



# CLEVELAND BROWNS

2 0 2 5 N F L D R A F T R E C A P

## 2025 CLEVELAND BROWNS DRAFT

RD.	NO.	PLAYER, POSITION, HEIGHT, WEIGHT, SCHOOL
1	2	(a-traded to Jacksonville Jaguars)
1	5	Mason Graham, DT, 6-4, 315 Michigan (a-from Jacksonville Jaguars)
2	33	Carson Schwesinger, LB, 6-3, 242, UCLA
2	36	Quinshon Judkins, RB, 6-0, 221, Ohio State (a-from Jacksonville Jaguars)
3	67	Harold Fannin Jr., TE, 6-4, 241, Bowling Green
3	94	Dillon Gabriel, QB, 5-11, 205, Oregon (b-from Buffalo Bills)
4	126	Dylan Sampson, RB, 5-8, 200, Tennessee (a-from Jacksonville Jaguars)
5	139	(c-traded to Minnesota Vikings)
5	144	Shedeur Sanders, QB, 6-2, 212, Colorado (d-from Seattle Seahawks)
5	166	(d-traded to Seattle Seahawks, e-from Houston Texans)
6	216	(e-traded to Houston Texans)
6	192	(d-traded to Seattle Seahawks, f-from Chicago Bears)
7	218	(g-traded to Los Angeles Chargers)

a - April 24, 2025: The Browns traded 2025 1st, 2025 4th and 2025 6th round picks to Jacksonville for 2025 1st, 2025 2nd, 2025 4th and 2026 1st round picks.

b - Oct. 15, 2024: The Browns traded WR Amari Cooper and 2025 6th round pick to Buffalo for 2025 3rd and 2026 7th round picks.

c - May 16, 2023: The Browns traded 2024 5th and 2025 5th round picks to Minnesota for DE Za'Darius Smith, 2025 6th and 2025 7th round picks.

d - April 26, 2025: The Browns traded 2025 5th and 2025 6th round picks to Seattle for 2025 5th round pick.

e - April 24, 2025: The Browns traded 2025 6th, 2025 6th and 2025 7th round picks to Houston for 2025 5th and 2027 5th round picks.

f - Aug. 24, 2024: The Browns traded DT Chris Williams and 2025 7th round pick to Chicago for 2026 6th round pick.

g - Aug. 28, 2023: The Browns traded 2025 7th round pick to Los Angeles Chargers K Dustin Hopkins.

## 2026 CLEVELAND BROWNS DRAFT PICKS

- Own picks in rounds 1-5
- 1st round pick from Jacksonville (2025 draft day trade)
- 6th round pick from Detroit (DE Za'Darius Smith trade)
- 7th round pick from Buffalo (WR Amari Cooper trade)
- 7th round pick from Seattle (DE Za'Darius Smith trade)



## FIRST ROUND

### MASON GRAHAM DT | 6-4 | 315 | Michigan

#### CAREER TRANSACTIONS

Originally selected by the Cleveland Browns in the first round (5th overall) of the 2025 NFL Draft.

#### KEY NOTES

- Two-time All-American (unanimous first team, 2024; second team, 2023).
- Two-time All-Big Ten selection (first team, coaches, 2023-24; first team, media, 2024; third team, media, 2023)
- Appeared in 39 games with 27 starts along the defensive line in three years at Michigan.
- In 2024, started 12 games along the defensive line and led all Michigan defensive linemen with 45 tackles including 7.0 for loss with 3.5 sacks, three quarterback hurries, one pass breakup, and one blocked kick.
- In 2023, started 13 games for the national champions and recorded 36 tackles, 7.5 TFLs with three sacks.

#### PERSONAL

- Native of Mission Viejo, Calif. and attended Servite High School where he played football and wrestled all four years. In addition, he also played basketball and rugby.



Source: AP

## SECOND ROUND

### CARSON SCHWESINGER LB | 6-3 | 242 | UCLA

#### CAREER TRANSACTIONS

Originally selected by the Cleveland Browns in the second round (33rd overall) of the 2025 NFL Draft.

#### KEY NOTES

- Played in 38 games with 10 starts across four seasons at UCLA, totaling 163 tackles, 11.0 tackles for loss, 5.0 sacks, two interceptions and one forced fumble.
- In 2024, played in all 12 games and made the first 10 starts of his career. Led the nation with 90 solo tackles and 7.5 solo tackles per game. Was one of five linebackers named a Butkus Award Finalist, awarded to college football's top linebacker and one of 10 semifinalists for the Burlsworth Trophy, awarded to the nation's top college football player who began his career as a walk-on.
- In 2023, played in all 13 games and totaled 12 tackles, 2.0 tackles for loss and 1.0 sack.
- In 2022, played in all 13 games and totaled 15 tackles and 0.5 tackles for loss.

#### PERSONAL

- Native of Moorpark, Calif. and attended Oaks Christian School.
- Majored in bio engineering.



Source: AP

## SECOND ROUND

# QUINSHON JUDKINS

RB | 6-0 | 221 | Ohio State

### CAREER TRANSACTIONS

Originally selected by the Cleveland Browns in the second round (36th overall) of the 2025 NFL Draft.

### KEY NOTES

- Spent two seasons at Ole Miss in 2022-23 before transferring to Ohio State for 2024.
- Led the 2025 College Football Playoff National Champions in rushing with 1,060 yards and tied for the team lead with 16 touchdowns (14 rushing).
- His three-year collegiate career consisted of 3,785 rushing yards, 45 rushing touchdowns, 50 total touchdowns and 59 receptions for 442 yards and five scores.
- Tied Deuce McAllister's record with 14 career 100-yard rushing games and set school single season records in 2022 with 1,567 rushing yards and 16 rushing touchdowns.
- Ranks second at Ole Miss in career rushing touchdowns (31) and total touchdowns (34), and he ranks third in rushing yards (2,725).
- Led the SEC with 15 rushing touchdowns in 2023 and led in total touchdowns, rushing touchdowns, rushing yards and yards per game in 2022.

### PERSONAL

- Native of Pike Road, Ala. and attended Pike Road High School.



Source: AP

## THIRD ROUND

# HAROLD FANNIN JR.

TE | 6-4 | 241 | Bowling Green

### CAREER TRANSACTIONS

Originally selected by the Cleveland Browns in the third round (67th overall) of the 2025 NFL Draft.

### KEY NOTES

- Played 36 career games, totaling 180 receptions for 2,396 receiving yards and 17 touchdowns in three seasons at Bowling Green. Added 33 carries for 159 rushing yards and five touchdowns.
- In 2024, broke the FBS tight end record for receiving yards (1,555), receptions (117), receiving yards per game (119.6) and receptions per game (9) in a season. Led the nation in receiving yards (1,555), receptions (117), receiving yards per game (119.6) and receptions per game (9.0). Named a Consensus All-American in 2024.
- In 2023, appeared in 11 games with eight starts and finished the year No. 6 in the nation and No. 1 in MAC among tight ends with 623 receiving yards and six receiving touchdowns.
- In 2022, appeared in 12 games with one start and led the team with four rushing touchdowns.

### PERSONAL

- Native of Canton, Ohio and attended McKinley High School. Played safety and wide receiver in high school, also played baseball.
- Cites LeBron James as his biggest influence due to growing up in the same area and how he continues to give back to the community. Fannin received a bike from the community outreach when LeBron James donated bikes to kids in the Canton/Akron communities.
- Majoring in construction management.



Source: AP



### THIRD ROUND

## DILLON GABRIEL

QB | 5-11 | 205 | Oregon

#### CAREER TRANSACTIONS

Originally selected by the Cleveland Browns in the third round (94th overall) of the 2025 NFL Draft.

#### KEY NOTES

- Ended his college career as the FBS all-time leader in total touchdowns (189) while matching Case Keenum for the all-time record for passing touchdowns (155). Also finished career No. 2 in FBS history in career passing yards (18,722) and total yards (19,931), and his 63 career games started were the most in FBS history by a quarterback.
- In 2024, started all 14 games while leading the Ducks to a Big Ten Championship. Completed 326-of-447 passes for the Ducks for a career-high completion percentage of 72.9 and threw for a career-high 3,857 yards while matching a career high with 30 touchdowns and also rushed for seven touchdowns. Was named a Heisman Trophy finalist, Big Ten Offensive Player of the Year and third-team AP All-American.
- In 2023 at Oklahoma, started all 12 regular season games and completed 266 of 384 passes (69.3%) for 3,660 yards and 30 touchdowns with just six interceptions. Rushed 93 times for 373 yards (4.0 average) and team-high 12 touchdowns (second most nationally among quarterbacks). Named first-team All-Big 12.

#### PERSONAL

- Native of Mililani, Hawai'i and attended Mililani High School where he broke Tua Tagovailoa's Hawaii state high school record for career passing yards (9,948).
- Named after NFL Pro Bowl RB Corey Dillon. Older brother is named Garrison after former All-Pro NFL RB Garrison Hearst and his younger brother is name Roman after NFL MVP QB Roman Gabriel. Father, Garrett, played QB at Hawaii.
- Graduated from Oklahoma with a degree in multidisciplinary studies.



Source: AP

### FOURTH ROUND

## DYLAN SAMPSON

LB | 5-8 | 200 | Tennessee

#### CAREER TRANSACTIONS

Originally selected by the Cleveland Browns in the fourth round (126th overall) of the 2025 NFL Draft.

#### KEY NOTES

- Played in 35 career games with 14 starts, rushing for 2,492 yards on 422 carries with 35 touchdowns in three years at Tennessee. Added 39 receptions for 340 yards and one receiving touchdown.
- Selected as the 2024 SEC Offensive Player of the Year and Third-Team AP All-American after rushing for 1,491 yards and leading the league and tied for fourth nationally in rushing touchdowns (22). Also led the SEC in rushing yards per game (114.69), total points scored (132) and points per game (10.2). Also added 143 receiving yards on 20 receptions.
- In 2023, appeared in 12 games with one start, rushing for 604 yards on 106 carries and a team-high seven touchdowns.
- In his debut season at Tennessee, appeared in 10 games and rushed for 397 yards on 58 carries with six touchdowns.

#### PERSONAL

- Native of Baton Rouge, La. and attended Dutchtown High School.
- Majoring information sciences.



Source: AP

## FIFTH ROUND

# SHEDEUR SANDERS

QB | 6-2 | 212 | Colorado

### CAREER TRANSACTIONS

Originally selected by the Cleveland Browns in the fifth round (144th overall) of the 2025 NFL Draft.

### KEY NOTES

- Finished his career with 50 games played in four seasons and completed 1,267-of-1,808 passes (70.1%) for 14,353 yards and 134 touchdowns with 27 interceptions.
- Started in all 13 games in senior season at Colorado, completing 353-of-477 passes (74.0%) for 4,134 yards with 37 touchdowns and 10 interceptions, adding four rushing touchdowns. Named second-team AP All-American and Big 12 Offensive Player of the Year in 2024.
- In 2023, started 11 games and completed 298-of-430 passes (.693) for 3,230 yards and 31 touchdowns with just three interceptions.
- Broke over 100 school records at Colorado including career passing touchdowns (64) and finished third in passing yards, fifth in attempts, third in completions, first in passing touchdowns and tops in QB rating.
- Before transferring to Colorado, spent two seasons at Jackson State where he posted a 23-3 record as the starting quarterback and completed 616-of-901 passes for 6,983 yards and 70 touchdowns with just 14 interceptions, while adding 157 yards and nine rushing touchdowns. Named Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Player of the Year in 2022.

### PERSONAL

- Native of Dallas, Texas and attended Trinity Christian High School.
- Father, Deion Sanders, won the Jim Thorpe Award at Florida State as the nation's best DB, played 14 seasons in the NFL, made 8 Pro Bowls, won 2 Super Bowls and became a Pro and College Football Hall of Famer. Brother, Shilo, signed to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers as an undrafted free agent in 2025.
- Majored in sociology.



Source: AP

## DAY 1

**Executive Vice President, Football Operations & General Manager, Andrew Berry**  
**4-24-25**

### **Opening Statement:**

"Real excited to use the fifth overall pick on Mason Graham. He is a DNA match for our defense. Disruptive, interior penetrator. I think he can really affect the pocket from inside, high motor player, really physical, really tough. We thought he was one of the more dominant trench prospects in this year's class. You know, to address obviously the trade. We just felt like it was a fantastic opportunity for our organization to move down three spots, still get a top-notch prospect in the trenches. Adding a pick, in what we view as really the sweet spot for this year's draft class, and then adding a first-round pick next year in a class that quite frankly we think will be a bit stronger in the first 30 picks. So, we just felt like over - both in the short term and over a multiyear time horizon, it was a fit for what we wanted to do with the team and what we wanted to do with the roster. And we're excited to add Mason. We're excited to add the extra draft resources both this year and next and with that, I'll open it up for questions."

### **Did you go into tonight targeting Mason Graham?**

"I wouldn't say that we necessarily targeted an individual player, Tony (Grossi). There are a number of players that we liked at the top of the draft, and we spent a lot of time with each of them. Mason would be among that group. We think he's one of the premier linemen in this draft on either side of the ball and we were excited to have the opportunity to select him."

### **Andrew, when you talked to Jacksonville or anyone else, how mandatory was it getting next year's first-round pick?**

"So, I think for any trade, it depends on how far back you're going, realistically. You know, for this one, that like that was a huge part. It was - it would have been a non-starter for anyone without getting a future one to move back because these picks, these resources are so valuable."

### **Andrew, when you look at the way this played out to end up with not only five, but 33 and 36 so close together this year and then those first rounders next year back-to-back. Can this be transformational for your football team over these two seasons?**

"Yeah, I think we certainly hope that's the case, Mary Kay (Cabot), but we also have to make good on the players that we do select. And that's not just the selection or the acquisition process, but that's the development process as well. But we're excited about it because, we look at it as we sit here today, we'll have, you know, five picks in the top 100, three of those in the top 36 and then really over a two-year time span, we'll have five top 36 picks and probably six top 50 picks. So that's quite an opportunity for us to add young players to the roster or to use those resources, whether it's for veteran player or generate other resources over the next 24 months."

### **Andrew, what made you take Graham over someone like Ashton Jeanty when you need an impact player on offense?**

"Yeah. So, Jeff (Schudel), we've always long believed that we want to be elite in the trenches. The big guys, they go early and they're hard to acquire and they're hard to find. There are a lot of great players that we liked at the top of the draft. And you know, I kind of joked with our internal crew, especially as we got to meet the prospects and their families, that I wish I had multiple top five picks because they're not only good players, but they're great people and Ashton (Jeanty) would certainly be among them."

### **Andrew, I mean, you really discussed a lot about Travis (Hunter) last week, I mean, Unicorn (Shohei) Ohtani, all that stuff. Is there any concern that like you just traded a chance to get a great player that is very unique even though you do get these other picks?**

"You know, Terry (Pluto), I think that we obviously had strong affinity for Travis, no different than we had strong affinity for a number of players at the top. I think the thing for us are there are a lot of good players in every class. And you know, as much as we liked Travis or Abdul (Carter) or, you know, Ashton, like whoever that may be, the opportunity is still to get a premier prospect and add significantly to our resources, which gives us added flexibility to build the team. We felt like it was an opportunity."

### **Do you also view this as a chance? You're still recouping picks from the last few years that you gave away?**

"Yeah, I wouldn't really tie it to that. This is really more of an independent decision to move back three spots and to get, you know, pick number 36 in this draft and a future one while also getting a top player in the trenches. We thought that was just an excellent outcome for us in terms of using the resource of the number two pick."

**I guess Andrew kind of going off of Terry's question, but you talk about the chance to add more, like, high talented prospects. Like, what do you**

**say then to people that are like, oh, well, they passed up on, you know, such guys who could be transformational this year to bet on next year?**

"Yeah, Ashley (Bastock), I think that there's probably more than one or two top prospects in the draft. And by nature, even if you select someone at two, you're going to pass on a good player - like, by definition, you're going to pass on a good player. There's more than one good player in every draft, and for us to be able to add multiple premier prospects over a longer time horizon, we think that will allow us to build a stronger team."

**Kevin (Stefanski) recently told me that he saw value in a lot of guys in the later rounds of the draft, too. Where do you now sit with that, and who's left for you guys, especially on the offensive side of the ball, that you guys might take this year?**

"So, I think we really view the sweet spot of this draft, realistically, is in day two. We think there's a strong pool of players and it flats out maybe a little bit more quickly than in some previous drafts. But look, I think there are going to be good players up and down the board. And, you know, as we sit here today, we have four picks on Friday, and we'll be excited about that, and, you know, we'll see how the first round unfolds and what's available to us as we head into tomorrow."

**Andrew, do you and Jim Schwartz believe that Mason Graham is a better complement to Myles Garrett than Abdul Carter?**

"I wouldn't necessarily - I mean, look, we'd love to have both of them, Tony (Grossi), just to be candid. The reason we like Mason is because he has the ability to be an excellent pass rusher from the interior, and that's really hard to find. It's a premium skill set now in the NFL. Those guys, they make a lot of money, and they very rarely become available. You know, in terms of Abdul, whether the pass rush comes from the edge or the interior, preferably both, it doesn't matter to us, but we'll always take pass rushers."

**Hey, Andrew, when you talk about the DNA fit, can you go a little bit more into that? What specific position will he play? And also, just how do you see him fitting when Mike Hall was also your first pick last year, and it seems like he got a lot at one spot.**

"So to answer your first question, Nate (Ulrich), you know, when we say DNA fit, we want players, what we call attack players. So, guys who can use movement, quickness, power to really reestablish the line of scrimmage, get up field and ultimately rush the passer. The D-line, they're the engine of our defense and their job is really just to mess things up at the line of scrimmage. It's to attack and disrupt. And that's a perfect fit for both Mason's, you know, physical skill set as well as his competitive personality. In terms of, like, positionally, like, we don't - in an ideal world, we're not really distinguishing our defensive tackles in our system. Like, sometimes we'll play left and right. I know some teams will say, 'hey, nose tackle or three tech.' We really just want very similar defensive tackles. We feel like the best way to get mismatches in the NFL is to have interior pass rushing defensive linemen because they're just a lot harder to protect against slide two than your edge guys. And so, like, part of the reason we're so excited is, you know, to have Mike and Mason, two guys that we think will legitimately affect the quarterback. And if they get singled up because Myles is commanding those lives, they can really make offenses pay. And then the last thing I'd say is, we really want to be six to eight deep across the defensive line because we play our guys like - they're like hockey lines, right. So we really shuffle them in and out because we demand so much of them running to the ball, getting off the ball that you can't play with that intensity for 90% of the snaps per the game."

**Andrew, with this quarterback class not necessarily being the strongest one in recent memory, and next year is supposed to be stronger. Now that you've got two first round picks, are you guys poised to potentially be in a really good position to get that spot next year?**

"Yeah, I think that's a possibility, Mary Kay. But I also say that we're pretty early in the weekend, so I don't know how the rest of the draft is going to unfold. There's talent across positions, including the quarterback position, and we just really have to see kind of how our next. I'm trying to remember how many picks we have, Peter (John-Baptiste). But next seven or eight picks, whatever it is, unfold throughout the weekend."

**Andrew, along those lines, you said you guys watched quarterback classes two years at a time. How much of this trade has something to do with what you saw in that class?**

"I'd say it's maybe tangentially related, but even with that, quite frankly, you know, unless we were going to take a quarterback there, it's a trade we probably would have done regardless."

**Andrew, would you say the goal going into today was to trade out a number two?**

"First of all, I don't know that was the goal, as I put it more broadly as using number two to make the maximum impact on the team."

**And can you say if Hunter would have been the pick at number two?**

"That's going to have to go to my grave."

**How long was this trade in the works?**



"Yeah, so I'd say this, James (Gladstone) and I, we discussed this for probably the better part of two weeks. Obviously we didn't formalize it, finalize it until were on the clock tonight. Actually, you know, it's obviously the first deal I've done with James, but I respect him a lot because he was great to work with, and not often do you work on a big deal and it doesn't, like, necessarily leak immediately. So, like, knowing that he's actually a pretty good trade partner, he deserves a ton of credit for being a partner and bringing this to fruition."

**Andrew, obviously, a lot still has to play out tonight, but given some of the capital you added, do you feel there's, you know, there's still some advantageous opportunities to potentially move back into the first round before the night's over?**

"Would never say never."

**Graham played, like, five different sports, lots of sports in high school. But how much a player like that, I mean, when you're looking into the background and digging into these guys that, you know, versatility in terms of sports they play, how much does that play into the evaluation?**

"Yeah, that's a great question, Chris. It's something that we actually track. Like, we actually have a specific area in our scouting reports where we ask our area guys to document that. And candidly, a lot of these players, whether you're skilled, player alignment or like, even specialists, a lot of them were top athletes across sports, in high school, growing up, I think the most impressive thing with Mason that we really liked was just his wrestling background. And you can see that in his play, in terms of how he uses leverage, in terms of how he uses his hands, his grip strength and we do feel like that there's always a pretty good track record of these guys who are high end wrestlers, the big guys who are high end wrestlers, and how that translates. But I would say just like his overall athleticism is something that we found attractive at the position."

**Andrew, Graham played his first couple years with (Jesse) Minter and then (Don "Wink") Martindale this past year. Just how was his adjustment to that scheme? And also an advantage because Martindale has NFL experience in a scheme.**

"So I'd say it's probably a little bit more of an advantage going from Minter to Martindale because while they're not the same defenses, the requirements of the defensive line in terms of being more of a read and react front are pretty similar. The characteristics are pretty similar. It'll be a little bit more of an adjustment here because we're not a read and react front, we're an attack front. So the good thing is it's simpler mentally, but it usually takes guys maybe a little bit of time to like, call it, like break old habits in that regard. But, he's been coached by NFL guys certainly, so he'll know the standard techniques may be a little bit different."

**There was a report that you had an offer to move down from five. Is that true or false?**

"That is not true. Not true."

**Just with Graham's time at Michigan, it was obviously really good two years ago when they won a title, but it seems like people say he was even better in 2024. Like, I mean, do you see that number one? And just what about those two years as a package? Like, what improvement did you see from him that made him really appealing?**

"Yeah, I'll be honest. Like he was to your point, actually, he was pretty good both years. And the improvement is, I guess he was just more dominant, more disruptive. This is a guy who he affects the run, he affects the pass, he produces in a variety of ways. I really can't say enough good things about him. So, we're excited to get him in our scheme, in our front. That really does highlight the defensive tackle position in terms of what we ask of them and we're looking forward to that."

**I know you mentioned that you and James Gladstone have been discussing this deal for the last couple of weeks. Can you take us through today on how it evolved, if the offer changed? Was there a moment of decision for you at any point today?**

"It's a great question. Honestly, I prefer to keep those details private. That's just kind of how I operate with trade discussions with other teams."

**Through the draft process, when did you shift to the point where you started to realize a trade was possible or you were going to entertain it? And how many teams did you end up talking to about it?**

"Yeah, Jeremy (Fowler), we're always pretty open minded to it. I think oftentimes when people think of a pick, it naturally automatically goes to like, okay, well how do you maximize it by selecting? But it's a resource and there are so many different avenues that you can use the resource to improve your team. Whether it's what we did tonight, you know, whether it's, I'll use the example, whether it's we're picking Travis Hunter, whether it's you're selecting a quarterback, whether it's you use it to trade for a high-end veteran. And so, we really went into the spring pretty open minded because, you know, part of our DNA is we want to be opportunistic and flexible. We don't want to necessarily close off our mind to how we can best utilize a resource to, you know, to improve the team. So it was, I guess, we probably went, our process probably went a little bit in parallel as we thought through, as we gained more information about the players and we thought through how we would actually use the pick. And ultimately it came down to like, okay, well, what will

we potentially get offered? Who's going to be on the board? What's our assessment of those prospects? And then given those prospects, how big of an impact can they have on the team in the long term relative to what we could have in a trade package?"

**Andrew, I know you just made the pick, but have you heard from Myles Garrett at all? Did he have any idea this would happen? And then what was Jim Schwartz's reaction to selecting Mason Graham?**

"I have not heard from Myles, but after I get up here, I'll send him Mason's contact information. I'm sure he'll be pretty happy. You know, Jim, I'm sure our camera's gotten everything. He was excited. He likes Mason a lot. Jaq (Cesaire) might have even been more excited. So, we're looking forward to getting him down here."

**Andrew, what would your message be to Browns fans after, you know, trading the pick? It seemed like there was a generational talent there in Travis Hunter. What would your message be to them after making the trade and overall ended up taking Mason Graham?**

"Yeah, I don't know. The message would be too much different than what I talked about in my opening comments. Look, we're always going to make the decisions that we think can maximize the team or give us the opportunity to maximize the team. And you know, we're really excited for what we view as an elite trench prospect in Mason Graham and in addition to that to get another top 40 pick this year and a future one. You know, we think that's something that's really going to help improve our franchise."

## **DT Mason Graham 4-24-25**

**Have you thought about pairing with Myles Garrett and what that might be like for you?**

"Yeah, I've definitely thought about that. He's one of the best players in the league, and he's been really dominant, so I'm nothing but grateful to play next to him and build up Cleveland."

**Just curious how much you know about Jim Schwartz already, and just that his defense loves to let interior guys get after the quarterback. How appealing the thought of that for you?**

"Yeah, for sure. Even on my 30 visit, he's telling me I'd fit right in with the scheme. Attacking, being disruptive on the front, and playing alongside other great players is only going to make this defense better."

**Andrew Berry has talked about before the pick was even in that whoever they selected would have to be a good fit for the organization and someone that would fit in in Cleveland. So, for what you know about this organization and really Northeast Ohio, what makes you a good fit for this organization?**

"Yeah, I've been really close in Michigan the past few years, so Cleveland, I think I'll just come in and fit right in. I feel like this defense and just this culture that the team has, even on my 30 visit, I can tell that everyone's about business and wants to get back on top."

**When did you know that the Browns were going to be a possibility? Were you shocked at all when you got drafted there?**

"I kind of heard some stuff, you know, but on my 30 visit, I had a really good conversation with Coach (Kevin) Stefanski, Coach Jim Schwartz and Coach Jacques (Cesaire). I didn't know how it was all going to play out, but, fortunately, they traded back a few picks, and they're able to pick me up, and I'm nothing but grateful."

**What stood out to you most about your conversation with Jim Schwartz?**

"Yeah, I mean, we had multiple conversations, but just him seeing how I could play in the defense and all of his experience that he's had previously. He thinks I can fit right in, you know, and I believe I'm a great fit for the Cleveland Browns and this defense."

**Andrew Berry was talking about your background in wrestling in high school and just how important it is as a defensive tackle. Can you kind of expound on that a little bit, and how much you feel like it's benefited you in your technique, and everything like that?**

"Yeah, I feel like it's benefited me a lot. I feel like wrestling teaches you mental and physical toughness as well, along with the stuff that comes with being a D-lineman, feeling leveraged, feeling body weight. You're wrestling another big guy, and that's basically what offensive and defensive linemen do all game. So, I feel like it really translates."

**I heard you call yourself a fierce competitor right after you'd been picked. Why is that so important to you? How else would you describe yourself**

**as a player?**

"I mean, yeah, I call myself that because my main goal is to come in and win. You know, I want to make this organization better, and me coming in here and playing along the front, I feel like it's only going to make the team better."

**You played for a former NFL defensive coordinator in Coach (Don) Martindale. How much do you feel like that will prepare you for what you're going to see coming into the league?**

"Just gaining knowledge from him this past year. He's been in the league for a while now, and I'm grateful to come to Michigan. The first thing that happened he was giving me the tips for the next level because he knew I was going to be at this ultimate level come this time. So, he was just kind of preparing me and giving me tips or tips and stuff to start fast and help the organization."

**How much are you looking forward to chasing around Lamar Jackson and Joe Burrow?**

"Cleveland picked me for a reason, so obviously they want me to take those guys down. So that's my main agenda."

**A lot of the guys that come through here say they're going to attach themselves to the hip of Myles Garrett so that they can learn so much from him. Is that one of the things that you aim to do and what do you hope to learn from him from a pass rush standpoint?**

"He's just a great overall player that you can learn a lot from, seems like a good person. I haven't met him, but I'm sure I'll meet him pretty shortly. Just gaining knowledge from him. He's one of the best, if not the best. Just grateful to learn from him. I've been blessed with a good vet."

**As you get into this organization and get acclimated and start meeting people, I think people will start to get to know you. But right now, what's the first thing that Browns fans should know about you as a player and a person?**

"I feel like player, first of all, I'm going to dominate. Come in and dominate. Make this team better, fit right in the Dawg Pound. Coach Schwartz really relies on his front, that's what I'm going to do. He calls it the engine, and I'm going to be just that for this team. Just what kind of person I am, I'm the team guy. I want to win at all costs, and I want to get Cleveland back on top."

**These guys took Mike Hall from Ohio State last year with their first pick in that draft. I'm sure there's some familiarity there that you have with him. What do you think it'll be like to play with a former rival here now?**

"I've seen a lot of his stuff the past few years, especially playing them. I feel like he's a really good player. He moves really well. We can both work really well on the front and get into this attack defense and cause some disruption."

**Are you close with Zak Zinter, and if so, will you get him on the phone real quick to find out what Cleveland and the Browns are all about?**

"Yeah, I'm close with him. When I was on my visit, I saw him around working out. It was cool to see him. He texted me earlier. I've seen it pop up and I've got a lot of messages, but I've seen his. He said, 'Welcome to Cleveland. Let's work.'"

**Congratulations. It's nothing you can control, but when the Browns trade down from number two and they bypass Travis Hunter and Abdul Carter, who are obviously very highly touted guys, is that something that can motivate you to show you can make an impact? Is that something that you look forward to lighting a fire?**

"Yeah, for sure. They traded back for a reason. They wanted to pick me. I'm just grateful for the opportunity and I'm going to come in and do whatever it takes. Blessed to be a part of the Cleveland Browns."

**Head Coach Kevin Stefanski**  
**4-24-25**

**Can you talk about the trade down?**

"That's a big trade for this organization and what we're able to get back and the picks that you're able to get back. It can set you up and we still got a really good player that we all are excited about adding to our team on top of what we have. So, it's exciting for us. Obviously, till it's done, it's not done. So, we got on the clock and consummated the trade, but we are excited to add Mason (Graham) to this team and excited to add some picks as well."

**How difficult is it to pass on a player so dominant like a Travis Hunter or Abdul Carter?**

"I think when you look at the top of these drafts, there's a lot of players that we like. You like all of them, so I understand that. You pick fifth and you're fifth in order, but we're thrilled with Mason Graham. Thrilled."



**You could have some explosive guys on offense with that pick. What are you going to do to be more productive next year?**

"Yeah, we're working on that right now. Just as we get our veterans back in here and we're starting down the path of putting this system together, and Tommy (Rees) is doing a great job with the coaches. We'll add some players throughout this draft potentially. So, we're excited about the group that we'll be able to put together."

**So, do you think with the players that you have and two different quarterbacks, is that in itself going to make you guys better?**

"Yeah, the goal is to improve, certainly and we have a lot of work to do and room to improve. But I'm very confident in the group we have."

**What do you like most about Mason and how will he fit in this defense?**

"Yeah, he's a perfect fit. Just the way his skill set, the way he gets off the ball, and the way he's able to disrupt is exactly what we do. Now, he did that sometimes, maybe not all the time as are some two gapping in Michigan's system, but you saw plenty of times that when he goes, he goes. He has great balance, great ability to be disruptive, and make plays in the run game and in the pass game. Those interior rushers are really valuable in this scheme."

**In terms of their schemes, when a team is running a scheme like Michigan, how much of an adjustment, is there?**

"Yeah, it happens all the time. It happens in free agency. It happens in the draft. Wink (Don Martindale) does a great job and I have a ton of respect for Coach (Don) Martindale and what he does there. So, it's not like it's a completely foreign thing than what they do. They do a little bit of both, I would say. But there've been countless examples of guys in free agency that are five-year veterans that come into an attack scheme from a two gapping scheme. So, you work at it like anything else. And it'd be the same really if you went vice versa."

**You passed up on not just Travis, but Abdul. Fans will look at that as giving up the opportunity to add at least one blue chip type of talent that can be transformational. When you watch Mason on tape, I know Andrew (Berry) said he fits your defensive DNA with what Jim Schwartz asked for. You're playing against guys like Lamar (Jackson) and Joe Burrow twice a year. When you watch him on tape, what is it that you see in him that kind of gives you that same feeling that he can have the same transformational impact for you?**

"The fit piece of this, Daryl (Ruiter), in terms of the skill set in our scheme, but also the production is there. This is not a guy that's been doing it for one game or one season. He's been doing it for a long time and has been productive in his career. I think what you see from this player has been consistent and he is a guy that is constantly disrupting the offense. Obviously in the run game, he is able to defeat blocks and make plays down the line, while using his speed for such a big man. In the pass game, being disruptive, beating guards. We've talked a lot about it with Myles (Garrett) on our team, there's opportunities to rush on guards when your defensive tackle is...with the center potentially going away. It's a true one on one and it's the nearest point to the quarterback and I just feel really strong about his skill set and I feel really strong about the person. I just think he fits who we are."

**With Mason, it just seems like everyone always brings up the wrestling background and the leverage and things like that. Like how much does that just pop on his film and how unique does that make him in the scheme of this D-line class?**

"Yeah, as coaches you love when guys near the ball have that background because you're so often having to work through contact and stay balanced. So, I do think there's a very advantageous part of being on that wrestling mat and then taking it to the football field because you know how to lean, you know how to get one leg and transfer power to the other. So, I think that's a really big part of it and something he's used, you can see it on tape, him using that background."

**With you guys not having a first-round pick in the last three years, did that make it all the more appealing to pick up another one in this deal?**

"I think it's a strong deal. We felt good about the deal from a compensation standpoint, what's going in, what's going out. I feel like it's good for both teams but obviously those picks, certainly the pick next year and having multiple first round picks is a big deal."

**With Mason (Graham), what kind of pre-draft interactions did you have personally with him and was there anything memorable about any of it?**

"I met with him at the combine in the quick speed dating portion of the combine. Brought him in here for a top 30 visit and I really liked everything about him and just what he brings to the building. He's got a nastiness to him. He can play defensive line, particularly in our front. He has to have a little bit of an edge, and he's got a big edge. I just like what he brings to this football team. We've talked a lot about the scheme fit, but I also think just his competitive nature, his toughness, I think that's a big part of this as well."

**Kevin, you talked about players coming from a two gap to an attack scheme. Is it better for a young player getting them younger to come into that...?**

"I think Coach (Jim) Schwartz could definitely speak to this. He's had a lot of guys in his past that just like you said, were in the league for five years. Then

he got to them and worked hard and in that scheme and it's no secret how you just have to get on the grass and work at it. So, there's plenty of glimpses on tape with Mason [Graham] though, that show you very clearly that he has the ability to play attack scheme."

**You've been mentioning the importance of the player too. You talked about Mason's competitiveness, but what else about him as the person made him such a fit because that was so important to you guys in the selection?**

"Yeah, I think, Cam [Justice], you do so much work on these guys, and you find out damn near everything about them. You talk to their high school coaches and their position coaches, and you just get a well-rounded picture of the person, how they've been raised, and what their work ethic is like. Then you get to spend time with them. You get to get a feel for the person. And I just know that his makeup fits our culture."

**I've heard coaches say that a guy who can complement a good pass rusher on the edge is the defensive tackle next to him, so than the other edge. Do you and [Jim] Schwartz agree?**

"I mean, listen, you could talk yourself into as many good players and put them all over the formation as you can. I can definitely speak to an offensive coach's perspective. It is difficult when you have an outside guy and an inside guy. There are times that you're going to want them on the same side. There are plenty of times you're going to want them opposite each other for obvious reasons. You know, Myles...we've talked about this ad nauseum and he gets a lot of attention and it comes in the form of chips. It comes in the form of slides that open up one-on-ones for other players, whether it's an outside player or an inside player. Now, as we've all seen, plenty of teams put two tight ends on both sides and can chip both sides. There's certainly ways to try and slow down interior players. I think you've seen more often with the chip help that people give and certainly devote to Myles and outside players so interior players can get that quicker win that puts them in the lap of the quarterback."

**Can you explain the role of interior players in the attack scheme?**

"Man, I wish Coach Schwartz was up here for a history lesson. You know, he's had some great ones. We were just up there talking about his Bills defensive line, you know, with - I guess it was Mario Williams, Hughes, Marcell Dareus, Kyle Williams inside. I mean, those were four guys that could win by themselves, but they had...they really had an outside and inside presence. But this scheme and how Coach Schwartz coaches it and what we demand of our guys up front is really to be the engine, of course, but also to mess things up. Mess stuff up. Other words are sometimes used. And that's what this defensive line is charged to do. And I think that's why when you watch Mason's tape, you see so many examples of that where it's very easy to translate that player into our scheme."

## DAY 2

**DT Mason Graham**

**4-25-25**

**I saw the little clip where you got the text from Myles [Garrett] amongst all those other texts that you got right after you were picked and I saw you said that was the only text that you answered. So just wondering, what did Myles say in that text and just how cool was that?**

"He just congratulated me coming to Cleveland. Just excited to work with me, and I'm excited to work with him, make this team better and put Cleveland back on top."

**What are some things you look forward to Myles teaching you in your time in Cleveland especially early in your career?**

"I feel that's the perfect situation I wanted to come into with an established vet that does it the best. He's been the best for quite some time now. So him teaching me just the tips and tricks of the game and he has a lot of knowledge, so I just want to learn from him."

**What have these last 24 hours been like for you, from being in Green Bay to coming here and just everything that it's entailed?**

"Yeah, it's just really crazy. You know, it happens really fast. Even though it's a long process, but everything speeds up pretty quickly. But, it's just a blessing to be here with my family and everyone that got me to this point."

**Reading some of the things your Michigan teammates said about you, it seems like everybody always mentions your football IQ, that you can remember play calls from two plus years ago. Number one, is that true? Number two, how much has that helped you during the draft process?**

"Yeah, I mean, that's true. I've played under a lot of great coaches who have helped me get to where I am. When I was in Green Bay, I bought two of my high school coaches who developed me a lot and were big pieces of my development. So I've just been blessed to be under a lot of great coaches and played with a bunch of great players. So I feel like when you surround yourself with those types of people, it only makes you better."

**Speaking of great coaches, you get to play for Jim Schwartz, and he's done a lot of great things with defensive linemen. What do you think he can bring out in you?**

"I feel like it's a totally different style than I've been playing, so he's been talking about just taking the handcuffs off me and I'm used to playing blocks now, but getting more off the ball and more attacking and, causing more negative plays for the offenses and I feel like I can fit right into the scheme."

**How do you think playing big-time football in the Big Ten has helped you make this next step to the NFL?**

"Yeah, I felt like I've played the best competition. I've played along with the best. I like playing against the best, too. So I've played in big-time games throughout my past three years, and I want to play in even bigger games come the next level."

**Obviously, going into this locker room with a lot of Buckeyes. Do you picture there being any bad blood there?**

"I think we can put our differences aside and come together for the betterment of the team and just build Cleveland. And yeah, it's really - it's all about winning."

**Walking through the building, the welcome that you got, what was it like to officially become part of this Cleveland Browns organization when you walked through these doors?**

"Just a blessing. I never, I always knew ever since my top 30 visit I had a good feeling about all the coaches. I met with all of them on my 30 visit. I had a good feeling from the top to the bottom. Just the staff, I feel like everyone here just kind of fits what I want to be brought into. So everyone around the building has been really cool. I'm just excited to come in two weeks, get to rookie minicamp and start working."

**What do you anticipate to be the biggest challenge as you go from playing at Michigan to playing at the next level?**

"I would probably just say, Michigan, one of the reasons why I chose that was to develop me into an NFL player. Coach (Jim) Harbaugh and a lot of NFL coaches were already at Michigan. I wanted to ultimately play in the NFL. I just feel like that transition will be pretty easy. The biggest thing for me would probably be the different style of defense, just learning how to attack more, and learning from the older guys and all the coaches."

**From your time in wrestling in high school, what specific attributes from that have helped you in your career in being a strong defensive lineman?**

"I think the main things are just leverage. Feeling body weight, especially on the offensive and defensive lines that's what happens all game. It's a battle. Short amount of space and you're basically wrestling another guy. I feel like it translates really well and that's why I kind of wanted to do that. I think it also helps with mental and physical toughness as well."

**I know at the combine there were some questions about the weight you came in at. What are you at now? And it sounded like most people were saying they didn't think with you that would be much of an issue. And I guess just with that, like, does the wrestling background sort of help you with those fluctuations?**

"So the thing with me is I got to the combine when I was like 304 when I arrived at the combine and that kind of week kind of took a toll on me. I was on medical from like 10 to 7:30 p.m. I missed some of my formal visits, but I feel like the weight's not an issue. I'm 310 right now. I feel really good and kind of ready to go just right into rookie minicamp."

**Earlier in the week, Kevin (Stefanski) talked about when they're evaluating all positions in the draft, but especially at the top of the board, they're looking for dominant traits. What do you think is the dominant trait or traits that you bring to the table that allow you to have success at the NFL level quickly?**

"I think I'm just not a one dimensional player. I can use power and speed to my advantage. I'm not just a run stuffer or a pass rusher. I can do both at a really high level. So I feel like that's where I excel."

**Hey, Mason, do you know Mike Hall at all and have you thought about what kind of tandem you guys can form on the interior of the line?**

"Yeah, I know of him. You know, played against him for a few years, seen him. He's a really high level player and just ready to work with him and make this team better."

**Kevin Stefanski said he came away from his meeting with you during the 30 visit thinking you had a big competitive edge to you. Where does that come from and how do you think you'll fit in with your style and mentality in the AFC North?**

"I would say it comes from me just playing, not just football growing up, but I played a lot of sports. So it's always been my competitive nature to win and



want to win and be the best at everything I do, whether that be from playing video games to being on the field and playing against Ohio State in football games. So even from the smallest to biggest moments, I'm always a competitor."

**Were you aware that the whole fan base seemed poised for Travis Hunter to be drafted here and maybe some fans were a little bit let down when that didn't happen? Were you aware of that sort of vibe? And then also, what might you say to fans about why they should be equally excited about what you're going to bring to the table?**

"Yeah, I mean, I just - all the stuff on social media, you see, but I try not to pay attention to it. But, you know, everything panned out and God bless me to be here and that's where I'm gonna play for my next few years and hopefully longer. So, I just feel like Cleveland's getting one of the best players, if not the best player in the draft. You know, I feel like I can do everything and I can play anywhere along the front and just coming in with Myles and all the guys along the front is only going to make the team better."

**What have been your initial thoughts of Cleveland so far? Have you been kind of introduced to this Cleveland fan base in any way, or heard stories about this fan base?**

"Yeah, I just heard that the fans are passionate. You know, coming from the Midwest, I'm kind of used to it now. I mean, I was a West coast kid growing up, but playing in the Midwest these past few years, I'm kind of familiar with the area, so I feel like it's an easy transition. You know, Michigan's not too far from here and kind of similar."

**You've been asked a lot about how wrestling has helped you, but what are some of the other sports and some of the attributes you took from some of those, beyond the competitiveness, that's helped you in football?**

"I'd probably say baseball, just moving around. And then I'd say basketball, just kind of the athletic movements, the quick - that's kind of where I get my quickness from, I'd say basketball. My dad coached one of my little league teams, so it's cool. You know, he coached me up a little bit, but I wasn't the best basketball player, so that's why I chose football. But I feel like, kind of all the sports really helped me. I'd say rugby, too. Just it's a contact sport that I wanted to play. It's just basically football without pads, you can't throw the ball forward, but you can throw it backwards, and you're just tackling big guys and, yeah."

**Mason, I had heard last night after you got drafted, you stuck around with Will Johnson, and waited out the night with him? Was that right, that you did that?**

"Yeah, I mean, that's my guy. We came into Michigan together, we played. You know, that's one of my best friends. And just seeing the night he had, it wasn't expected that he was not going to go in the first round. So I just wanted to be there for him just like he would be there for me."

**Is that like, the kind of energy, I guess, that you hope to bring as a teammate to the next level then, too?**

"Yeah, for sure. I feel like, I'm one of the best teammates, I feel like anyone will say that. You know, I just want to be a guy that my guys in the locker room want to play with and I want to win games with."

**Mason, outside of rookie minicamp and football, what are you most looking forward to kind of getting into here as you figure out your new home in Northeast Ohio?**

"Yeah. Just embracing Cleveland, all the fans, the Dawg Pound. So just kind of getting familiar with Cleveland as a city and then just getting familiar with it."

## **Assistant General Manager and Vice President of Player Personnel, Glenn Cook**

### **4-25-25**

#### **Opening statement:**

"So obviously with the move down yesterday, we felt like we were in a pretty strong position coming into today, adding an additional pick on top of what we had yesterday. So we felt like, and I think Andrew (Berry) has addressed this, just being really intentional about adding impact players, guys who affect the short term and the long term. So, we feel like we added two guys that do that, two different stories. Quinshon (Judkins), he transferred up here into Buckeye County, Buckeye State. He brings the brand of football that we want, AFC North 'back. Exceptionally strong, physical, tough, productive three-down guy. I know Duce (Staley) is extremely excited, wanted to drive down and pick him up tonight. And then Carson (Schwesinger), I mean, you talk about a guy who was walk-on, and not only a walk-on, but really a one-year starter, started three games into the season and just took off. And extremely productive, extremely smart, very versatile, kind of fits exactly the identity we want on defense. So, for us it was really about maximizing these picks. You

know, obviously I'm sure you guys will ask about trades and whatnot, and you guys know Andrew, he's going to take calls. There's opportunities on the table, but we felt like it was best to sit. So, with that, I'll open it up."

#### **Why did you guys decide to go Quinshon over TreVeyon Henderson?**

"Yeah, we work through the process, evaluate the players and just really excited about his skill set and how he fits into what we want to do. Like I mentioned, he's very, very tough, very physical, very strong and he just plays the brand of ball that we want. So, you know, look, both those guys are really talented, for us it just came down to preference in this option."

#### **With uncertainty at certain positions, how much does that play a role in the decision?**

"I wouldn't say it played a significant amount. You know, it really came down to just the value of the player. And it's funny, I was thinking about it myself, given our track record, quote unquote, in which people may think we think about positional value, to walk away with a running back and a linebacker, you might be surprised. But again, it's really about maximizing the impact of the players as opposed to just targeting positions."

#### **You guys now have three Big Ten players, do you place a value on big school athletes?**

"You know, I think you take it on a case-by-case basis, you evaluate the player. There's talent all across the country. We trust our scouts to do the work. They really put a lot of work in. We can't say enough about how much time they put into going across the country, and that's just scouring every inch of this land. So, I wouldn't say it's really specific to big school, small school. It's really taking about a case-by-case basis and trusting your process."

#### **Glenn, I know you said a little bit ago just the differences between Quinshon and TreVeyon, but was there one specific trait that separated Quinshon and TreVeyon?**

"Yeah, I don't want to make it a TreVeyon versus Quinshon, I was really answering the question. You know, for us, it's really just feeling good about what Quinshon brings to our offense. You obviously know what we'll probably transition to. So just his style of ball, the way he plays. Again, I want to focus mostly on him and not to make it an 'A versus B' or comparison conversation. So, I wouldn't say that's the emphasis of the decision."

#### **Glenn, with both of these kids, do you view them as guys that'll step on the field and contribute immediately?**

"Well, you know, these guys all develop at different paces. Like I said, it's a little bit about making sure we impact the long term just as much as the short term. So, we won't withhold their opportunity to step on the field if they're ready. So really, it'll just come down to how they progress and, you know, we're not going to put pressure on them to show up day one and be excellent. It's really about the long-term focus. But of course, if they come in and Quinshon can carry it 30 times, we're not going to prevent him from touching the football."

#### **I know your linebackers have to play every position. Do you see Schwesinger filling a specific role immediately?**

"I mean, we'll see. Kind of similar to that, I think if you were to ask what the vision potentially could be, I mean, he's a really smart kid, exceptionally great football IQ. I have no questions about his ability to be the green dot, if that's what we need from him. You know, really it's up to Coach (Jim) Schwartz and (Jason) Tarver and their group to figure out where to best deploy him and kind of get the best around the field. Obviously, we still have Jordan (Hicks), who's a strong vet for our team, a really great leader. So really, it's about getting the best combo out there. So, if it's him playing SAM, WILL, you know, coming in at nickel, whatever we need him to do. You know, he's got a ton of versatility. That's probably what excited us about him so that's probably how we'll approach him."

#### **Quinshon chose to transfer and stay in school rather than come out last year. Is his evaluation different at all?**

"In terms of?"

#### **He produced in the SEC, but then he went and played in a totally different offense?**

"So, yeah, I mean, it's possible. You know, it's possible. I think it's a credit to him that he could have come out. He put up some really big numbers at Ole Miss and honestly came and shared carries with another really good player. So, you know, credit to him for being a part of that. And obviously he probably wanted to win too, and they had a really great team, so it only added to, you know, the positives about him as opposed to anything else."

#### **Does the transfer portal make it more challenging to scout these guys?**

"I think it does add a different dynamic, right. Because, you know, and I'm not that old, but if you say back in the day, most kids stayed at their school for three years at minimum, and the people that they were around every day really got to ingratiate themselves into who this individual was. Saw the progression from freshman year to junior year, potentially senior year. And now you're possibly having a guy who's transferred twice and not for any other

reason than maybe NIL, right. So it's put a little bit of a different weight on our scouts and people who reach out and do diligence on the individuals and trying to really piece together who we think they are. Because now you're kind of mapping across different terrains as it relates to the individual, because he's only been in one place, maybe, you know, sometimes not even a full season or a full year. So it does add a different element. But, you know, we've worked through it. I think all teams have probably faced a similar challenge, and we've probably had to learn a little bit from some other sports in terms of how they've approached potentially like the one-year thing in the NBA and whatnot. So, it has been an interesting element, but nothing that I don't think we've been able to maneuver with."

**With Carson (Schwesinger), his trajectory from, you know, being a starter last year and just the amount of workload he's taken on how does that shape the scouting that you do from him with that increased workload and just kind of like that last season for him?**

"Yeah, it's definitely a unique evaluation. It's really...call it nine full plus games because he didn't start off the season, but when you have a guy like him who just produces - if you look at the production raw and somewhat more advanced, like he was just so productive even in his opportunities. There is potentially even more meat on the bone in terms of his development. We're excited about that. He's 22 years old. He's probably got some room to grow, and there's obviously still things he can improve at, but ultimately what he did show made us really excited about what he could do for our defense."

**Just two things with (Carson) Schwesinger, how much does his value on special teams, because he played a lot his first couple years at UCLA, kind of up his value and it seems like he's a high IQ player too, with the ability to read and react quickly.**

"So, yeah, like I said, really smart. I don't think we will have any concerns about his ability to pick up a playbook and potentially direct a defense or just play multiple roles if we need him to. And yeah, when you think about the changes to the kickoff and probably seeing more of those plays and just I think having more guys who can do more things and be core players on special teams, especially at a position like his. Your backers, if they're not on the field on defense, you definitely would love to have them be a part of your core. He's definitely got all the makeup, the physical talent to do that as well."

**With Quinshon (Judkins), what allowed him to be so productive from a scoring standpoint? It was 45 touchdowns. And then do you see him as a guy that can be on the field for all three downs?**

"Yeah, I think it's probably a little bit of a utilization thing. I mean, he's so big, he's so strong. You think about when you get down to the goal line, you know, the field shrinks, and you want a guy who can honestly just power through tackles and change the line of scrimmage on his own. Sometimes you just can't block it perfectly. The defense tries to tighten up. So, I think that's a component to it. And also, he's just really talented. Like you talk about a kid, he's 5-11, 220, squats over 600 pounds, runs under 4.5. Honestly, he's just a very gifted individual. I can't really tell you how he does it all the time, you know. So, I think that's just things that we're excited about. Like I said, you guys know we're playing in a division where there's some really good defenses that we're going to face, and their mantra is to stop the run game and get after the quarterback. So, when you can have someone who can be just as physical as the guys he's going against, it only helps."

**With Quinshon (Judkins) again, what about his ability to catch passes out of the backfield and get involved in that aspect of the game? What did you guys see in that and what do you envision?**

"Yeah, I think we envisioned him probably having to develop a little bit in that area but more so just given the opportunities he had. He's definitely capable of catching the football, producing after the catch, he's just not been used much in that phase. Look, none of these guys that we draft are ready made - complete, I should say, players. And so that's probably one area he has developed. But we definitely saw the potential and the ability to do so. That will only add to his ability to help us on all three downs."

**Your top two picks are defense and they're pretty premeditated. We know the trade started two weeks ago, the trade down, and now you had all night to meditate on this pick. So how do you explain to people with the worst offense in the league last year that you went defense, defense?**

"Yeah, I think Tony (Grossi), like I mentioned, it's about really making sure we maximize the impact to the team. And I understand your question, but we felt like these two guys in terms of our long-term goal to build a competitive team consistently were the best choices. So, I think - look, we still have two picks today, four picks in day three. There are still opportunities, there are still players to select on both sides of the ball that will help us be better and contribute and produce. So, I wouldn't say just because we took two defensive players today that we're not going to try to target players on the other side of the ball or that we're not aware of some potential things we need to add to our team. I would just put it that way."



**Assistant General Manager and Vice President of Football Operations, Catherine Hickman**  
**4-25-25**

**With Carson (Schwesinger), what did you like about him and how does he fit within Jim Schwartz's linebacker group there?**

"Well, first off, hi everyone, good to see everybody. I mean, I have to start with Carson's journey, off the field, even before going straight to your question, because [it's] such an impressive journey. A walk-on, that mentality, what he's going to bring to our program. From a work ethic and leadership standpoint, I think he's invaluable. On the field, you're thinking of a very versatile, athletic, instinctive player with good feel. And that's something that Jim and Coach Tarv (Jason Tarver) put premium on when it comes to versatility. It gives them pieces to interchange and attack offenses differently. So I think that's what he's going to bring. Extremely productive in his last year and also a very productive special teams player in his first two years as well. So really just extremely excited to bring a young man like Carson into our program."

**Hey, Catherine, I know Glenn just said that you're just trying to maximize the value of the picks, but are you surprised that the first two picks you made were both on defense given what looks like a bunch of needs on offense?**

"No, definitely not surprised. Because the way we approach the draft is obviously to get better, you know, in the near future and long term. And when you have a player like Mason who's available and how disruptive he can be in this game, he's helping this football team. And I think Carson can do the same thing. I don't think I know Carson will do the same thing. So really it's about getting this football team better as a whole. And of course we'll continue to add more players that are going to help on both sides of the ball. But no, I'm not surprised because these guys were just holistically had wonderful profiles and will be key contributors to winning football games."

**You mentioned Carson's off the field stuff and journey. When you are evaluating these guys, Quinshon and even Mason, the guys to come, what's the scale of how much these guys impact you as people and the off the field stuff versus obviously you want them to be skilled on the field too.**

"I mean, I like to say we're building a team. We're not just acquiring talent. And by that, like the culture that we're trying to build, the type of people we're trying to bring here is really important. We want to play tough and competitive. We want to work hard. That's what we're about. You have to be physical and tough to play in this division. So bringing guys here that can play that brand of football is really important to us and so far the guys we brought are embodying this."

**Catherine, with Judkins, how important is it that he produced stats wise in the SEC and the Big Ten? And can you just talk about his running style and why that violent style is appealing to you guys?**

"Yeah, huge. I mean again a physical downhill player that's going to again bring the physicality I just referred but also someone that is going to be able to contribute on third down, whether that's in pass pro. He's a dependable pass catcher, so really like a well-rounded prospect that's going to be able to help us and play the type of football we want to play."

**Hi Catherine, can you just talk about how Judkins will fit in with Jerome, how they might complement each other and does he remind you of anybody in the NFL? Any comps that you've seen?**

"I think when it comes to the first part of your question, yes, there's definitely going to be a great complement here with Jerome in terms, I mean both players are well rounded so they can both do everything. And I think that's the beauty of it. Now all of a sudden it gives Tommy (Rees), Duce (Staley), Kevin (Stefanski) options and how they want to deploy and best use their skill sets. Now I mean his physicality, his contact balance, the way he runs with strength is something I've seen in Nick as an example and those are things, and I'm not saying that this is Nick, Nick is just again, what Nick means to this organization is beyond words. But what I'm saying here is this style of play is just going to fit very nicely with what we're trying to do."

**Catherine, along those lines with Quinshon, him sort of staying for an extra year after he transferred, but also split in a backfield last year and still being as productive as he was. Just when you guys are trying to figure out a role for him and sort of picture what he looks like, how much does that unselfishness and his ability to sort of improvise and go with the flow, how much does that impact what you guys kind of envisioned for him?**

"Yeah, that's a great question. I think playing running back by committee is something I've seen quite frequently throughout my career, whether that was in Philly when I was there or even the way we maximize players skill set and use them. So yes, for sure someone who's not only done that in college. But I think again, it comes back to putting this team in the best position to win. So in situations where our coaches feel that, you know, that's a good situation for Quinshon's skill set or other players we have on our roster, like I leave that to them to figure out how best to use them. But most definitely, we're looking for team players, guys that are wanting to do what's best for this team. Team first. And Quinshon definitely showed that."

**You just mentioned Nick Chubb, so where does this leave him?**

"I'll say it again because it's just so important. Like what Nick means to this organization is humongous and it doesn't mean anything. Like, at the end of the day, tonight is about bringing drafted players into this organization. And very excited to welcome Quinshon."

**How did you get an evaluation? Was it with Schlesinger, with UCLA moving to the Big Ten this past year?**

"Yeah, that's a very valid point. I think of course, you look at a player who's had tremendous production this past year, but it was that one year. But you look at the totality of circumstances, what happened throughout his career, what he's done before this past year and how he's produced before. And we take all of that into consideration. But what he's done, what he's done this past season is undeniable for sure."

**Is there a concern that it was only one season of production and how do you balance that versus guys that probably did it for longer?**

"Yes, I'm not going to say a concern, but it's definitely...We weigh all information into the decision making process. So it's really looking at the entire body of work, some of the circumstances that were there before this past year and then really understanding also as we got to know him through the process. Like how he navigated these years and what he's done throughout his three years in UCLA. And ultimately we felt very comfortable with the entirety of the profile and what he's done."

**LB Carson Schwesinger**

**4-25-25**

**I just wanted to ask about your former walk-on status. It seems to be something people talk a lot about with you and something that's really informed you as a player. How do you think that chip on your shoulder has carried you in college and are you still going to have it as an NFL player?**

"Yeah, I think, you know, regardless of the walk-on, that chip on that shoulder has been something that's been there since I was born. Even going against my older brother growing up, you know, that competitive nature, but definitely in college, it helped shape me. It gave me the work ethic that I needed. And, you know, the chip on the shoulder, once you have it, it's never going to leave. So, it's going to be something that continues to drive me throughout my NFL career and I'm ready for it."

**How would you describe your playing style and what have the Browns, most notably Jim Schwartz, told you about how he sees you fitting in here?**

"Yeah, I think my play style is really, what you're getting is a linebacker who can do whatever's needed in the defense. And I think that's a place I fit in. Whether you need coverage, you need a stop in the run or getting after the quarterback. All three of those I think I could do at a high level and I'm ready to get to work and help contribute."

**Glenn Cook was talking about how he was impressed with just your trajectory, from the walk-on to reserve to starting and being an awards finalist and captain. So, for your development, how do you envision maybe taking another step in the NFL, especially here with the Cleveland Browns kind of guiding the way for you?**

"Yeah, I think for me, I'm always looking to take the next step and trying to find any small way that I can improve, any big way that I can improve. And that's exactly the mentality that I'm taking into this next stage and regardless of where I start, my goal is to get better each day. Eventually, when you're willing to show up and outwork anybody else, it's going to lead to success. And that's the mentality I'm continuing to take with me."

**You sound exactly like the type of player Jim Schwartz wants. What has your interaction with him been in this process?**

"Oh, it was great. It was great. Just hearing about the defense and where I fit and what they envision and just the toughness that the defense is going to have and that we're going to bring and that's something that I'm excited for and I'm ready to get to work and help contribute to that."

**I was wondering if any of the players on the defensive side of the ball have reached out to you yet, and if so, what have they said to you? What has the messaging been?**

"Yeah, I've had some of them reach out, and it's really just been supportive, telling me to enjoy the moment and then be ready to get to work and that's what I'm ready to do. So, I'm looking forward to it, to meeting everybody in person and getting to work."

**How much did last year with the coaching change but also to move to the Big Ten kind of elevate your game and also what effect did Coach (Ikaika) Malloe have on you?**

"Yeah, I think all of that helped grow my game and get me better at football. I think Coach (Ikaika) Malloe, specifically, really gave me my opportunity to play that I've been waiting for, and I can't thank him enough for that. Just having the belief and faith in me to be the player that they knew I could be. And

just the Big Ten, I mean, that's the toughest football you're going to play in terms of you've got it all in the Big Ten. I think that really prepares you and just ready to bring that toughness to another level now."

**While you weren't playing a ton early in your career, did you know you had that type of season in you that you had last year? And if you did, why were you so confident?**

"I think you always got to have the confidence in yourself when you step on the field, that's what's going to allow you to play fast and play the type of football you know. For me, it was just waiting until I got the opportunity to prove it. Thankfully, I was blessed to have that opportunity this year and once I got it, I wasn't going to let it get away from me. When you have that mentality that you never know how many opportunities you get, so you better be prepared for the one you're given and take advantage of it and I was thankful enough to be able to get that opportunity and run with it this year."

**I know you obviously got to talk to Coach (Jason) Tarver as well. What was that conversation like and just his excitement level about adding you to this room?**

"Yeah, talking with coach has been amazing. Even just the talks throughout the whole process, we're both UCLA guys. So, we're bringing some of that over. California guys. Just the level of detail he has in his coaching and all the answers he has is something that I know is going to be super beneficial and super exciting to be able to get to work with him and hopefully I'd assume it's vice versa, but I'm just really excited."

## **RB Quinshon Judkins**

### **4-25-25**

**Obviously, you're coming to a franchise that has had a star running back the last several years, in Nick Chubb. Just wanted to know how much you've watched Nick over the years and how much do you see some similarities in at least your style, the way you run and everything, to what Nick does?**

"Definitely, you watch guys like Nick. He's had success in college and in his career as far as what he's done in the NFL as well. He's an older guy in the league, and I feel like that's a guy that you can always learn more from. And, you know, he has a lot of tools in his bag and things that he can teach to young guys like me."

**Hey, Quinshon. Congratulations. Spencer German with Cleveland Browns on SI. You're sort of in a unique situation where you played in both the SEC and the Big Ten. Just how do you feel playing in both the two best conferences in college football prepared you for the NFL?**

"Yeah, I feel like for myself, that was a positive for me. Just having to play in the two hardest conferences in college football and playing in two different environments where I feel like the SEC has a different style of play than the Big Ten as well, they're just too different. But getting the opportunity to play in both of them has helped me excel and further my career and be better as a player. But just playing with a lot of great players as well, especially in my time at Ohio State, getting to be around so many great guys and compete against them every day also helped me too."

**What was the moment like when you got that call from the Browns? It looked like on the feed, you had stepped out of the room maybe, and your mom answered your phone?**

"Yeah, I went to go get a drink. I went to go get a cup of lemonade, and I came back and my mom was like, 'Oh s\*\*\*, they're on the phone?' I was like, 'What?' So, I grabbed the phone and they were on the phone, and I was just so excited and so thrilled to be a Brown."

**How quick did you run back in the room to grab it from her?**

"Pretty fast. When they revealed my name, I ran back really fast. I wasn't that far away, I literally had just stepped away and man, my phone rang so fast."

**Obviously the Browns drafted Mason Graham yesterday, a guy you're probably pretty familiar with having gone against him, you probably know exactly what he brings to a defense so can you talk about that a little bit? And then how excited are you to maybe match up with him in camp?**

"Definitely. I played him, they are competitors. I feel like in today's game that's what you need, a guy that plays with passion. And I played him before, I feel like he's a guy that plays with passion and he's very technical in what he does and shoot, I look forward to that, man."

**How much of last year's success with Ohio State versus how much success you had at Ole Miss last year, specifically, how much does that give you the confidence to come into this league and hope to make an immediate impact to the run game with the Cleveland Browns?**

"Just because I know what it takes to win and to win a national championship. Like I said, I've won in high school, I won a championship and to go to the next level and win a championship in college, but I've always had that leadership and I know what it takes. Just the tools that you have to bring in,

aside from the physicality, things that you bring to the game and athletically, what does it actually take to win a National Championship? And you know, hopefully I can go and that's what I plan on doing is going to the next level and winning the Super Bowl for this organization."

**Quinshon, what was the pre draft process like with the Browns? And I guess clearly you were taken by surprise that they picked you at 36, but did you have an inkling that they were legitimately interested in bringing you to Cleveland?**

"Definitely. I was supposed to have an upcoming visit with them, but I couldn't make it because my mom had surgery and my dad's birthday was coming up, he had this party so I couldn't make it. My mom had just had surgery, so I couldn't make it to my visit with the Browns. But throughout the draft process, I had a meeting with them at the combine and it went great. We talked about ball, we talked about off the field things as far as, you know, what do I like and about me as a person. And I felt like they got to know me more and I left that meeting feeling great about the organization."

**Can you compare the emotions between winning a national championship and now getting drafted by the Browns?**

"I mean, each one gave me a different emotion of themselves. Like winning the national championship. You get to see the confetti fall, everybody just running around, it's just like so much adrenaline that's going through your body. And then I would say when you hear your name called on national television to where you're going to play football for a long time. So I think those two are just two different emotions in themselves, but I definitely felt great about it, and I definitely enjoy each and every one of them."

**You and your teammate TreVeyon Henderson were both right there in the draft order. A lot of people wondered who would go first, he went a couple picks after you. What has this process been like for the both of you to go through this together, and obviously, you're watching where each other goes and who goes first.**

"I think just really being in support of each other, man, I think me and Trey have a great relationship. Like I've said before, outside of football, me and him truly want what's best for each other. And, you know, whoever went first in the draft, it didn't matter. I got to ask this question before, too, and they asked me, how would I feel if he was drafted? You know, honestly, man, I feel great about it. I think he's a guy that deserves it. And no matter if I was drafted, if I was to be drafted first or him be drafted first, it wouldn't have mattered to either one of us because, like I said, I know what it takes to win a national championship, and that's what it takes. A selfless guy who truly put the program first, and that's who we both are."

**On that note, I was just going to ask, did you have a friendly bet with him, who'd go first?**

"No, we didn't. We did not have a friendly bet. Honestly, throughout this draft process, we were just in support of each other, you know, asking how each other's business were going and just checking up on each other's mental and making sure each other we were both okay, doing good."

**Hey Quinshon, do you know anything about Jerome Ford with the Browns? And if so, how do you think you guys can complement each other?**

"I feel like that those are those areas that, you know, just me being drafted, those are things you can always learn and figure out. But I mean, just me being a part of this organization and what I'll bring to it, I think I'll definitely have a lot of success, who I am as a player, what I bring to the game and how I work well with others. So a lot of great players around me and I think we can go really far."

**Hey, Quinshon, could you talk about what your plans are then after football?**

"Yeah, so I plan on going back to school and getting that degree post football. That's something that has always interested me. I have a degree right now. I'm doing human resources. But that is something else that I definitely want to get into post career. I've always been interested in and something I look forward to."

**You said you couldn't make that visit because of your mom's surgery and had other obligations, when you realized you couldn't make that visit, did you think the realization of being maybe taken by the Browns could have ended from there? And were you surprised that they came back later?**

"No, definitely not. The Browns are a great organization. They understood my situation. They understood, you know, my mom, she had just had a serious surgery and just a circumstance. So they were very understanding. And, you know, we tried to work something out before that date of the 16th where you couldn't take a last visit because I had just had a visit with the Giants like a day before the last visit. So it just was unfortunate I couldn't make it out there."

**I'm sure through your conversations with the Browns, you had some talk about Kevin Stefanski's offense and I'm sure you've watched some of that as well. Just how do you feel that his system will maximize your skill set and how you'll fit into this thing?**

"I think I fit great in this offense. You know who I am as a player. The physicality, the vision, the elusiveness, the ability to be used outside the tackles



and be in the slot and also be in one-on-one situation with linebackers. And that's why I feel like that's who I am as a player. And that's why I feel like I fit so great in this offense. And this is such a great situation for me because this is the offense that I excel in because those are the things that I bring to the game. The passion as well, and the grit that you can't coach. So that's what I definitely look forward to for this year."

**And then as a follow up, I don't know how much you interfaced with Duce Staley during the pre draft process in your conversations with Cleveland, but how excited are you to work with him and somebody who's obviously done it at a high level in the NFL?**

"Man, I think you're always excited to learn from guys like that have done that at a high level and being consistent as well. You always learn things from guys like that. They always have knowledge. And those are the guys when you go into a locker room that you kind of bond to."

**Hey, Quinshon, what allowed you to score as many touchdowns as you did?**

"Man, my coaches put me in a great position, aside from, you know, physically who I am as a player and what I do on the field. You know, coaches being very schematically smart, putting me in the right position to go out there and execute. And also my teammates as well, my old linemen, they do a great job of executing. They work hard, and that's really why I succeed so much. I couldn't do it without my teammates and coaches."

**And the Browns assistant GM mentioned your contact balance. Why are you so good in that area?**

"That's just who I am as a player. It's something I always harped on. I am really just trying to excel at it. I feel like at this position, that's one of the most things that change you and puts you in that 1% that everyone else can't do. To have that contact balance in the sprint and still be able to run outside, break tackles and do things of that nature. And those are the things that others can't do and that's why I feel like I separate myself as well."

**A lot of people remember that final drive up against Penn State and just when you're in that moment, how much you just sort of feed off of getting the ball over and kind of taking the will away from a defense as you're just kind of pounding the ball against them.**

"I think as a competitor, that's who I am. I love to see the defense wear down. I love to see them when I run the ball and get 15 yards, they're tired as hell. They don't like that I'm getting the ball again. I can see it in their eyes. They don't want me to get the ball again because they don't want to tackle me. Those guys don't want to tackle. So it's like I look forward to those moments when it's crunch time in the game and it's close and you want to close the game out or whatever situation it is. I look forward to being the player that has the ball and going to make an impact."

**You got a taste of it in Columbus with Ohio State, obviously, but the state of Ohio is notorious for their passion for football. How much are you looking forward to getting acclimated to the Dawg Pound and the fan base here with the Browns?**

"I look forward to it, definitely. I had a lot of different events here throughout my draft process or before my draft process where I had to autograph signings and just to meet so many people from Ohio. A lot of them are Cleveland Browns fans and the way they embrace this culture of what it takes to be a Cleveland Browns fan and what it's like to be a part of this organization. So I definitely look forward to it. I get to stay home and do something special, so I'm super excited and happy."

**I was curious if you've heard from Ryan Day yet and what he had to say about staying in the state of Ohio.**

"No, but he probably is. He probably called me as well, but I definitely will call him tonight. We talked to my position coach (Carlos Locklyn). I saw him call me once I was drafted. You know we're just so excited about the situation here and what I can do and who I am as a player and what I'll bring to this team."

**I was wondering how you're feeling about the Browns first round draft pick Mason Graham. Is there going to be some beef that needs to be squashed to start the season?**

"Nah, it's no beef, man. Like I said, it's one team. We all have one vision, which is to win. And like I said, the guy I've been my whole career just putting team first and doing what I can to help this organization win."

**Where are you physically watching the draft and how many friends and family do you have with you?**

"So right now I'm watching the draft in Atlanta, Georgia. I have my intermediate family and my outside family as well. And then just a lot of people that I get along with as well, like, my coaches, college coaches, and trainers. Really just everyone that's helped me get this far, so that's who all came to support tonight."

**TE Harold Fannin Jr.**

**4-25-25**

**Hi, Harold. Are you in Canton (Ohio) right now and what do you think about getting to play in Northeast Ohio?**

"Yeah, man, I'm in Canton right now as we speak. I mean, growing up in Northeast Ohio, I'm definitely excited. You know, big Browns family around, so, you know they're all excited as well."

**Do you just really like orange and brown as your colors?**

"Yeah, yeah. You got to, especially at Bowling Green."

**Your best games last season were against the biggest opponents, Penn State, Texas A&M. Kind of describe just the way you kind of elevated your game and how much does that show NFL scouts and the Browns specifically what you're capable of at this level?**

"Yeah, I mean, pretty much. It kind of just shows NFL teams that I can do it against bigger opponents. It ain't just like, I'm just doing against smaller teams. I can do it against the bigger teams as well."

**You set so many school records and FBS records in so many different areas. How do you feel like your versatility is going to be able to translate here with the Browns and in the NFL?**

"Yeah, I feel like the way my playstyle is, I'm able to move around a lot, do a lot of different things, kind of just really open the playbook up a little bit just because obviously I can play out of position a little bit."

**How much time have you spent watching David Njoku, what you think of his game, and what you think about coming into a tight end room with him?**

"To be honest, I never really watched any tight ends. I've never watched David Njoku. I probably watched a few of his games here and there, but obviously I'm very excited to be in the same room as him. I heard he's a dawg, know he's a dawg."

**How did playing in a pro style system under Coach (Scot) Loeffler help prepare you for the NFL?**

"I definitely will say, you know, just because Coach Loeffler is like an NFL type of guy. I already have the feel for, like, the plays and stuff like that, and I feel like it should be an okay transition when it comes to plays and stuff like that. And, you know, the way he coaches and things like that."

**How does your defensive background from McKinley (High School) kind of affect how you play tight end? How did it shape you and what was that transition like?**

"Yeah, like you said, I used to played defensive back, so I kind of got an idea of running routes or whatever. Just kind of know what makes a DB so uncomfortable and stuff like that. Just because I play it myself, obviously, I know it makes me feel uncomfortable. So I kind of just know what the DB doesn't want you to do. I kind of, like, already know how that feels, and I kind of think about, what if I was guarding myself? How would I make moves when it comes to route running and stuff like that."

**How do you reflect on it and how special was it to have a season that a lot of people say was the best in the history of college football for a tight end?**

"I mean, I'll definitely say I'm very blessed. I mean, obviously I couldn't have done it without my teammates and stuff like that. My coach was setting me up. But yeah, definitely just blessed and lucky enough to do something like that."

**How much did your games against Texas Tech and Penn State put you on the map, do you think?**

"I guess it really did put me on the map just because I was low ranked. I mean I never was a hyped-up guy. So, when I kind of had sets like that and put stuff like that on tape, its kind of really opened doors for me."

**You said you don't spend a lot of time watching tight ends. I'm just kind of curious, though. Is there somebody that you grew up admiring and wanting to be like as a player?**

"Yeah. So, being in Northeast Ohio, my brother's actually a (Pittsburgh) Steelers fan, so I used to watch Le'Veon Bell a lot. And that's back when I was younger and I used to play running back, but that's who I pretty much grew up watching."

**How special is it to you at every level now to call Ohio home from high school to college to now in the NFL?**

"Yeah, I mean, it's definitely a blessing. I mean, it's kind of always close to home, but I guess that's a plus. I mean, I never would have expected it to be like this, but you know obviously, I'm just happy with that and everything coming up."

## **Executive Vice President, Football Operations & General Manager, Andrew Berry and Head Coach Kevin Stefanski 4-25-25**

### **Opening Statement:**

**Andrew Berry:** "All right, so busy Friday night for us this year. Really excited about the four guys that we added to the roster this evening. Maybe give you kind of a quick hitter on each player. So first with Carson, I think you guys know our history here is we haven't necessarily invested a ton of resources, you know, in the off the ball linebacker room with really Jeremiah (Owusu-Koramoah) being the notable exception in 2021. We felt like Carson (Schwesinger) was a pretty unique player at the position. Fast, athletic, really good in the passing game, he can blitz and he's super smart and aggressive. We felt like he was really another modern-day archetype at the position, and we really felt like he could really elevate that position room if we can get him to his potential at maturity. So we're really excited to add him to the team. With Q (Quinshon Judkins), you know, rugged run style. I'm sure a lot of people in this room have seen him at Ohio State this year. Really a bell cow, versatile runner who can run through you, run by you, run around you. We're really excited to have him available to us at the 36 pick. With Harold (Fannin Jr.), he's really kind of the queen on the chessboard. He's a really good ball in hand player, can separate as a pass catcher despite being a little bit undersized. He's really a good movement style blocker and he fits perfectly in terms of what Kevin (Stefanski) and Tommy (Rees) want to do philosophically on the offense. And then Dillon (Gabriel), we spent a lot of time with Dillon throughout this process, brought him in right after the combine, did obviously the private visit and workouts out in Eugene (Oregon). Decorated college career, very accurate, very poised, throws with anticipation, good mobility. We just thought he had a really well-rounded game. And the biggest negative that you can say about him is that he doesn't have ideal height. But that's not something that we felt like showed up in his game or his film at UCF, Oklahoma, and certainly not at Oregon this year. So, we're really excited to add these young guys to the room or, excuse me, to the roster. With that, I'll open up for questions."

**Andrew, throughout this entire draft process, you talked about value, maximizing the value of these picks. At 94 with Shedeur Sanders still on the board, a guy that you spent a lot of time with, why was the value not there to take him and at quarterback take Dillon?**

**Berry:** "Yeah, you know, like I said, we really felt strongly about Dillon throughout this process. You know, I think he's a really strong, really, really good prospect. You know, that's not to say that we didn't meet with other quarterbacks that we thought were really talented players and good people. But, we felt strongly about Dillon. We think he's an excellent player and felt like he was the most appropriate player to pick for both."

**Looking at Dillon's numbers, more than 2,100 career passing attempts, but only 32 interceptions. Kind of going back, Kevin (Stefanski), to you talking about taking care of the football, how much of that, when you looked at his game and talked, , how much of that was part of the evaluation with him?**

**Kevin Stefanski:** "Yeah, I mean, like AB (Andrew Berry) said, Chris (Easterling), it's such a - when you're looking at any position, you're looking at so many things in total, but certainly when you bring up that amount of attempts versus those interceptions, that speaks to the quarterback's decision making. So that's certainly one of the things that you're excited about with watching Dillon, with being around him, understanding how he thinks about the game and understands how to take care of the football."

**Can maybe both of you address how much time you guys spent with him at the Senior Bowl and you know, having Jacques (Cesaire) there, coaching the team that he was on and also having Bubba (Ventrone) there, how much did that give you a little head start on the eval?**

**Berry:** "Yeah, I'd say, you know, for really all of our prospects, we try to get as many touch points as possible. I think I mentioned in my pre-draft presser just why we think with the quarterback position the additional time, the additional inverse and visits are important. So, with Dillon, obviously has a lot of college film in a number of different environments and different offensive systems. You see him for the full week at the Senior Bowl where he's just kind of thrown into the mix, new offense to see that he really passes that test. You see him, meet with him, at the combine, we bring him in the, you know, I guess what, three days after the combine ends for the top 30 visits, go out and see him in Eugene and do the private workout and visit and everything. So we felt like we had a really strong feeling of what we believe to be his strengths and weaknesses throughout the process and got to know him really well like a lot of the other quarterbacks in this class."

**Kevin, you can answer this. When you talk to these guys in these interviews, what kind of read do you get on how receptive a player will be to learning? Like he'll have to be learning under Joe (Flacco) and Kenny Pickett?**

**Stefanski:** "I think every single one of our guys we bring in, Jeff (Schudel), understand that they're rookies and they have work to do, no different than any position. And I think, you know, to AB's (Andrew Berry) point, just about these four guys that we're bringing in tonight and then add Mason (Graham) from, was that yesterday? These are good players. These are good people. These are people that we want in our building. We want to embrace them into what we believe. They are certainly made of the right stuff. And part of that, to your question, Jeff, of having that makeup where they're not finished products, and they know they have a lot to learn. They'd be very, very smart, all these guys, to learn from these veterans in the building."

**Andrew, when you're watching quarterbacks go off the board, was Dillon (Gabriel) a guy that you kind of targeted at this spot the whole time, or like, how did that kind of play out as you're watching the other guys go?**

**Berry:** "Yeah, no, he was. He was among the short list of players that we were considering well before the draft at this spot, Scott (Petrak), yeah."

**And, Kevin, how do you evaluate what Andrew called, the lack of ideal height, for a quarterback in this league?**

**Stefanski:** "It's a good question. Obviously, there's guys that have come before Dillon. There are guys that will come after him that don't have the, quote, unquote, 'ideal height'. But hasn't held him back in his career. You know, he's been that height for a long time. He finds a way to get it done. And, you know, that's so important. There's quarterbacks, different shapes and sizes. You have to be able to move in the pocket. You have to feel the pocket, you have to find throwing lanes, you have to change arm angles. All that comes innately, I think, to players based on how they've kind of played the game their whole life."

**Andrew, just two things about Gabriel. First, just comment on it. He seems like an older player, six years experience, 24 years old. Comment on that. But also, just before him, (Jalen) Milroe went to Seattle, totally different styles, obviously. Was Milroe among the considerations at that pick?**

**Berry:** "So for your first question, it probably goes back to when you asked about the age thing before the draft, like that can be a factor in a prospect's profile, but there's no single eliminator. Every prospect is going to have strengths and weaknesses in their profile. Probably age with quarterback, there's a little bit more fluidity with that, honestly, Tony (Grossi) and I think also, the difference is, you think of age in the context of their college career. So, like with Dillon, the guy's played football, been a starting quarterback since he's been 18 years old, in college football. This is not a player who it took several years for him to become the starter and didn't become the starter until he was an older college senior. So, we didn't feel like that that was a major detriment in terms of his profile. And in terms of Jalen, we spent a lot of time with him. Obviously knew him really well, know him really well. From Tommy's (Rees) experience in Alabama, you're right, very different styles. But we've always said with the quarterback position, our view is we want to make sure that we build around that player according to their strengths. So, Jalen's strengths are very different than other prospects in the class strengths. If we had selected him, we would have built an offense that we thought was appropriate for his strengths and we would do the same for any quarterback in the room."

**Speaking of building around him, this was a skills players kind of day for you guys. You said day two is a sweet spot for the draft. So, for you, what did you maybe like about what this draft offered and how do you envision these additions coming into what you hope is another revamped offense this year?**

**Berry:** "Yeah, so I guess I'll go with the last part of your question, Cam (Camryn Justice). With Q (Quinshon Judkins), we feel like he's just a very well rounded back and we've obviously been spoiled over the past couple years, particularly with Nick (Chubb) and Kareem (Hunt) and we feel like he is very much in that mold in terms of skill set. Not necessarily saying that he's going to, with certainty, develop into one of those players, we certainly hope that's the case, but we think that he can be a bell cow runner that can really carry the load for us. And then Harold (Fannin Jr.), like, he's a mismatch piece for us in terms of how defenses are going to have to account for him and David (Njoku) on the field when we're in 12-personnel. And whether he's split out, whether he's in a traditional alignment, whether he's in the backfield, he gives us that flexibility for Kevin (Stefanski) and Tommy (Rees) to be really creative in terms of how they design personnel packages, formations, and ultimately scheme up the run and pass game. And in terms of Dillon, I kind of touched on him already, but that's how we would view it."

**With Carson (Schwesinger), Andrew, did Jim (Schwartz) give you a bear hug when you drafted him? You mentioned you're open, like you guys haven't spent a lot of draft capital on that particular position, what was it about him that had you using that 33rd pick on him?**

**Berry:** "Yeah, I think the biggest thing for us is guys at the off the ball linebacker position. For us to maybe go outside of the norm, we have to project them to be able to do something special or well above average in the passing game. And for Jeremiah (Owusu-Koramoah), that was really his ability as a blitzer. Like, he was a great run defender because he can make plays behind the line of scrimmage and everything, but he was really special - or is really special, I should say, as a blitzer. With Carson, his profile is maybe a little bit different in the fact that he's shown himself to be a really strong coverage player. Whether man or zone, he very much, like Jeremiah, he's very good in the run game, very instinctive, a surefire tackler. But when we look at that



position and if we're going to invest significant resources, it's, 'hey, can this player contribute above and beyond on third down?'"

**For Kevin, with adding Harold (Fannin Jr.) to your tight end room, we know how much you love tight ends, he really seemed to stand out in the big games against the bigger opponents. How much did that catch your eye? And when you're watching those highlights, did that get you doing a little lobbying for him with Andrew?**

**Stefanski:** "No lobbying. Yeah. I mean, I think with Harold, that the tape kind of speaks for itself. An extremely productive player, we did a lot of work on Harold. [Directed at Andrew Berry] Can I tell them we went to Bowling Green?"

**Berry:** "You can tell them. You can tell them where we had the..."

**Stefanski:** "We had lunch at Fricker's. Yep, which was lovely. No, but so we did a ton of work on Harold. The tape jumps out, like you said. I mean, you watch Penn State, watched Texas A & M. He's a very productive player. Coach (Scot) Loeffler did an awesome job with him at Bowling Green, moving him around the board like AB (Andrew Berry) said, like a queen in chess. And he's very versatile. He's a young man, I think he's just 20 years old, so there's a lot of development there. But excited about the versatility that he brings and it's on tape. He really lines up all over. He's a wildcat quarterback. He does a lot for the football team and is a young player that we feel like can ascend."

**Berry:** "Have you guys talked to Harold yet? Oh, okay. Well, when he comes, the next time you talk to him, ask him how he picked Frickers as the restaurant. Just ask him."

**Along those lines of what Kevin was talking about with him (Harold Fannin Jr.) being only 20 and that young. Like, was it similar to David (Njoku) when you guys were evaluating him back then to think, "hey, this kid's not even going to be 21 until a few months from now?"**

**Berry:** "It's a good observation actually. I think this maybe even kind of blends into your questions about age, Tony (Grossi) I think if you think oftentimes about the top of the draft, it's like age combined with some form of early production and the physical characteristics for that player to be able to get on the field early enough to develop. And I think for Harold, the way we looked at it is like, okay, here is a 20 year old pass catcher who's playing at a mid-major and he's the guy that everybody knows that they have to stop and you know, whether he goes to College Station or, you know, at Penn State, and he's the best player on the field, like nobody, nobody at 20 years old. And he's the one person going in that two of the top defenses in college football have to stop. So, like, yeah, that weighs heavily. There are very few, you know, skill players that can do that later in their college career. And for him to be able to do that with maybe not a dynamic supporting cast, you know, at 20 years old, it's, it's incredibly - at a young 20 years old at that. It's very impressive. Again, it's not the end all be all, you know, in terms of youth. But I guess think about it this way, like for him to do that at 20, you know, at Bowling Green, whereas if you think about an individual athlete who did that would have done that at 23, at, I don't know, LSU. Like, there is some important context there in terms of the quality of the performance. So, we do weigh that. Again, it's not like it's a platonic shift in terms of how we would view the valuation, but it does mean something."

**In talking to Dillon at the Senior Bowl, he's obviously very, very confident. He's played a ton of football. Will he have a chance to come in here and compete for the starting job just as much as Kenny will and just as much as Joe will?**

**Stefanski:** "I think all of our players are competing for starting jobs, I think. But the most important part for any player walking into our building is really focusing on the work that it's going to entail, Mary Kay (Cabot), because, as you know, it's a lot coming at these guys early. So, we'll get our hands on them in a couple of weekends at the rookie minicamp. But we anticipate all of our players to carve out a role, whether that's as a starter, as a backup, and it's really no different here."

**And how will it present some challenges for you to divide up the quarterback reps? You've never really had to do that before quite like this.**

**Stefanski:** "Sure. I think it's over the course of time, I've been around and Tommy (Rees) and Bill (Musgrave) have been around examples where you have sometimes four guys. So, there's ways to maximize reps would be the best way to put it."

**I know that, you know, needs or perceived needs don't necessarily drive your thinking in a draft, but JOK (Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah) has an uncertain situation. Nick Chubb's not under contract, and David Njoku has one year left on his deal. So to pick players on day two in those positions, does that set you up for however those situations may play out? Is that when you think of one foot in the present, one in the future, is that what we're talking about here?**

**Berry:** "Yeah. Look, Nate (Ulrich), I think that's a fair observation. Not to say that that's what drove the decisions or the strategy, but you do keep all those things in mind. I'd say it's less from an okay, this is where we ended up going into the draft, but, like, holistically in the off season, as you enter February,

you think, okay, here's what we think we're going to do in free agency, here are the strengths and the weaknesses of the draft class, how does that match up with the short and long term, you know, of the roster? Like, okay, no secret, this was going to be a really strong running back class, right? Like everybody heard that going into the draft. You know, we thought it made sense for us to take a young back whether it was you at 36, where we did or you know, later on and where you are in that room does, you know, does factor into it, won't drive the decision, but it is a part of the calculus."

**If you're in a situation where you're playing your rookie quarterback, just the fact that he's left handed, how much goes into that, if anything?**

**Stefanski:** "Not a ton, Nate. The ball spirals a little bit differently, but you know, there's been plenty of examples of guys that have done it at a high level."

**It seems everybody in the country is surprised what's happening to Shedeur (Sanders), except everybody in the NFL. So, is what's happening to him being undrafted at this point coincide with your ranking of him?**

**Berry:** "You know what, I think it's unfair for me to comment. I guess, maybe on behalf of the industry. All I can say is this: You know, the time that we spent with Shedeur and what he's done throughout his college career is impressive. He's an impressive young man. He's a really good quarterback. Sometimes, fit comes into play and I'd also say this, there are four more rounds of the draft. Lastly, it's less about where you get picked, and what you do after you get picked. That's really the most important thing. Getting to know him over the course of the spring, he has a ton of resolve and I think he's going to find himself in a really good spot."

**With Quinshon (Judkins), Glenn (Cook) sort of mentioned, one part of his game where he maybe needs to improve a little bit is catching passes third down, sort of being used in that way. As you kind of think through what this backfield looks like with him, obviously you have Jerome Ford on the roster already, how do you sort of see his role? Is it more of like a first down, second down thing? How are you kind of picturing that coming together?**

**Stefanski:** "I would point out too these guys are young and it's our job to develop them and they're not finished products. He has a very legit skill set right now and a skill set that we can use, and when he has the ball in his hands, whether we hand it to him or throw it to him, we want to use him in a bunch of different ways. But that's something that we'll always, with all of our players, identify things that we're going to help them get better at. And that's what, that's what Deuce is here for. That's what I'm here for, to help our guys reach that potential. Because we're drafting young men here that are that are just not finished products."

**Berry:** "If you guys remember when we took Nick in 2018, his rookie year, he had a strong rookie year, but the thought going into it was like, 'Okay, well, he can't play on third down because he doesn't catch it well enough. What's he going to be like as a protector?' And he spent that whole offseason that was his focus. He's like, look, 'I'm just going to catch a ton of passes, touch, you know, ton of balls off the jug machine. I'm going to be great on pass pro.' And he became a good third down player for us. So, to Kevin's point about development and these being young guys, none of these players are coming in as finished products, but part of our job is to help them improve and grow both on the field and off of it."

**Does the pick of Carson (Schwesinger) say anything about JOK (Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah) recovery from the injury? Does that signal that he's not going to be good to go?**

**Berry:** "No, Scott (Petrak), it doesn't. And it's the right question. I totally understand. That did not drive the decision for Carson. I want to be clear there."

**If JOK were completely healthy, would Carson (Schwesinger) still be in play?**

**Berry:** "Absolutely. Yeah, absolutely."

**Just following up on Carson (Schwesinger), Andrew, he had one great year as a linebacker. Is there a concern about just the short sample size and also just his versatility on special teams? How much is that a benefit at least in the short term?**

**Berry:** "So it is something we talked about, like, yeah, you'd love to have a robust sample. I think honestly that's probably part of the reason he was discounted, because his year is outstanding and physically, mentally, subjectively, objectively - pretty hard to find holes in his game. In terms of the kicking game part of it, his speed, his instincts, his tackling ability, it'll play well, as he contributes in that phase. Obviously he has some experience doing it from college. We think that there's a nice short term and long term role for him."

**One of the things that Harold (Fannin Jr) talked about at Senior Bowl was wanting to show coaches and GMs that he can block as well. What have you seen on film from him that he can be a blocker in that role at tight end and that he can grow in that area as well?**

**Berry:** "Honestly, I think people just look at his weight and assume he can't block and because he's such a good pass catcher. But I just think that's totally incorrect. He shows plenty of that on film. Certainly how we use him as a blocker may be different than how we would use David (Njoku) just because of

their body types, but just honestly, I think that's a bit of a lazy narrative."

**Stefanski:** "Yeah, I think, Kelsey (Russo), it's really, when you're talking about tight ends, there's so many different jobs that go into it and some of them are the traditional inline hand in the dirt, got to cut off a 280 pound six technique who became a seven technique, and that's really hard. Then there's also jobs you have to be from the backfield, coming across the line of scrimmage to block the defensive end, or inserting as a rap blocker on a gap scheme. So there's so much, so many different jobs that come from that room. And to Andrew's point, it's our job to put him in position to succeed and not ask him to do things that are not within the scope of what his skill set is."

## DAY 3

### Director of Player Personnel, Dan Saganey

4-26-25

**Can you just talk about kind of Quinshon (Judkins) and (Dylan) Sampson, you know, doubling up at that position and just how you sort of see them kind of contrasting, playing off of each other in a perfect world?**

"Yeah, I would start by saying we're really excited to add Dylan to the group. Obviously, with Quinshon, both, like, explosive runners. You know, Dylan was SEC Player of the Year, very productive player in both phases. Brings a good complimentary skill set with Q. You know, both guys have had high levels of production in the SEC. You got - both guys have really good speed, run with toughness, and have pass game value. So anytime we can add two 'backs that can play on all three downs, we're excited."

**So, Dan, just knowing that production with Dylan specifically, were you guys surprised he was still available to you at this point in the draft? And I know everyone always talks about value on day three, so was there just immense value there with his production coupled where you guys were picking?**

"Yeah, I think we talk about it every year. And here, like, day three, everybody's board is so different. So, for us, it's the opportunity to take, you know, a really productive player that we liked through the process. We were able to spend some good time with him at the combine and just feel really good about the production mixed with the person. He's what we describe as an 'orange dot' type of player and person. So anytime you get a really productive, complimentary player to your offense at the right price, which was great value for us here, pretty excited to add him and just take him off the board and put him in the room and get ready to go."

**He had 258 carries last year, that's a high volume...**

"Yeah, I certainly hope so. I mean, anytime you're winning SEC Offensive Player of the Year with that volume of production, you know, I think it says a lot about how you take care of your body and, you know, how durable you are as a player."

**How do you envision using him in the scheme? Could he be a returner?**

"So he would be, you know, a developmental returner for us. He's a guy that when you have multiple backs and guys that have return experience in the room. Between our receiver room, our running back room with Jerome (Ford), you know, there's plenty of options there. So, the new kickoff rule is, you know, an evolving thing. And I think it's a good question for Bubba (Ventrone) and our staff once we get everybody into the building, you know, see how guys do field and ball, and he certainly has the speed and toughness to run and be a productive NFL returner."

**Dan, Harold Fannin, new to the position but crazy productive at the college level. So what do you see in him now versus what you might see in two or three years with Fannin?**

"Oh, man, I mean, I know we talked about him last night. Obviously really good fit for the offense. Elite hands and for an offense that values tight end play, especially having multiple tight ends that can do a lot of different things. A guy that can get open, catch the ball, obviously at record breaking pace like he did, and then run after the catch. Anytime you can pair that with a guy like David (Njoku), longer term you have two options that are real pass game weapons and provide a lot of value to the offense as you go. So allows us to play how we want to play too."

**Offensive line would seem to, just based on what you guys currently have and where guys are in their career and contracts and things like that, how hard has it been to not draft for a position of need when it comes to the offensive line and then also how do you balance that with some of these other picks that you've made, like taking (Dillon) Gabriel there at the end of the third round?**

"Well, I mean, I'll start by saying this. I think we feel really good about where we're at with our offensive line group right now. You know, we obviously

have a lot of experienced veterans in our, call it, frontline starters right now and then behind them we have good depth. We were able to add, (Teven) Jenkins, who's played guard, played tackle. You know, we feel really good about Zak Zinter's development and a bunch of the young guys in that room. As far as, you know, how we pair together the draft and piece them together, it really just becomes, you know, best available. Guy that's the best fit, we think long term and we still got a couple picks left. There's a few offensive linemen left that, I'm sure we'd love to add if the opportunity comes. But really when you're piecing together everything in the draft, we're looking for the best value, best players, best cultural fit, guys that fit how we want to play on both sides of the ball and you know, goes across multiple positions."

**Dillon, you mentioned some of that development. What are some of the attributes that he has that you are maybe looking to get the most out of when he gets in here and starts working with the organization?**

"Yeah, Dillon is a guy that I think just has such a natural feel for the game as a quarterback. His ability to navigate the pocket, his ability to escape pressure, to throw with anticipation, touch, accuracy. He's really just like how I would describe him as a very natural quarterback. So, he's done it across multiple levels of competition at three different schools. He stepped in and, you know, shown the ability to win and be ultra productive at the position and you know, he's a guy that can play in a shotgun RPO system. We think he has good value with a lot of the things that we do offensively. And again, when you piece together the person and just how they play the position, the accuracy and the feel, you know, you feel really good about that translating and developing further once you get them in the building."

**With the depth of this running back class, did you guys go in thinking or knowing that you would take two?**

"Honestly, I don't think it was a plan or like something that you're saying, 'hey, we need two 'backs out of this draft.' Like, we feel good with the guys that are here too. Again, we're trying to add, you know, the best competition we can. You know, obviously Q's (Quinshon Judkins) a really good player, Dylan's (Sampson) going to be a really good player. So, you're just, you're excited to add high level talent when you think you can get it. And then, you know, when we're in day three and everybody's board kind of goes all over the place in the league, if a guy's sitting there and you're excited to take him, you just turn the card in and get ready to go."

**How different do you think their styles are (Q and Dylan)?**

"It's a good question. I don't want to pin like a certain style on either guy because I think, I mean, you know, both guys have been super productive rushers both in the SEC from when Q was at Ole Miss. But you know, I think like when you pair the two of them together, you have two fast guys that run hard, run with energy. Both guys are kind of what I would describe as like Energizer Bunny type of runners but also have power and three down value so they can help you in both phases. Both guys have really natural, vision, strength, acceleration, speed, everything that we look for in a 'back in our system. So should pair well together."

**Kind of, kind of along that line as you build the roster. I'm thinking back to like you, you know, when you guys had Nick (Chubb) and Kareem (Hunt) together for so long, how important is it to have like two starting caliber backs on your roster?**

"Yeah, I think it's huge in the NFL and these, you know, this day and age obviously those are two elite guys right there and you know, we're hoping to get that level of production out of these guys. It's something that you hope anytime you draft a player, they can be as productive as they prove to be in college. But yeah, I mean, having two backs is extremely important. It's a position where we obviously value running the football in our organization. And again, guys that have speed, toughness, run with vision and instincts. Anytime you get two, you're excited and, you know, don't have to have one guy totally carry the load. You can keep people fresh and wear people down over the course of the game."

**With you guys finishing tied for second last in the NFL last year with only eight rushing touchdowns, how much did you need that infusion of the running game and how much do you think that a bolstered and rejuvenated running game is going to help whoever's starting at quarterback, your defense and everything else about this football team?**

"Yeah, that's a great question. I think it naturally does. You know, the ability to run the football in when you're a yard or two away helps. I mean, you know, we had Kareem and Nick. We were very fortunate to have two high level NFL backs here for a long time. And you know, Judkins has proven to be super productive in that area. He's got good power behind him. And then with Dylan, same thing. [He] has speed, has touchdown production. We're always looking for guys that can score touchdowns at any offensive position. These guys both have proven that against the highest level of competition in the country."

**So, I was going to ask you about your number one option as a short yardage back. Would probably be Judkins at this point, right?**

"I would let Kevin (Stefanski) answer that one honestly, like that's the good thing about both players in my opinion is they both have power behind their pads and both guys have that element of speed. Judkins is a little bit bigger, so I think that would kind of be the natural thought process there. But ultimately, you know, in our system, your ability to put your foot in the ground and get up the field. That one-yard burst of acceleration matters as much

as being 220 pounds, too.”

**The room’s getting crowded and (Nick) Chubb’s still out there. We asked yesterday, what Judkins draft would mean for Chubb’s future? So I’m going to ask two backs, what does that mean for Chubb’s future here?**

“I mean, obviously, I would defer those questions to Andrew (Berry) and Kevin (Stefanski). Ultimately, we’re really excited to add two young backs. And again, you know, to the questions earlier, it’s a position where, hey, we knew we needed an infusion in that room in general, regardless of the vets that are available on the street. You know, with Nick, with the guys in the room, it’s, hey, we’re going to add some talented players when we get an opportunity to do it.”

## **RB Dylan Sampson 4-26-25**

**Yeah. I’m just wondering how you feel about coming in here and pairing with Quinshon Judkins and what you guys can do as far as a 1, 2 punch in the backfield here?**

“Yeah, man, it’s a blessing. You know, I think if you look at the NFL right now, it’s kind of like the platform. You know, you see guys like (David) Montgomery and (Jahmyr) Gibbs, you know, in the past, Alvin Kamara and Mark Ingram II. You know, I think it works best when you have guys who complement each other and, you know, push each other to be the best.”

**Hey, Dylan, I saw somewhere that Reggie Bush was one of your idols or somebody that you tried to emulate. What was it about his game that you loved?**

“Just how electric he was, you know, with the ball out in space. Whether catching the ball or running the ball, he just had that juice, that energy that kind of like it fed into the game and wanted. We really wanted to see him with the ball in his hand. So, just try to implement some of that in my game.”

**Hey, Dylan, obviously, the last several years, you know, Nick Chubb has been sort of a staple for the Browns. One, how much have you over your, you know, kind of watched Nick and how much do you, you know, kind of take from his gaming, too? Two, but the thought of maybe you and Quinshon kind of being the next. The heir apparent to him with this franchise.**

“Yeah, yeah. Oh, definitely watched Nick Chubb over the years. You know, he’s a different type of runner than me, but just the violence he plays with— when he’s healthy, he’s one of the best backs in the league, he’ll be definitely a staple in that program. But I just try to watch guys similar to my playstyle, similar to my body type because it’s just more realistic to me.”

**Hey, Dylan, you’re gonna get in here in just a couple weeks and start working rookie minicamp. So for you, what are some of the areas of the game you’re looking to show off to the Browns organization once you’re at work and what are maybe some of the areas that you’re looking to get to work on early as a Brown?**

“Just looking to come in and show them how quick I could take in the offense and learn the plays. My ability to process information and, you know, play out in space as well as in between the tackles. And I’m just looking to improve in the small details of my game with a pass pro, you know, just the physical aspect of it, you know, just being able to be a three down back.”

**Hey, Dylan (Sampson), congratulations. Playing in the SEC, obviously considered generally the best conference in college football. Just how do you think the opponents you’ve played over the years and especially this past year and the success that you have has prepared you for the NFL?**

“I’m talking about just practice. You know, we talk about practice, going against guys like Byron Young, James Pierce (Jr.), a lot of the good D line that we had - it prepared me for each and every single game, because I mean, those are both guys who, one just got drafted in the first round and the other one is doing his thing with the Rams. It’s competition every single day in practice. I get to play against guys like Jalon Walker and just a lot of other guys. It prepares me the most in the most competition. It’s definitely rough in between those tackles in the SEC. I’m ready to experience on the next level.”

**Did you know Quinshon (Judkins) like off the field personally, just from having been together in the SEC?**

“No, I didn’t. I never talked to him while he’s in the SEC, but I definitely knew of him because he definitely jumped onto the scene and started doing his thing, but I didn’t have a relationship with him.”

**And when you talk about your playstyle, how would you describe that?**

“I’ll just say, I play with a certain type of tenacity and violence, but it’s also kind of calm and controlled at the same time. I feel like I’m not a flashy



runner. I don't do a lot of moves, but my contact balance shows my moves out in space and my ability and my vision and my speed show up on stage. I'm just looking to put everything together."

## **LB Carson Schwesinger, RB Quinshon Judkins and TE Harold Fannin Jr.**

### **4-26-25**

**Welcome everyone. So, first of all, my question is going to be for you, Quinshon (Judkins). The Browns just also drafted another running back in Dylan Sampson. Can you just talk about what kind of a one-two punch you guys might form and how excited are you to work with Dylan?**

**Judkins:** "Definitely super excited. Coming from a backfield where it's been another one-two punch that I come from, you look forward to that, especially as a team player. You know, whatever it takes to win and playing alongside other great players, I think that helps."

**Quinshon, I have another one for you. There's been this perception for a long time here that Buckeyes weren't typically drafted by the Cleveland Browns, and now that's kind of changed; Dawand (Jones), Denzel Ward here, Luke Wypler. For you, how does it feel to be among one of the now many Buckeyes on the Browns?**

**Judkins:** "Feels great. I got to see Denzel when I first got in the building earlier, and just that feeling of being a Buckeye and getting the feeling of just staying home and you don't have to go out of state anywhere else and just getting to keep making my mark here in the state of Ohio, that's important."

**This question is for Carson (Schwesinger). I know I asked you a little bit about this yesterday, but the chip on your shoulder aspect of how you play and everything, how are you looking forward to bringing that here and bringing that energy and how much does it inform your style of play?**

**Schwesinger:** "Yeah, I think that's a big part of my style of play. I think even going back to youth ball, I've had the chip on my shoulder where when I step on the field, I want to be somebody making plays. And, you know, that's an energy you bring and a toughness, and I'm looking forward to being able to compete every day."

**Don't want Harold (Fannin Jr.) to be left out of the fun. Just, being the hometown team here, growing up in Canton and everything, just what has this been like since we obviously talked to you last night, but since then to now, what has it been like in terms of the number of people in Canton and elsewhere in the area who have kind of reached out to you, to congratulate you? What's that all been like for you?**

**Fannin Jr.:** "It's definitely been, like a big blessing. Especially growing up close to here. The family, you know, they're always going to show their love, support, going crazy. But I mean, just really, just a blessing. You know, my family, they're my big support staff, so they're always going to keep supporting me."

**Hey, Carson, this is for you. Bio engineering, right? Talk about that and what do you want to do and how'd you pick that as your major?**

**Schwesinger:** "Well, what I wanted to do is play football, so right now, that [bioengineering] is kind of on the back burner. But I just kind of chose it. I grew up, science and math, was good at it and enjoyed it. And, you know, starting as a walk on, you never know what the path is going to be, so you want to make the degree worth it. And I felt that was a good decision heading into UCLA, which was a great school already academically, and so that was really what was behind that decision."

**So, what had you envisioned doing?**

**Schwesinger:** "I think for me, what I always found interesting, a lot of the new biotechnology and things like that were really interesting. And, you know, my mind, I've always grown up around sports, especially football, so anytime I'm in classes and they're talking about the new technology coming out in certain healthcare fields or things like that, my mind just goes straight to sports and how it can help in sports science, and things like that. So, I think that could always be an interesting route."

**Harold, this is for you. Did David Njoku reach out to you at all when you got the news that you were drafted? And if he did, what did he say?**

**Fannin Jr.:** "I mean, I don't know. You know, a lot of people have been calling me. I mean, I have to keep checking, but I'll let you know if he does."

**Kevin (Stefanski) said that you had a pretty special lunch at BG (Bowling Green). He said that you have a pretty interesting story to tell about that. So, yeah. Could you tell us a little bit more about that?**

**Fannin Jr.:** "Yeah. So, yeah, he pretty much called me and asked where do you want to go. I just wanted to keep it somewhere close, you know, didn't want to go out to town or anything. So, I said, Fricker's. And, you know, when he called me on draft night, he said, make sure you bring us all some Fricker's."

**Kevin Stefanski loves tight ends. So how excited are you to be brought into a program with a head coach that really places a premium in value on**

**your position as far as incorporating you within the offense?**

**Fannin Jr.:** “Yeah, I mean, I’m very excited to play, you know, especially for a guy like that. Like you said, he’s big on tight ends, so, you know, he’s going to be able to work me around, be able to play me to my strengths and things like that.”

**I know Andrew Berry, when he talked to us yesterday, referred to you (Harold Fannin Jr.) as the queen on the chessboard, that they feel like they can move you around to a bunch of different spots. I know you talked a little bit about your versatility with us on the phone, but just hearing that from the GM of the team that just drafted you, what’s it like to have them instill that confidence in you right now?**

**Fannin Jr.:** “No, it’s definitely great, man. You know, just knowing that, the things I’ve done in college, I’m going to be able to continue to keep doing that at the next level.”

**Now that you guys are here, the NFL level rookie minicamp right around the corner. What are you each most eager to get to work on now that you’re here in Berea with the Browns?**

**Schwesinger:** “I’m just looking forward to getting back to football. I think in the whole process; there’s a lot going on and a lot of stress. So now knowing where I’m going to be, knowing where home is and getting back to every day, I’m just trying to get better at football, not run for certain tests or certain things like that. That’s what I’m most looking forward to.”

**Judkins:** “The same as well because during the draft process, you’re on so many visits and doing so many other things and trying to find the time to manage and find time to work out and different things of that sort. Just getting back to football and getting the playbook, getting dialed in.”

**Fannin Jr.:** “Yeah, definitely say the same thing as well. But, you know, I’m really eager to meet all the great guys that’s on the team and things like that.”

**It looks like the Browns has traded up to get Shedeur (Sander). If you guys have been playing real close attention this week to what’s been going on and what’s your reaction to having him with you guys?**

**Fannin Jr.:** “That would be great, man. You know what I mean? I’d definitely be down for him if the Browns would be able to pick him up.”

**Andrew Berry talked about you being 20 and how that impressed him. And the fact you’re able to go to Penn State and Texas A&M and be so good when you were that young, were you thinking about that at all? That, hey, I’m 20 and there’s guys that are, whatever, 22, 23 and I’m still being able to dominate like that?**

**Fannin Jr.:** “Yeah, I mean, pretty much my mindset going into those games, you’re already supposed to lose. I mean, that’s what they say. It’s kind of like when I go out there, it’s just really prove it. So, I mean, it’s just football at the end of the day, though.”

## **Executive Vice President, Football Operations & General Manager, Andrew Berry and Head Coach Kevin Stefanski 4-26-25**

### **Opening Statement**

**Andrew Berry:** “So before we get started talking about the draft, I actually wanted to take a little bit of time to really recognize the Terpening family and just really offer our organization’s condolences to, Matt (Terpening), Stella (Terpening), and Gwen (Terpening) for the passing of Coral (Terpening). Matt, I’ve known since 2009, he took me under his wing. He was a west coast scout for the Colts and took me under his wing when I was a scouting assistant. So, I love that family, love Matt, love those girls. We’re obviously really heartbroken for Coral’s passing about a week and a half ago. So I wanted to start off just by acknowledging that and just letting Matt know that our thoughts and prayers are really with you, man. So day three, obviously, made two selections today. Starting with Dylan (Sampson), someone we knew well from the University of Tennessee. Twenty-year old running back. I think he really compliments our room nicely. Runs a really tough and physical style despite being a little bit undersized. He’s a player who has A+ makeup and a player that we think has untapped potential in the passing game. And then, Shedeur (Sanders), we talk oftentimes about quarterback being the most important position in the sport. We obviously spend a lot of time with Shedeur throughout the process. He’s highly accurate, can play well from the pocket, very productive college career. We felt like it wasn’t necessarily the plan going into the weekend to select two quarterbacks, but as we talk about, we do believe in best player available, we do believe in positional value, and we didn’t necessarily expect him to be available in the fifth round. We love adding competition to every position room and adding him to compete with the guys that are already in there. We felt like that was the appropriate thing to do. So with that, I’ll open it up for questions.”

**I mean this seems like sort of a blockbuster move for you guys to make at this point and then also when we saw your guys reaction in the war**

room, it just didn't look necessarily exuberant. So I don't know what we're seeing but maybe you can explain that? And then also like how did this happen?

**Berry:** "Yeah, I think we're probably just tired from the weekend."

**Kevin Stefanski:** "Those clips... it's not timed up to exactly the right time."

**Berry:** "When we're actually making the pick."

**Stefanski:** "Don't read too much into that."

**Can you just explain? This is a pretty big deal. After everything that happened with Shedeur (Sanders), this epic free fall that he had, how did this happen and what was the thinking behind it?**

**Berry:** "I just say the biggest thing for us, you know, we live by our board. We felt like he was a good, solid prospect at the most important position. We felt like it got to a point where he was probably mispriced relative to the draft. Really, the acquisition cost was pretty light, and it's a guy that we think can outproduce his draft slot. So, I wouldn't say it's any more than that. You know, Mary Kay (Cabot), I think obviously Shedeur has kind of grown up in the spotlight, but our expectation is for him to come in here and work and compete. Nothing's been promised. Nothing will be given. So, I may hesitate to characterize it as a blockbuster. That's not necessarily how we thought of the transaction, but we are excited to work with him."

**I heard what you just said about Shedeur, but isn't a circus going to come along with this pick? Even if it's not intentional, it seems everything follows him.**

**Stefanski:** "You know, our guys understand Jeff (Schudel), when you're in the building, we're here to work. We don't pay much attention to what's on the outside. We know we've spent a lot of time with Shedeur. We know what he's about. He's coming in here to work just like all of our other players."

**What are the biggest, maybe misconceptions about Shedeur's game in terms of the way he plays, the quarterback, position, traits, that sort of thing?**

**Berry:** "I can't, Chris (Easterling) - I can't really speak on what other people think. I can describe how we view him. We view him as a highly accurate pocket passer. He does a really good job of protecting the ball. He has enough of the physical characteristics, whether it's arm strength or mobility. Like all young players, there are things to improve. I think probably much has been said about the number of sacks he's taken. Some of that is environment and some of that is improvement on his end, for sure. But he has probably a little bit more of a, call it retro or classic style of play. Again, I can't speak to how others view him."

**Without divulging maybe too much of the conversations. When you did call him to tell him that you were picking him, just what was the message to him and what was maybe his message to you guys? Because I'm sure, again, it was a disappointing slide from somebody who expected to get picked early in the first round.**

**Berry:** "I think our message to him, it's really all this: It's like, look, [you] got to come in and work, and you got to come in and compete. That's the message. Nothing's given. Given the nature of the weekend for him relative to, let's say, external expectation versus what happened. We did tell him that it really doesn't matter where you're picked, it's what you do from that point forward because that's the reality for all the guys that we selected this weekend. In terms of his reaction, I just say it was probably a mixture of like, gratitude, relief, and determination. That would probably be the best way to characterize it. But he's certainly ready to go."

**Andrew, because you guys were a big player in the quarterback market, so to speak, and you did take one in the third round. Why do you think he fell to the fifth round?**

**Berry:** "I can't speak to why the market priced him the way it did - we had our own internal valuation in terms of how we viewed the skill set, you know, and the quality of the player. And once it got to a point where it felt like it was at a pretty steep discount, we just felt like, hey, especially relative to the alternative ways that we could use the selection, this made the most sense."

**And obviously he has an all time great football player as a father and coach, so you could see the pros of that. You know, also he's got, you know, Deion's (Sanders) got a larger than life personality, a huge platform and a lot of influence. So how do you view those, you know, kind of, you know, dynamics, father, son, and do you think that had anything to do with him being available in the fifth round?**

**Berry:** "Our personal relationship and interactions with Deion (Sanders), that's really been all positive from our perspective. And I mean that organization-

ally, not just me and Kevin, but really all of us who have interacted with Deion and the people out in Colorado. We don't typically penalize prospects for, you know, their parents, you know, so to speak, so I can't say if that was a factor or not for other teams, but that was not a significant factor for us."

**You said it became where you could get your dirt, a steep discount. So, did the decision to trade for him and make that pick come together pretty quick?**

**Berry:** "It did."

**At some point you go, okay, now is the time to make a move?**

**Berry:** "Yeah, I'll be honest. We typically go into day three with a number of names, because that's usually where the boards across the league, they kind of disperse. You know, we did get an early run on some of the players that were targeting. And, you know, as we thought, like the distance that our last two picks were apart and the way, you know, we could just kind of maximize those resources between the position and how we graded the prospect, we felt like this was it. It's maybe a little bit like what I talked about at the top of the draft, that when people think of a singular pick, it's oftentimes, 'okay, well, like, who are you going to select?' But there are just so many different ways that you can use that resource to improve your team. And so we just try and think of it broadly."

**Kevin, you evaluated Dillon (Gabriel) and Shedeur (Sanders), are there similarities and their strengths that you saw in both those guys?**

**Stefanski:** "Yeah, I'd say for sure. I think, you know, what do we talk about all pre-draft? Accuracy, decision making. So, I think that's the strength of both of those young men."

**Andrew, do you find anything odd with the fact that you traded away Travis Hunter and traded for Shedeur Sanders?**

**Berry:** "I guess I never really thought of it that way, Tony (Grossi), until you mentioned it. So, I'll be honest, I had not really given any thought."

**We saw Jimmy (Haslam) right behind you guys. Were you encouraged by the owner to make this move?**

**Berry:** "Jimmy lets us do our jobs. Yeah, Jimmy lets us do our jobs."

**I got to go back to the Dillon Gabriel pick here. When you say that you didn't expect to take two quarterbacks in this draft, what was it about? We get the chador thing, but what was it about him and then ultimately Shedeur here that compelled you to alter your plan in what feels like a pretty dramatic way here?**

**Berry:** "I guess we wouldn't necessarily characterize it as dramatic, Daryl (Ruiter). I think just like I could probably say the plan wasn't necessary to take two running backs. Like, you envision how the draft could possibly play out, and then you just really adjust to what's on the board. And like I said, like we don't really go into the draft saying okay, like, 'hey, here are our needs and we're just going to pick players at need positions.' If you do that's typically how you make mistakes. So, there is a little bit of a flow to the weekend because the board does take different twists and turns as you go. Some expected, some unexpected and ultimately we try and do everything in our power to maximize the impact of the picks we have in aggregate. And part of the reason you have to do that is being flexible."

**And then for Kevin, the rep chart in training camp I think just got divided again. So now it's four. How much are you looking forward to navigating, trying to get four guys not only a fair shake at it, but also at the same time you're going to be trying to get ready for a football season?**

**Stefanski:** "Yeah, we've talked about it. I mean there's ways to do both I think, Daryl (Ruiter). Obviously you may not divide them 25, 25, 25, but we feel really confident that we'll have a plan that is fair to each player and fair to the team as well."

**Hey guys, just to make it clear, I know we've asked you this basically some version of it with every new quarterback that's come into this room, but Andrew, I know you said nothing's going to be given to him, but will he have a chance to compete for the starting job here?**

**Berry:** "We expect every player to compete. Simple as that."

**And then just the narrative with him, like the outside narrative. Seeing how people were talking about him throughout the draft process, people kept pointing out the interviews with him. What was your guys' experience like with that?**

**Berry:** "Yeah, it was positive actually. The interviews, they're a small piece of it. We certainly do rely a lot more heavily on our reference work for people who have been with the prospect for two, three, four years at the schools. That's better – I think James Gladstone commented on this a little bit in his pre-draft presser. Like the idea that in a singular interview session you can discern something that someone else would know from interacting with an individual for four years. We also do subscribe to that notion. Now quarterbacks are a little bit different as you push and

prod on the mental aspect and that's something that we really lean on our coaching staff to ascertain throughout the spring. But his interactions with us were positive."

**From Eugene to Boulder and back or even back here, did you ever entertain this scenario that these would be the two?**

**Berry:** "I mean, honestly, Zac (Jackson), probably kept a pretty open mind. Like, I didn't know exactly how it would go at that point. At that point, we were just really working through to make sure that we could get to know the players and the people as well as possible."

**Both of you guys have talked about the importance of the cultural fit of these guys. So, for Shedeur, how do you envision that going? What enticed you to come back and get him in terms that fit him as a person?**

**Berry:** "I think Shedeur, you know, he is probably a little bit opposite in terms of his personality of his dad. You know, obviously a little bit quieter, a little bit more introverted. But, you know, we felt good with him as a person. He works hard. He's a really good kid. He wants to be great. His teammates loved him in Colorado, and I know he'll come in here ready to work, ready to try and put his best foot forward in all areas of competition."

**I know you guys are crazy busy in the war room, and you don't have time to pay attention to a lot of the things that are going on, but were you aware that Shedeur received a really nasty prank call during the draft? I know you guys got to know him really well. You developed an affinity for him. Can you just address your reaction to that?**

**Stefanski:** "I mean, it's sad that these young men have to deal with this. That happened a lot in the green room in Green Bay, guys were getting calls. So it's silly, but onward and upward."

**And knowing Shedeur, as well as you got to know him, do you feel like, you know, he'll kind of be able to overcome or bounce back the adversity of what happened this draft weekend and kind of get his head back on and march forward?**

**Stefanski:** "I think all of our guys - I think every player, when they come into the draft, knows what number they were picked or if they were unpicked, and you can use that as motivation. We don't care once they walk in the doors. Don't care - first round pick, seventh round pick, undrafted. Once you're here and you're on our football team, you're a part of this culture, you're a part of this family, and we're just going to keep our head down and get to work."

**You said you didn't necessarily expect him to be where he was, so did you come into the building today thinking if he's available in round five, we're going to make a move for him? Was it in real time? How did all that go down?**

**Berry:** "You know, going into day three of the draft with him still on the board, it was a thought like, okay, well, depending on how far he goes, that'd be something that we would be interested in, potentially taking him off the board. So, you know, once, and in fairness, like, some of that is relative to what else is available to you from a prospect standpoint. And so, as the names kept coming off the board and we saw how we were positioned, you know, we just felt like the value was there."

**With Kenny Pickett, do you have to decide in May whether to pick up that fifth year option or how does that work?**

**Berry:** "So that would have been last year with Philly (Philadelphia Eagles). You have to make that decision after year three, since he's already in year four. That's not a decision that we make."

**You take two running backs, Quinshon (Judkins) and Dylan (Sampson). Is it fair to assume, or would it be fair to assume that what that means to Nick's potential future with the franchise as a potential resigning?**

**Berry:** "I'd say not necessarily, but the complexion of our running back room has changed this weekend. And so, as we work through the undrafted free agency process, maybe take a breath on Sunday, we'll reassess kind of where the roster is and what opportunities are available to us on the veteran market, and then we'll operate from there."

**Andrew, I think there was at least some thought that you guys might target or try to find a wide receiver in this weekend during the draft? Would you sort of say at this point that's an area you feel is still a work in progress in terms of maybe you're going to address it in the weeks ahead?**

**Berry:** "Whole roster is a work in progress, so any opportunity that we can use to improve it, we'll look into."



**Can you please put into words somehow just the emotional roller coaster that you have been on since the first day of this draft and waiting for this to happen, including a nasty prank call that everyone can agree was a horrible thing, to finally getting that phone call from the Browns and jumping in the pool?**

"I would say I'm extremely grateful for the opportunity, throughout everything. I don't ever focus on the negative or even think about the negative because the positive happens so fast, and it's a change of emotions. For me, it was just playing quarterback. That's what it's about. You can't be up too low or anything, you got to be able to celebrate. Like when we score a touchdown, we celebrate for a little bit. Now it's back to, it's time to work, it's time to go. So, that's all it is, it's a football game to me, and that's how I view it. That's my personality, is I always stay leveled through adversity and level through everything. Any situation I'm faced with, because I know what it's going to require for me to come out on top."

**I wanted to talk to you about that because I know you bring up how adversity fuels you a lot. So, I mean, just knowing so many analysts had you pegged as first or second round talent, to fall to day three, how is going when you went in the draft going to motivate you, you think, going forward in your NFL career?**

"I feel like talent is everywhere throughout the draft. It's about just being picked and who sees your value. That's pretty much it. Because it's a lot of valuable players that go in the rounds after the first and second. So I'm a product of one of those. And I understand you can't really categorize, I'll say my talent, I just got to prove and show what I'm capable of. But what fuels me is my purpose in life and understanding the route that we're gonna have to take. Understanding that I was able to get an opportunity when a lot of people didn't want to give me an opportunity. So that's what I'm truly thankful for. That's what fuels me."

**I just wanted to get your thoughts on specifically coming to Cleveland to play for the Browns. I know that this was an organization that you spent a lot of time with during the pre draft process and now it's official that you are coming here, but maybe a little later than you expected. So how do you think you're going to fit in with this team and with this organization?**

"I know I'm going to fit in perfectly. I feel like it's first getting in, showing respect to the vets, showing them I'm here ready to work. Show the coaches and have them understand, I'm here ready to work. So they could actually understand the real me. That's what I'm truly thankful to have, is the opportunity for people to actually see the real me and not be able to see stuff that could be true or not. That's what I'm most excited about being in the building and of course the staff, the cafeteria [staff], everything was extreme, the people there were genuine. It was real cool. So I left that visit knowing that if that was the place for me, I would feel real comfortable with what they have in place."

**I know you've been asked a million questions about your dad over the years, but you know, obviously his experience in this specific business in pro football, as you were going through the last couple of days and going through seeing kind of waiting your turn, waiting for your name. What was sort of his advice to you? Was there anything he sort of said to you or were things sort of understood just, you know, between you and him, you know, just about what was going on?**

"He said, 'God got us.' So that's what it is. I look at what went on and everything as a football game, you know, you may not come out early hot, you know, that may not happen. But you know, when it's down to the final two minutes of the game, then you understand the level of seriousness raises the stakes. All the stakes raised and that's why I thrive in those high pressure moments. So I never felt any type of way, I never felt any type of way. I understood, 'okay, this is the route' and that's it."

**Shader with that, what kind of burden was it being the son of Deion and that you were not just a regular player here in college football?**

"Well, it's never a burden. It's never a burden. I wouldn't look at that as that. I feel like everybody, God makes everybody have their own routes, and this is just my route. Like there's nothing I would be able to go back and wish that wasn't my dad because I'm truly thankful for him being there and the structure I have. So it's never really a burden. I just find it, you know, that other kids in similar situations, I want them to be proud of what their fathers and what they have accomplished. So then you could carry on a legacy, carry on the family name and not really be kind of ashamed about it. I don't like when people make people feel ashamed about it."

**You're going to get in here, just get to work in a couple weeks, rookie minicamp. What's your mindset heading into this organization with that minicamp around the corner and the anticipated quarterback competition for that starting role in this upcoming season?**

"Get there and handle my business, do what I have to do, whatever role that is, I'm just thankful for the opportunity. So that's all I could ask for. The rest is on me."

**You said earlier that you want people here with the Browns to see the real you. You're coming to a new franchise and fan base and city, so what can you tell people about what they will see? What is the real you?**

"The real me? I'm definitely going to be able to show up with actions. And you'll understand I'll be more involved in, you know, the community and really leading the kids in the right direction. That's the main thing. Whatever situation they're in, that's really where I feel like I have the most impact on, is really the kids and giving them a different perspective of respecting parents, respect their elders and respect those people that are in position to give you advice. So that's where you'll see the most impact there and of course, within the building and just making sure everybody is comfortable with whatever situation, anything is. So, that's how I make everybody feel comfortable and make them understand. I'm not, you know, just here to talk about it. I'm here to prove it."

**You've been around the game a long time and learning the business of football. And while you've said that you keep the faith, I was wondering if your experience the last couple days changes your outlook on the business of football or how things are done behind the scenes?**

"No, nothing really affected me the last couple of days. You know, to just really push having faith and understanding, you know, God really had me and I'm favored, I'm blessed. Besides that, it's not really anything that changed, the love of the game, is still the love of the game. When you get on the field, there wasn't too much negativity being said. I know I gotta clean up some things in my game for me to be at my best, but that's what I take each offseason one at a time and fix it. So I think that was just outside of football getting in the way. But therefore I have an opportunity now. We're about to get on grass really soon."

**Just throughout this entire process you've been pretty open about some of the comments made about you and different things that have been said. So given how that all went, given how this weekend went, going in the fifth round, do you come into the league feeling like you have a lot to prove even though you try to stay pretty positive and above the negativity?**

"Yeah, of course. The main thing, I'm just proving, Coach Stefanski and Mr. Berry that they are right. That's it. They're right about picking me. I'm a good decision. I'm a good draft pick for them, to be able to come in there and do what I need to do."

**Shedeur, do you have any regrets about anything in the pre draft process?**

"Do I have any regrets? I feel like in life it's always a way I can improve. So it's always in different areas I'm able to improve. And some things that I could have done at the time that seemed right at the time I could have went about in a different way and that was like more during the season and stuff like that."

**Wanted to ask you what that moment was like between you and your dad. Obviously, you wanted to go higher up in the draft but weren't able to do that. And after falling, I'm sure it was probably relief. And what was that like for you two? What was the embrace like?**

"I don't know if me and dad hugged, but it was more of just understanding that the main thing is just getting the opportunity. That's why I preach on that. That's why I stand on that, because that was my main goal. After we watched, you know, the first, second round go by and my name wasn't called or anything, it was okay, all we need is opportunity. So it really didn't matter what pick, what round, could have done anything."

**Everywhere you've gone in football, you've been able to turn around and elevate programs. What is it about you that gives you that ability? And I know being a fifth round pick, those expectations might not be fair in this particular moment, but also what would it mean for you to come to Cleveland and potentially work your way into becoming this franchise's long lost franchise quarterback?**

"I'm a Sanders, so it's always going to be expectations regardless of what pick I am."

**Shedeur, you mentioned that nothing has bothered you over the past couple of days. I actually have two questions real quick. The first question is did that prank phone call, did that not get to you? Or how do you feel about the person who did that to you and what impact did that have on you when that happened today?**

"It didn't really have an impact on me because it was just like, I mean, okay, like I don't feed into negativity or I don't feed into that stuff. You've seen on Deion (Sanders) Junior's YouTube video. My reaction to it, I don't... It is what it is. I think of course it is childish. Of course, I feel like it was a childish act, but everybody does childish things here and there."

**My second question is there was a lot of talk throughout the pre draft process that you were brash and arrogant and that you were not interviewing well and you weren't coming off right in some of those interviews. Do you feel like any of those things actually happen and do you think that that is what cost you some draft status?**

"I think what happened was I had a great interview and great process with the Browns, and that's why they were able to pick me. So anything outside the

organization is really a non factor to me now because this is where my focus and this is where my mind is just doing everything I can to make the team better. So everything outside of that, the opinions don't really matter."

**Shedeur, when the Browns drafted Dillon Gabriel yesterday, did you think it was possible you'd end up in Cleveland?**

"No, I wasn't really watching at that point in time."

**Shedeur as you look at this Browns roster, what gets you excited when you look at the offensive side of the ball?**

"I would say the system, the offense, I would say the receivers, the running backs. I would say the O line. It's really I want to be able to get in there and meet all these different personalities. And even the corner, even Denzel Ward, it was pretty cool he reached out and Kenny (Pickett) reached out too. So it's really just getting around the people and being able to live in the building."