for him, the height is less of an issue. Certainly, he also has length in his arms so it is not as if he doesn't have an ability to play with extension or leverage."

ON HARRIS' PROJECTED ROLE WITH THE BROWNS, GIVEN THEIR CURRENT OL, AND IF HARRIS IS A LONG-TERM OPTION OR SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP CREATE COMPETITION WITH C JC TRETTER:

"For all these guys, it is a chance for them to come in and compete and add depth to the roster. Where they ultimately end up is to be determined by them and their performance. All the guys we bring in, it is an opportunity for them to be on the Cleveland Browns. From here, what they make of it is really going to be determined by them and their performance. Certainly, he is a guy who we thought had a really good fit for our scheme and a nice skillset and ability to come in and add depth and value."

ON HARRIS WINNING WASHINGTON'S MOST INSPIRATIONAL PLAYER AWARD AND WHAT LED TO THAT ACHIEVEMENT:

"For Nick, it is really just the whole person. He is a guy that everybody in the program speaks highly of. Usually when we go to these all-star games, we get a chance to interact with many of the teammates of players at each school so you go and you talk to the guys from Washington and you say, 'Hey, who is one guy that you would like to bring with you to the next level?' A lot of them said Nick Harris. He was a team captain. For him, I think it was more the person and the way he went about his business every day competing and the energy and passion he brought to the field every day. You go out to practice, you can hear him and you can feel his energy. He is certainly a guy that inspired his teammates that, I'm sure, in a lot of ways and not just with his on-field performance."

ON HARRIS BEING VOCAL AND IF THAT WAS MORE ENCOURAGEMENT OR HOLDING GUYS ACCOUNTABLE:

"He was a team captain, and when you talk to people around the program, they say he is one of the best leaders they have. I think it is sort of a combination of everything. I think he really does bring a lot to the team and for them as a program. He was a guy that played a lot, and he did it with his actions, but he also did it with his words."

ON THE IMPORTANCE OF PRE-DRAFT INTERVIEWS AND PREPARATION PRIOR TO THE COMBINE AND ALL-STAR GAMES:

"It probably varies from player to player. For a guy like Nick who started for three-plus years, he has been on the radar for a while, you have heard about him for a while and you have been watching him for a while. There are other guys who may be later in the process that pop up or they started for one year or only had one year of production. Person to person and player to player, there is some variance, but for him, he is a guy that we have been paying attention to for a while - certainly, I have. The rest of the process after the season ends is just to find out more but not necessarily change a whole lot about what you think."

ON THE IMPACT HIGH SCHOOL COACH PAT HARLOW HAD ON NICK HARRIS, GIVEN HARLOW'S NFL CAREER:

"I have not talked to him about his high school coach in particular, but I think certainly that kind of instruction at a younger age helps. He is definitely somebody who came in ready to compete and to produce, and he did so coming into the PAC-12 at 270 pounds and working his way into the starting lineup. He definitely was ready early and has continued to improve throughout his career."

ON IF THE BROWNS WERE SURPRISED HARRIS WAS AVAILABLE WHEN CLEVELAND SELECTED HIM:

“I will probably leave the board discussion to AB (Executive Vice President of Football Operations and General Manager Andrew Berry), but certainly, pleased that he was there. I have gotten a few texts from guys on the west coast excited and congratulating about the pick because he was a guy that quite frankly a lot of people did like. We are excited to have him.”

###



DONOVAN PEOPLES-JONES

SCHOOL MICHIGAN

POS WIDE RECEIVER

HT 6-2

WT 204

R D 6 , N O 8 , O A 1 8 7

CAREER TRANSACTIONS Originally drafted by the Cleveland Browns in the sixth round (187th overall) of the 2020 NFL Draft.

KEY NOTES

- Two-time All-Big Ten selection as a wide receiver (third team, coaches, 2018; honorable mention, media, 2018-19).
- Two-time All-Big Ten honoree as a punt returner (third team, coaches, 2018, and media, 2018-19; honorable mention, coaches, 2017, '19 and media, 2017).
- Academic All-Big Ten honoree (2018).
- Freshman All-American as a punt returner, according to the AFCA and 247 sports.
- Was a three-year letterman (2017-18-19) and recipient of the team's 2017 Rookie of the Year award.
- Recipient of the 2018 Offensive Skill Player of the Year Award, as the first-ever award winner.
- Appeared in 37 games as a Wolverine with 26 starts, totaling 2,155 all-purpose yards with 16 touchdowns (14 receiving).

PERSONAL

- Native of Detroit, Mich. and prepped at Cass Technical High School.
- Was enrolled in the College of Literature, Science and the Arts at Michigan.
- Played in the 2017 U.S. Army All-American Bowl.
- Named an Under Armour All-American and a USA Today first team All-American.
- 2016 Michigan Gatorade Player of the Year.
- 2016 Associated Press Michigan Division 1-2 Player of the Year.
- 2016 Associated Press first team all-state.
- Also ran track, finishing all-state in the 4x100-meter relay and all-city as the 100-meter champion.

BEYOND FOOTBALL

- He is an active volunteer in the community, packing boxes for Forgotten Harvest and Gleaners Food Banks, working the United Auto Workers Neighborhood Cleanup and participating with Never Ever Give Up Children Foundation, while also taking time to lead youth camps in the offseason.

WR DONOVAN PEOPLES-JONES

4-25-20

ON JOINING THE CLEVELAND BROWNS:

"I am very excited. I just needed one chance, and I am very thankful to the Browns and their organization for giving me that chance. I can't wait to be part of the team."

ON THE CHALLENGE PLAYING WITH MULTIPLE QBs AT MICHIGAN:

"It was challenging, but I think he made me better. I was able to adjust. I think I am ready for whatever adjustment comes in my future. I am blessed to go through everything that I went through."

ON IF HE HOPES TO CONTINUE TO RETURN KICKS AND PUNTS:

"Yes, sir."

ON IF THE BROWNS TALKED TO HIM ABOUT PLAYING RETURNING PUNTS AND KICKS:

"Yes, sir. That is something I am looking forward to and something that I will be blessed to be a part of."

ON JOINING WRS ODELL BECKHAM JR. AND JARVIS LANDRY:

"It is great because I actually got a chance to meet both of them. I was getting some tips from Jarvis while I was down in Florida training for the NFL Combine. Me and him have started to develop our relationship. Those guys are Pro Bowl guys. I just can't wait to learn from them."

ON HOW EAGER HE IS TO BE INCORPORATED IN THE BROWNS WR CORPS, GIVEN THE POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITY AS A THIRD WR:

"I am so ready. There is going to be a lot of work put in before that, but I am so ready and I am blessed with this opportunity."

ON THE ADVICE HE RECEIVED FROM LANDRY:

"Just talking to me about the pre-draft process and everything that he did as a rookie and things that he learned. Things he wants me to understand for me as a player."

ON HIS DRAFT PROCESS BEFORE ULTIMATELY BEING SELECTED ON DAY 3:

"Yeah, it has been tough. Never really imagined this, but I am so blessed and so grateful that the Browns selected me and believe in me."

ON IF HE IS THE TYPE OF PLAYER WHO WILL REMEMBER THE WRS SELECTED BEFORE HIM:

"Yeah, I remember. It is a long list. I am definitely going to remember that."

ON THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE A WRS ROOM WITH BECKHAM AND LANDRY:

"Personally, I love competition. Personally, I rise when the competition rises. Those are two of the best receivers in the NFL. I am so thankful for this opportunity to come to Cleveland. I really can't wait."

ON ADDRESSING SCOUTING REPORTS THAT SAY HE 'UNDERACHIEVED' AT MICHIGAN AND IF THAT IS A FAIR CRITICISM:

"I do not think that is a fair criticism. I did what I could when I had the opportunity. It honestly does not matter now. I am looking at how to get better. I am looking to do everything I can for the Browns offense and the team in general."

ON WHERE HE BELIEVED HE RANKED AMONG THIS YEAR'S WR PROSPECTS AND IF IT WAS TOUGHER DUE TO WR DEPTH IN THIS YEAR'S DRAFT CLASS:

"I am not even one to speak on that. I think that the rankings will reveal itself in the next couple years. I am blessed to be part of this organization, and I am blessed to get a chance."

ON IF HE WORRIES ABOUT ANY POTENTIAL ANTI-MICHIGAN BIAS IN CLEVELAND, REFERRING TO SOME FORMER MICHIGAN PLAYERS SENTIMENTS WHO WERE WITH THE BROWNS:

"No, not at all."

ON IF HE HAS A RELATIONSHIP WITH FORMER MICHIGAN AND BROWNS WR BRAYLON EDWARDS:

"I know Braylon. We have a pretty good relationship. I grew up watching Braylon and loving how he played at Michigan and just being really good."

ON HOW CLOSE HE IS TO REACHING HIS FULL POTENTIAL AS A WR BASED ON WHAT HE HAS SHOWN IN HIS CAREER:

"I don't feel like I started [fully showing my potential] personally, but I have upped my training. I feel like I'm ready, and I feel like it is going to be a great next couple years."

ON CONSIDERING OHIO STATE IN THE RECRUITING PROCESS BEFORE COMMITTING TO MICHIGAN AS A HIGHLY-REGARDED HIGH SCHOOL PROSPECT:

"I looked at every school equally and looked at every school for what they could do for me. I weighed the pros and the cons, and ultimately, made my decision."

ON HIS INTERACTIONS WITH THE BROWNS AND IF THE SELECTION WAS SOMEWHAT OF A SURPRISE:

"I was a little surprised. I did talk to them a little bit at the combine and felt really good about them. It is a blessing. I'm just glad they circled back and remembered me."

ON PLAYING WITH MAYFIELD AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR BIG PLAYS IN THE BROWNS OFFENSE:

"I'm so excited to play with players like Baker, Odell and Jarvis. They are really good players, and I think that I can come in and soak up a lot information from them and really take it all in. I'm really excited."

ON IF LANDRY'S ADVICE WAS SPECIFIC TO TECHNIQUE OR THE LEAGUE IN GENERAL:

"Everything. Any question that I had for him, he tried to answer. He always made it be known that I could ask him anything because he has been there before and he has been through a lot. He has been a really good role model for me."

ON HIS FATHER BEING AN ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON AND HIS FATHER'S INFLUENCE ON HIS FOOTBALL, EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL CAREER:

"He definitely influenced me growing up by wanting me to take academics seriously. I went into college studying biology and switched to psychology. I have always had an academic background. I'm not sure what will come with the next years, but I'm focused on being a Brown and giving them everything that I have."

###

SCOUT COLTON CHAPPLE

4-25-20

ON THE BROWNS SELECTING WR DONOVAN PEOPLES-JONES:

“We ended going receiver with the final pick in the 2020 draft, pick No. 187 with Donovan Peoples-Jones, wide receiver out of Michigan. A local, Detroit, Michigan kid. He was a very highly recruited player coming out of a very successful high school program at Cass Tech. He has played a lot of positions for [Michigan] in terms of wide receiver, slot and punt returner. He was a guy that we saw after looking at him for three years – he is an early declared junior – that was exceptionally athletic and a very talented individual. He ended up winning the offensive skill player of the year for Michigan in 2018. He played immediately as a returner. This is a guy we really like in terms of the overall size, his speed and his athleticism to bring to our unit and contribute in whatever manner our coaches deem fit for him.”

ON PEOPLES-JONES' ATHLETICISM, GIVEN HE HAS BEEN RATED HIGHLY AMONG HIS PEERS IN THE CATEGORY SINCE HIGH SCHOOL, AND THAT NOT NECESSARILY MATCHING THE EXPECTATIONS AND PRODUCTION IN COLLEGE:

“I think a little bit of it with the high school recruiting process is unfair just because of the unrealistic expectations that these prospects sometimes have and things that really are not in their control. (Peoples-Jones is) a guy who is over six feet, ran 4.48 at the combine and jumped a 44-inch vertical. This guy has those natural gifts of speed, explosiveness and quickness, and you can see that in his route running and you can see that when you have the ball in his hands as returner. I think it is unfair to judge a guy just based squarely on production just because there are a lot of factors that he can't control. What we saw on tape is when he did have his opportunities, he made the most of it, and he was a very dynamic player once the offense was able to get him to ball quickly or in some of his punt returns earlier as a young kid at Michigan.”

ON IF PEOPLES-JONES' ATHLETIC SKILLS AND IF SOME OF THOSE TRAITS COMPARE TO SOME WRs TAKEN HIGHER THAN HIM:

“I would agree with some of that because you saw the traits on display at the combine and you saw some of his numbers being in the top of his class at the combine. I think you really hit it on the head just in terms of being a very wide receiver heavy, very deep draft. We still believe we got a very high-caliber player this late in the draft so that really does excite us moving forward. I think it is unfair to both Donovan and some of the other players that were taken before him to compare based off purely athletic traits. There are so many different pieces to the puzzle when you talk about evaluating a player and then valuing him at a certain point in the draft. This is a guy who has come in and produced when he has the ball in his hands. He has been able to demonstrate and make the most of the opportunities that were given to him, and that is something really stood out to us when we watched him on the field.”

ON AREAS WHERE PEOPLES-JONES CAN CONTINUE TO DEVELOP TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THE NFL:

“For me personally, I think the adjustment from college receiver to NFL receiver is a very wide gap. It kind of differs on who you talk to. I think with Donovan, in particular, we would like to see a little bit more consistency in his hands. He makes some extremely acrobatic athletic catches. He kind of makes the hard ones look easy, and then sometimes he makes the easy ones look hard. I think it is more just cleaning that up and just getting a more consistent hands-catcher out of him is an area I think that would benefit both him and our team moving forward.”

ON IF TEAM'S CONSIDER A PLAYER'S HIGH SCHOOL RECRUITING PROCESS AND RATINGS WHEN EVALUATING PLAYERS FOR THE NFL:

"I would say we don't go back that far in terms of adjusting how we value the player or where we see him on our board. It is more just a piece of the puzzle. We love to see guys who were multiple-sport athletes that played track or ran or played basketball or baseball plus football because you do see a lot of different traits that can kind of carry over between multiple different sports. I wouldn't say it is like, 'Oh, we took this guy because he's a five star kid or he was a No. 1 receiver coming out of Michigan as a prep player.' I think it is more so another feather in his cap [to consider] over a long time and more so just the three years he spent in Michigan that he has been a very dynamic and a very exciting player to watch since he really has stepped on the football field."

ON IF THIS YEAR'S DEEP WR CLASS MADE IT MORE CHALLENGING TO RANK THE POSITION ON THE TEAM'S BOARD:

"With this draft in particular, you saw a lot of very talented players. I can't remember which analyst made a really good point: some guys are a slot receiver only - the small, very dynamic, a lot of quickness. Other ones are the big jump ball catchers. Then, you have sort of the all-around skillsets. I think with this draft in particular, you just had a lot of guys who sort of went into their own categories, but then from each category, there were very productive or very high-level or high-floor players or a guy that can come in and compete immediately. It does make it a little bit difficult when you try to compare across the top players at the position all the way through the fifth, sixth and seventh round. We try and sort of look at each player for what they do best and how we put them in a position to do that. I think with Donovan in particular, we saw a guy that does have some explosiveness and does have the run-after-catch ability, plus his added punt return production was really sort of a very attractive skillset that made us want to go ahead and pull the trigger on him in today's draft."

ON IF THERE ARE ADDITIONAL TRAITS PEOPLE-JONES HAS IN ADDITION TO HIS SIZE AND ATHLETICISM THAT MAKE HIM A FIT FOR THE BROWNS OFFENSE:

"Yeah. I do not want to speak for the rest of the scouts, but it is something we are continuing to learn just with not being able to be in the building with our coaches and not being able to really see them interact with our players. For our defensive scheme, we did a lot of watching the San Francisco cutups that our coaches have made. Now, with the offense, we are transitioning toward watching old Vikings tape to figure out what type of player Coach (Stefanski) wants to work with. I think you have kind of seen us move in that direction. At the receiver position, speed is paramount. That is one of the most important attributes that we like to have at the position. A very close second is just natural football intelligence because what we ask of our guys is a lot more than what they were asked to do in college in terms of conceptually route adjustments, multiple alignments, shifts, motions and some stuff we have picked up on watching the Vikings old 2019 tape. It has been a learning curve for all of us, but with each one of our picks, the common theme you can kind of see is we want smart players, we want tough players and we want accountable players. Within each position group, you have a certain number of position specifics or physical tools that do come into play when we are comparing Player A to Player B."

ON IF THERE IS POTENTIAL VALUE IN PEOPLES-JONES BEING HUMBLING BY DROPPING IN THE DRAFT AND HOW HE MAY RESPOND TO IT:

"You do see it sometimes with guys who are either disappointed where they get drafted or sort of let down based off of expectations. I think it is a good thing to have high expectations because then you hold yourself to a higher standard and you work your butt off to reach those expectations. If anything, I do see it kind of light a fire under a lot of these college prospects because everybody is going to have an adjustment period once they do come into an NFL building and start practicing with NFL players. I do not want to say it is a good thing [for him that] he was drafted in the sixth round where we took him, but we see a guy that we got a very, very good value pick and a guy who we see some of his best football might actually be ahead of him based off his traits and how he fits into our scheme."

ON IF SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR MIKE PRIEFER PROVIDED FEEDBACK ON PEOPLES-JONES AS A RETURNER:

“Coach Priefer met with Donovan at the combine. I don’t want to speak for him on what his thoughts were. I’m sure we will get that at some point. He is a guy that has been very productive. He was a Freshman All-American as a punt returner so he does have that big play ability. That is almost another added bonus to what he will be able to provide for us in the offensive passing game. It helps his value when it comes to building a roster, especially when it comes to who are we going to keep up on the active for game day and where do we see him fitting – is he going to play outside or is he going to play inside? That is more of a question for Coach Priefer, (pass game coordinator/wide receivers) Coach (Chad) O’Shea and Coach Stefanski to figure out. Whenever you do have an added skill set – whether it is a returner or whether it is a cover player on special teams – where you can help the team not only on the offensive or defensive side of the ball but you can help in the special teams game, that definitely adds value to the pick and to your roster position.”

ON IF SELECTING A WR IN THE SIXTH ROUND CAN SOMETIMES BE BASED ON ATHLETICISM AND TAKING A SHOT ON UPSIDE AND POTENTIAL:

“There is a little bit of that. I have seen this a lot in Day 3 of the draft where there is a lot more target shooting in terms of teams’ boards differ on Day because it is ‘Is he a good fit for our scheme? What about our need at the position?’ versus ‘This guy is a really good athlete, but he needs some development or he needs to sort of reach his ceiling.’ That certainly attracted us to it, but don’t get me wrong, we think Donovan is still a very good receiver and think he is a very good player It is more so an added bonus that he does have great size, he does have great speed and he does have great athleticism. That is a guy that excites you because you can get him in our coaching staffs hands, and they can sort of mold him, coach him up and develop him. When you hit on a guy like that, obviously, you give yourself a pat on the back, but I think it is a credit to both our coaching and scouting staffs for doing their homework and making sure we took the time to see what he does well and how we put him in a position to do that with our team?”

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HEAD COACH KEVIN STEFANSKI DRAFT RECAP

4-25-20

OPENING STATEMENT:

“I know the draft is ongoing. We do not have any picks in the seventh round so it looks like we are done picking. I really was pleased with how these last three days have gone. This is the culmination of a lot of hard work. First, I will point out the work of our scouts. Those road scouts, wish I could have been with them this weekend, but this is definitely the fruits of their labor. We went armed with a ton of information and that is to their credit. The whole personnel group and the coaching staff, it takes a lot of people to put this thing together. I think armed with all that information, I think we have some guys that we are excited to bring into our building. I think we got better on both sides of the ball, and I think we added some guys that we are looking forward to developing. I do not think any of the guys we added are finished products. That is the fun part in getting to work with them. Obviously, that will start virtually and remotely and then eventually that will turn into being hands on with them, God willingly sooner rather than later. Pleased with how it went. You can never predict it, but I thought the plan was sound. Kudos to [Executive Vice President of Football Operations and General Manager] Andrew Berry and his crew.”

ON IF HE RECEIVED ADVICE FROM HIS DAD, DETROIT PISTONS EXECUTIVE ED STEFANSKI THIS WEEKEND:

“I would say a lot of free advice and a lot of feedback [laughter]. He loves athletes. There were players that he was sending me links to their Pro Day or links to their highlight tape. He wants very badly to be on staff with the Browns. Unfortunately, we do not have a spot for him [laughter]. I did talk to him a bunch this week. The draft, whether NFL or NBA, that is the fun part. He certainly loves the NBA Draft, and I can tell you he enjoyed watching his Browns this weekend.”

ON IF THE BROWNS WERE ABLE TO EXECUTE WHAT THEY WANTED TO ADDRESS WHAT THEY DESIRED IN THE DRAFT AND IF THERE WERE ANY 'STONES LEFT UNTURNED' IN IMPROVING THE ROSTER THIS WEEKEND:

“I think you are always looking to improve the roster. Certainly, you look at some of the spots that we said we wanted to get younger and we wanted to bring in some competition at some of these positions so we did that. At the same time, you never know how the board is going to turn out and you may take a guy that you never thought would be there at that given moment. Really at the end of the day, if you trust the board, you are usually right. There is a reason our scouts and coaches work this hard. There is a reason we put this board together. I think to the group’s credit, we really stuck to that board.”

ON DRAFTING TE HARRISON BRYANT AND IF THE TE ROOM IS BECOMING OVERPOPULATED:

“To the second part, I do not think so. I really think there is a way to get all these guys on the field – sometimes at the same time and sometimes not. I just think there is versatility in that position. I think being able to move guys around the formation is a very big deal. I think keeping teams in base defense can be helpful at times. Not every game but sometimes you go into a game and you like to keep them in their base scheme with three linebackers on the field and keep them out of their nickel sub-packages, which can a lot of times bring some exotic pressures. There is some thought to that. Also, just the value of the pick. We think this kid is a pretty good football player. He was available at a spot that we thought it was worth taking him. It is our job – my job and our coaches job – to make it work with the guys we have. The more we have in the room, the merrier.”

ON IF THE BROWNS' COLLABORATION AND BEING ON THE SAME PAGE REFLECT IN HOW SELECTIONS FIT THE TEAM'S SCHEME:

"Am I allowed to mention it again (laughter)? I do not know if it is some mystery, but I think Andrew and I see this thing very similarly. When we are talking about this draft, we have some cultural non-negotiables and then we have some schematic non-negotiables. I think the coaches and scouts did a nice job of identifying the guys that fit those two things. Andrew and I had some great discussion throughout the spring and throughout the last couple days, along with our group on our call. It was a collaborative effort, but I would not call it anything surprising. We all knew the work that was put into this. We all knew kind of where we stood on a bunch of issues. I think that has occurred from having conversations the last couple of months."

ON THE DRAFT PROCESS ULTIMATELY NEEDING TO BE A COLLABORATIVE PROCESS BUT THAT NOT NECESSARILY OCCURRING WITH EVERY ORGANIZATION:

"I do not know. I know how we do it. I will tell you, we do not agree on everything. There are always some good conversations, and they have occurred even in the last couple days. We encourage pushback from each other. We do not want a bunch of 'yes men.' I do not want a bunch of 'yes men' on our coaching staff. The best offensive staffs I have been part of push back on each other and they challenge each other. That is kind of the spirit in which we are doing this thing."

ON THE BROWNS' MOST SIGNIFICANT BIG-PICTURE ACCOMPLISHMENT FROM THE DRAFT, BERRY DURING HIS FIRST DRAFT AS GM AND WHAT HE MAY HAVE LEARNED ABOUT BERRY:

"Big picture, probably need a couple of days to think about that. Every game, you go in with a gameplan, and then you get hit with something and you have to adapt - an injury happens and you have to adjust. I think we went into this draft with a similar gameplan and idea. I can tell you, there were times when there were guys on the board and we did not think they would be there or there were times you were thinking of trading up and it did not work or you wanted to trade back and it did not work. I was really impressed with how Andrew was able to navigate these last three days because it can be stressful, as you can all imagine. It is more stressful than gameday, I told him. I think he did a great job. I think he is built for this. He has the right demeanor. He has the right amount of intelligence. He could not get into Penn, but again, not going to hold it against him (laughter). I was very impressed with how he operated. He knew when to have everybody be very quiet, and he knew when to take in input. He looked like a seasoned vet to me."

ON WR DONOVAN PEOPLES-JONES'S ANTICIPATED ROLE WITH THE BROWNS:

"With Donovan, we got a player that has played outside and inside. I think there is versatility with this player in terms of where you can play him in the formation. Having return ability and having a history in the return game helps. I do think he has the physical skillset to be a special teamer. There is a lot this kid can do. Then, it is going to be a matter of him showing it to us. That is the exciting part where I can get him with (pass game coordinator/wide receivers coach) Chad O'Shea, who has a lot of history with a bunch of different types of wide receivers. With Donovan, his numbers do jump off the page at you, and we all know that. It is our job and his job to get everything we can out of him if we want to get the best version of Donovan Peoples-Jones. I recognize I do not want to say something too nice about a Michigan Wolverine (laughter)."

ON HOW THE TEAM'S OFFENSE HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED WITH SELECTIONS THIS WEEKEND:

"In terms of the offense, I just go back to when we first got together back in January and we talked about the type of person and the type of people we were going to add to this thing. I think we have been consistent in how we have done that. Just because we added players guarantees us really nothing. That is where the work comes in right now with the coaches and the players in this virtual offseason. We have a ways to go. We are definitely not where we want to be, but I am appreciative of the group we have been able to put together to this point."

ON IF HE TALKED TO OFFENSIVE LINE COACH BILL CALLAHAN ABOUT C NICK HARRIS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF HARRIS PLAYING GUARD:

"Yes, I have talked to coach Callahan about all these guys. We do think there is some position flexibility with Nick. He is a talented player. There is a very obvious schematic fit with his movement skills, He is a tough, tough player and plays through the whistle and his athleticism is on display. I really like the make-up of the person. Once we get our hands on him and teach him this system, we will see exactly where he fits, whether it be center or guard."

ON THE MARRIAGE OF ANALYTICS AND FOOTBALL DURING THE BROWNS' DRAFT PROCESS:

"The team I came from, the Vikings, they use analytics. I think all 32, I'm assuming, use it. How they use it varies. Where in the process of the evaluation they use it varies. We have our own way of doing it. I will tell you this: we make sure that it is an integrated approach. It is never one thing. It is a tool just like obviously the evaluations by the scouts, and what you see on tape is still the precedent. Certainly, we use it in the integrated approach to how we do things. I know we have our way, and I will just tell you all 32 are to some degree using all the information you can, which makes sense to me. If you are making decisions like this, you want really to have all the information at your fingertips."

ON IF THERE WERE INTENSE DRAFT DISCUSSIONS WHERE SOMEONE MAY HAVE BEEN 'POUNING THE TABLE' FOR A PLAYER, EVEN DURING A VIRTUAL DRAFT:

"There were, and I think what happened was you would be 10 picks away and we would talk about the names of the players we were thinking about - 'Alright, there are four players we are thinking about' - and open it up for discussion and go to bat for a guy. Those are the fun discussions. You can make a lot of headway there when you do that and you make sure everybody is comfortable sharing their opinions. I can promise you that we have guys that see some players differently. You are never going to pick all consensus picks in a draft. That just doesn't happen, but I think we were very respectful of everyone's opinions, and there are definitely times when people disagreed. That is just the nature of this thing. That is where I think when you have a leader like Andrew through these last three days, he is able to take in all the information and then make decisions based on what he thinks is in the best interest of the club."

ON THE IMPACT OF ADDING PLAYERS WHO FIT THE TEAM'S SCHEME, IN ADDITION TO THEIR TALENT:

"There is a certain style of offense, a certain style of defense and definitely a certain style of special teams for the Cleveland Browns. When we are going out, we want to see if we can identify the guys that can play to that style. I will say this: we wouldn't be very good coaches if we eliminated good players just because they couldn't fit. There are some schematic mis-fits, but I think a lot of times, there are guys that you say, 'Well, he doesn't do this perfectly, but he does this so well. We could definitely make it work.' That is our job to make it work. I think that is where we have those conversations early and often about what their traits are and what their skillset is. Then we recognize that none of these guys are perfect so what trait are we willing to value more than the others is kind of the conversations that have come up over the last couple of months."

ON THE BROWNS NOT DRAFTING A DE AND IF THAT CAN BE VIEWED AS A COMMITMENT TO DE OLIVIER VERNON IN 2020:

“That is my assumption. Obviously, I think Olivier is a really great player. Unfortunately, he was banged up a little bit, but we look forward to all our guys contributing next year. I wouldn’t say it was a message of any sort in the fact that we didn’t draft defensive ends. We are not in the business of sending messages via the draft. We just kind of – going back previously – trusted the board, and as the players came up, we made sure that we had the right people for the job.”

ON THE FIRST WEEK OF THE BROWNS’ VIRTUAL OFFSEASON PROGRAM:

“I thought it went really well. I think the guys are definitely responding to the coaches. We as coaches are figuring out new ways to do this thing, and I have really challenged the coaches to think outside the box and think creatively of how we can reach these players remotely. The feedback I have from the players has been very positive. We are working really hard to teach these systems to the guys and making sure that they are getting the information. Now, at this point that we are able to have interact interaction with them, we can have Zoom calls where they can ask questions and we can test them and see what is making sense. I think it has been really helpful. So far so good. The nice part is we have nine more weeks of this, and God willing, at some point during those weeks we are together in the building with the guys. I do think there is a lot of work to be done in the classroom because as I’m sure you all know, these offensive and defensive systems, as you teach them, we are going to take our time and we are going to be the teachers that coaches are. Our job right now is to find as many ways as we can to get this information across to them. As I told the players, it doesn’t matter what I know and it doesn’t matter what the coaches know; it matters what our players know.

ON IF THE TEAM HAS HAD ZOOM CALLS WITH 50-70 PLAYERS:

“We have done that. A lot of smaller Zoom calls, though. It is a little bit more conducive to teaching and learning, but we have had some bigger calls, yes.”

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EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF FOOTBALL OPERATIONS AND GENERAL MANAGER ANDREW BERRY DRAFT RECAP 4-25-20

OPENING STATEMENT:

“With the 2020 Draft in the books, we are pleased that we feel like we were able to add a number of young, talented players to the roster this weekend who fit our offense and defensive schemes. We feel like we were able to address a number of needs across the roster on both sides of the ball, and then perhaps most importantly, we feel good about adding a number of individuals who embody the tough, smart and accountable culture that we are trying to build upon here in Cleveland. I want to point out a couple groups that have gotten us to this point in the weekend. Certainly, our pro and college scouting staffs, our research and strategy group, our coaches who have put in a ton of hours, our IT and video in terms of handling really unprecedented circumstances with this draft and then our contract management team, as well. It really has been a collaborative effort. To execute on our plan and vision for this draft, a lot of people have put in a lot of time to get us to this point. Lastly, before opening up to questions, I want to actually thank you guys all for your patience. I know it is a very long weekend for everybody who is involved in the draft, whether it is the club side or in the media. Certainly, appreciate your patience, particularly tonight, as we try to wrap up the undrafted free agent process.”

ON THE BROWNS TIGHT END ROOM AND TE DAVID NJOKU'S STATUS:

“In terms of the tight end situation, we feel very good about that room. We think it is very talented. We have a number of guys that that we think are and certainly with (TE) Harrison (Bryant) will be good NFL players. We said from the start, that it is a very tight end friendly and a tight end heavy system. Last year in Minnesota, (Head Coach) Kevin (Stefanski) as the OC in addition to running a lot of 12, one back, two tight end personnel and 21 two backs, one tight end, he also ran a lot of 13 with one back and three tight ends. It is a very tight end friendly system. To David in particular, our perspective remains the same. I have been pretty consistent this offseason in terms of we still have a ton of belief in David. He is very talented. Obviously, he was not on the field much last year, but he is a guy with outstanding physical tools, he has proven NFL production and we still think the future is very bright with him here. David has always been and continues to be in our plans, and we are going to continue to add competition all across the roster.”

ON IF THE BROWNS WILL PICK UP NJOKU'S FIFTH-YEAR OPTION:

“Kind of like at the combine. I would not comment on any of those decisions in this context, but again, we see David as part of our long-term plans.”

ON IF THE BROWNS PLAN IS TO BRING BACK DE OLIVIER VERNON, GIVEN THE TEAM DID NOT DRAFT A DE:

“This is probably another one of those questions where we are pretty much in the same place. Olivier is a good football player, and we like having good football players on the roster. He is a talented defensive end. He is here and will continue to be here.”

ON HIS COLLABORATION WITH STEFANSKI AND HOW THEY PLAYED OFF EACH OTHER IN THEIR FIRST DRAFT TOGETHER:

“I love working with Kevin, just period. His insight, his calmness and his intelligence, it really does not matter the situation that we are dealing with. Certainly, his presence is more than appreciated over the course of the last few days going through the draft. It is not just his insight with how players married a scheme or his own individual evaluations, but he is also such a great thought partner in terms of strategy, not just Xs and Os but things we do on the personnel side or as we are thinking through things on the clock. I really could not ask for a better partner really in any situation. I am really pleased with how our first draft has gone as a group.”

ON IF THE NEW CBA RULES AND FULL GUARANTEES FOR FIFTH-YEAR OPTIONS COMPLICATES THE DECISION ON NJOKU’S FIFTH-YEAR OPTION:

“Not at all. It doesn’t complicate it at all, probably on one technicality that the full guarantee that applies to the 2018 draft class and not necessarily the 2017 draft class. Even if it was for Njoku’s class, it wouldn’t complicate the decision at all.”

ON DEALING WITH THE DIFFERENCES OF THE VIRTUAL DRAFT AND IF MEMBERS OF THE BROWNS STILL ‘POUNDED THE TABLE’ TO ADVOCATE FOR PLAYERS:

“I think what you are getting at is soliciting input, and that part was very smooth. We try and organize a process where a lot of those more difficult discussions and thoughts are expressed beforehand so when we get to the draft and we get on the clock, it is more about execution. You can’t plan for all those situations because the board may fall differently. I can assure you we have a very strongly opinionated group, which is a good thing because they push me, they push me on my own assumptions and they are not afraid to express when they disagree, and everyone does it at the proper times. We have so many different perspectives, whether it is college scouting, pro scouting, research and strategy or coaching, and that is really, really healthy. We were at no shortage of ideas and had the right perspectives in the room at the right time. That is one of the things I’m probably most proud of from this weekend.”

ON IF THE MEMBERS OF THE TEAM PUSHED HIM FREQUENTLY ON PLAYERS:

“They always pushed me frequently, but then I wouldn’t have it any other way.”

ON HOW IMPORTANT IT WAS TO SELECT PLAYERS FROM WINNING PROGRAMS IN COLLEGE THAT REACHED THE PLAYOFFS, PARTICULARLY GIVEN THE BROWNS DON’T HAVE MANY PLAYERS WITH NFL POSTSEASON EXPERIENCE:

“This may be perhaps a little bit of an unpopular take, but I wasn’t focused on that as much because football really is the consummate team sport. Just because someone was on a winning team doesn’t necessarily automatically mean they have the right make-up for your program, just like someone who may have been in a program that wasn’t as talented or didn’t win as many games doesn’t mean that they are not the right fit for your team. We really tried to look at each of these players individually and how they operated in their college environments with things that they could control. We feel good about the people that we brought into the building, for sure.”

ON THE BROWNS’ FREE AGENCY SIGNINGS AND HOW THAT IMPACTED THE TEAM’S DRAFT:

“You do try and marry both in terms of building your roster. Free agency I do think allowed us to remain flexible within the draft. It allowed us to add talent to some specific spots on the roster so we do think that it served as a pretty good foundation leading into this weekend. Taking them both together, we do like where we sit here on April 25th, but that being said, we do have four or five months until our first game. The offseason and our personnel cycle, it doesn’t just end tonight. There is still plenty of work to be done on the roster. There are still going to be opportunities over the next several months, and we will continue to explore those.”

ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF INFORMATION BROWNS PERSONNEL GAINED DURING THE SENIOR BOWL AND ALL-STAR GAMES, GIVEN THE DIFFERENT OFFSEASON SCHEDULE:

“To be honest, I think it was about equally as vital. The Senior Bowl and the all-star game, circuit that is a big piece of what we will do as a scouting staff. At the same time, even though guys can’t necessarily come onsite, we still were able to have very many touchpoints, whether it was no different than how you and I are talking right now. The workout piece, that was perhaps a little bit more challenging if a guy is hurt, you want to see him at a different position or you want to see something more specific. Fortunately, we did still have the combine, and at the end of the day, there is plenty of film from any individual’s fall over the past few years and that ultimately weighs the most.”

ON IF BROWNS DRAFT SELECTIONS WILL BE ABLE TO STEP IN IMMEDIATELY AND CONTRIBUTE:

“I have been humbled enough over my NFL career to realize that you really don’t know. There are going to be guys that surprise us likely in both directions because each of these guys are individuals entering the NFL for the first time. That doesn’t just mean acclimating to NFL competition, but a new organization, a new city and a totally new dynamic than where they were in college. That process is challenging for a lot of young players, but we are confident that we have a coaching staff that is going to work with these guys and we are confident that we are going to create the right environment with our support staff and give these guys the best chance to hit the ground running but also being humble enough to realize that each player matures differently in the NFL.”

ON C NICK HARRIS’ ROLE WITH THE TEAM NOW AND LONG TERM, GIVEN THE TEAM EXTENDED C JC TRETTNER’S CONTRACT RECENTLY:

“We view Nick as another good young player that we had the opportunity to acquire at that point in the draft. We do view his skillset as a little bit more focused at center, and I think he is a perfect scheme fit for what we want to do with our offense because of his movement skills, athleticism and intelligence. Obviously, we love JC. He is our starter. He is a proven player, a proven veteran at the position for a number of years. Nick will learn a lot from him, as well as a number of the veterans that we have in that position group.”

ON IF THE BROWNS WERE EVER TEMPTED TO TRADE UP DURING THE DRAFT:

“There were a few situations where we considered it. I know we moved down the board more often this weekend than up the board. Longer term, that is a little bit more aligned with our philosophy, but it also does not mean that we won’t be up to [trading up in the draft] because there are situations where it does make sense. We were fortunate that the board fell in our favor in a lot of key spots, but that will not be the case every year.”

ON TRADING BACK AND ACQUIRING PLAYERS THE TEAM WANTED IN S GRANT DELPIT AND DT JORDAN ELLIOTT:

“We were fortunate that we had a number of players or targeted guys that we were able to trade down a few spots and still able acquire them while picking up extra draft capital.”

ON HOW TO ACCELERATE CONTINUITY AMONG THE STAFF TO ASSIST PLAYERS’ DEVELOPMENT WITH NEW PERSONNEL AND COACHING GROUPS:

“I don’t know that we can accelerate continuity. That is going to take time, and I am sure we are going to have our hiccups. One thing before I came on to talk to you guys, I expressed to our coaches, our scouts, research group, contract management and our support staff, I have an immense sense of pride for how this group has come together in call it 90 days amid the circumstances this spring. It has been remarkable. It is a credit to all of the people who have adjusted across different roles because we would not be anywhere close to where we needed to be without those contributions. That group as a whole just doesn’t get enough credit, and they really should.”

ON IF THE LEAGUE HAS PROVIDED GUIDANCE FOR WHEN THE RULES IN PLACE DUE TO THE PANDEMIC MAY BE RELAXED OR THE TIMELINE FOR A DECISION ON WHEN TEAMS CAN RETURN TO THEIR FACILITIES:

"We have not done anything specific yet. We are hopeful we will get some movement next month, but until we do, we will roll with the punches and we will be as prepared as we can possibly be until circumstances are resolved and return to normal."

ON THE POTENTIAL FUTURE OF A VIRTUAL DRAFT FORMAT, PARTICULARLY GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY FOR TEAM STAFF TO SPEND TIME WITH THEIR FAMILIES AND SHARE THAT WITH NFL FANS:

"I think that is an interesting question. I was actually talking about that with my wife last night. She was actually making a similar comment that it was actually pretty cool because it brings perhaps more of a human element to a lot of the key people in this weekend. I do not know that this will be the standard operating protocol. That is really not my decision to make. I think everybody can appreciate that this was certainly a unique draft, but there were some pretty cool things that came out of the weekend, as well."

ON PROVIDING AN EXAMPLE FOR PLAYER EVALUATION AND SELECTION WHEN CONSIDERING HIS FIT TO THE TEAM'S CULTURE AND SCHEME RATHER THAN SIMPLY BEST PLAYER AVAILABLE FROM A TALENT STANDPOINT:

"When we get to the point where we are actually making player selections, it is not about determining 'OK, does this guy fit now?' When our staffs come out in the fall, we build our board and massage our board with our team in mind and with fit within our offensive and defensive systems in mind. Really, the draft process to some degree becomes like a 15-month elimination process because you may start with a pool of a couple thousand seniors across college football, and you whittle your board not just on talent but it could be fit within the offensive and defensive systems, character, mental or you name it. You get to a point where, at least in our case, where we would have a board with about 140 players that we thought appropriately fit what we were looking for within the Browns organization - talent, scheme fit, character, mental or you name it. That is really baked in before we get to the weekend when we are selecting players. We are selecting from a menu, so to speak, of players that we think would be good Cleveland Browns."

ON SELECTING WR DONOVAN PEOPLES-JONES, HIS UPSIDE AND WHY HE WAS AVAILABLE IN THE SIXTH ROUND DESPITE HIS TALENT:

"I do think that Donovan is a talented young player. He has good size. He is athletic, strong and just has a really well-rounded physical skillset. He does have some return ability, and we think he has some flexibility to play outside and inside. I do think that this was a pretty deep receiver class. I do think there are a number of players that probably really from first round down that fell in spots that in a given year they may have gone a little bit higher. In terms of his ceiling and upside and where we expect him to be, I am not going to speculate on that. We do think he is a very talented individual. At the same time, he is going to have to put the work in, just like all these guys. They are going to have to earn their playing time and ultimately prove it on the field. Certainly, what he did in college has gotten him to this point, but all of these guys are going to have to take a step forward to make sure that they are capitalizing on their potential."

ON IF HE REMEMBERS HIS MINDSET DURING THE 2018 SEASON WHEN THE BROWNS WERE PLAYING BALTIMORE AFTER A LATE SEASON PUSH:

"I do not want to mislead you, I do not know if that really resonates with me. I do remember anxiety during the game because we were driving down at the last minute hopefully for a go-ahead score, but it did not quite work out and we had a turnover at the end of the game. That is pretty natural for any close game. I do not know that it had any greater significance or meaning to me at the time because you really do try and isolate those moments."

ON REFERRING TO THE 2018 AS THE BROWNS LOOK TO RESTORE A SIMILAR ENERGY FROM THE SECOND HALF OF THAT SEASON AND HOW THE TEAM'S FREE AGENCY AND DRAFT ACQUISITIONS CAN LOOK TO RETURN TO THAT EXCITEMENT:

"We are excited about what we have done so far this spring. We like the guys that we have added in free agency. We like the guys that we have traded for. We like the guys that we have added in the draft. We are also not naive that we still have work to do and we still have several months until we are playing, which gives us several months to continue to improve the roster. That all being said, we are certainly hopeful and optimistic with the individuals that we have added to the team. We also know it all has to play out in the fall. We think that we have the right guys and the right players where we are optimistic that that will happen, but it does have to play itself out. We have a lot of hard work on the field to do before that comes to fruition."

ON HOW SIGNING UNRAFTED FREE AGENTS PROCEEDED IN A DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENT AFTER THE VIRTUAL DRAFT:

"It is probably no different than being in the draft. A lot of the undrafted free agent process occurs on the phone, where after the draft we are on the phone with the players' agents or we are doing a little recruiting with the actual player. Where it is different is if we are in the facilities and everyone is in the same building, everyone is generally in the same hallway with our scouts and coaches. Here, we just did it through Microsoft Teams. That was really the biggest difference. We had a pretty smooth and organized process. It does create some more challenges because you do have a big group that is trying to communicate over a virtual platform, but it really didn't slow us down that much and we feel really good coming out of the process."

ON DRAFTING C NICK HARRIS, WHO ALSO PLAYED G AT WASHINGTON, AND THE BROWNS' OVERALL PLANS AT RG:

"We do have a number of interior players that we will cross-train. Nick's primary home has been at the center throughout his college career. That doesn't mean that he is not going to take some guard snaps, but we have a couple of young players - whether it's Nick, (G) Wyatt Teller, (G) Drew Forbes or we signed (C) Evan Brown recently - and a number of guys who have played both center and guard so it should be good competition in that spot."

ON THE BROWNS RESTRUCTURING T CHRIS HUBBARD'S CONTRACT:

"Chris is another valuable veteran on the offensive line, a guy who has been very versatile over the course of his career. He has played basically every position up and down the line but center. He has done that in games. Obviously, over the past two years here, he has played predominantly right tackle. Versatile, experienced veteran O linemen are valuable. There are 162 starters in the league, and every year, you get to August and teams are calling, 'Hey, do you know where I can find another tackle? Do you know where I can find another O lineman?' Chris is going to be a valuable part of the team."

ON AREAS THE BROWNS STILL NEED TO ADDRESS ON THE ROSTER:

"We still need to target everywhere in terms of talent. I know that is probably not the response you were looking for, but it truly has to be the mindset. The more talent we can add to the roster, the better chance we have to win and the better chance that our coaches have to be able to run their systems and schemes. We are going to focus everywhere. We are going to continue to focus everywhere."

ON IF THERE IS A POSITION GROUP OF NOTE THAT THE BROWNS NEED TO ADD TO BE READY FOR TRAINING CAMP AND THE SEASON:

"It will be continuous improvement everywhere we can find it."

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