



CHIEFS 2023 NFL DRAFT PACKET

Thursday, April 27th - Saturday, April 29th
 88th Annual NFL Draft - Kansas City, Missouri

<u>Rd.</u>	<u>Overall</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Wt.</u>	<u>College</u>
1	31	DE	Felix Anudike-Uzomah	6-4	255	Kansas State
2	55	WR	Rashee Rice	6-1	204	SMU
3	92	OL	Wanya Morris	6-6	307	Oklahoma
4	119	DB	Chamarri Conner	6-0	202	Virginia Tech
5	166	DE	BJ Thompson	6-6	243	SFA
6	194	DT	Keondre Coburn	6-2	332	Texas
7	250	DB	Nic Jones	6-0	189	Ball State

POSITION BREAKDOWN

- (2) DE – Anudike-Uzomah, Thompson
- (1) WR – Rice
- (1) OL – Morris
- (2) DB – Conner, Jones
- (1) DT – Coburn



Chiefs Head Coach Andy Reid Quotes

April 27, 2023

OPENING STATEMENT: “Alright, so with our first pick here, we are glad to welcome aboard (Felix) Anudike-Uzomah. How’d I do? That was good. Felix, Felix. Felix is a heck of a player, (he’s) from Kansas State. (He’s) a defensive end (and) we love his ability to rush the passer and play the run, he does both very well. He’s also a Kansas City native here, so we appreciate that part of it too but most of all (he’s) a good football player. When you’re picking right there at 31, you try to take the best player that’s available to you on the board and he was that guy and so we feel very comfortable bringing him into our program. (He’s) a great kid. (I) had a chance to hang with him here during our local pro day, and (I) enjoyed talking with him and visiting with him there. With that, the time’s yours.”

Q: On the call to Felix Anudike-Uzomah.

REID: “So, (General Manager) Brett (Veach) called him initially and talked to him. By the time I got to him (Felix Anudike-Uzomah) he couldn’t hear me and I couldn’t hear him (laughs) so I was just passing the phone on. He was obviously at a party – there was a party going on there.”

Q: How much is Defensive Coordinator Steve Spagnuolo in your ear about how much Felix Anudike-Uzomah fits into what he likes to do on defense?

REID: “Listen, Spags and our defensive staff did a great job of sorting all these guys out. (Defensive Line Coach) Joe Cullen is relentless with the (evaluations) – He evaluates everybody. If it says defensive line on it, he’s going to evaluate them. That’s Joe Cullen (that) I’m talking about. He loved him, Spags loved him (so) it was pretty easy. (A) pretty easy decision right there.”

Q: How close is Felix Anudike-Uzomah to being able to help you right away?

REID: “I think he’ll definitely be able to – barring an injury or something, Adam (Teicher) but I think he’ll be able to help us right away.”

Q: In both phases of the game? Both pass rush and run downs?

REID: “Yeah, sure. I think he can give you a lot of snaps in both places.”

Q: How much of your guys’ thinking was about an attacking edge rusher in this first round versus drafting the best player available?

REID: “We kind of start there on the offensive line then check those out and make sure we’re in good position in both. We thought that we could use another defensive lineman, either interior or an edge rusher – or an edge player so he fits into that.”

Q: Do you feel like there are less “needs” that need to be filled this year rather than other years?

REID: “I’d probably tell you yes. I feel that way. But, what you want to do is you want to bring in guys that can play but also have great competition. That kind of makes everybody better. And particularly when

you're down there low – I thought (General Manager) Brett (Veach) did a great job of staying discipline with what the (Draft) board was showing him and not going somewhere of just absolute need. So that's because we don't have a lot of those."

Q: Will Felix Anudike-Uzomah play the role that Frank Clark played last year on the opposite side of George Karlaftis?

REID: "Yeah, we'll see where he's most comfortable – what side he's most comfortable on and go from there but we'll have a nice rotation there, I think. Once it's all said and done."

Q: How confident are you that Felix Anudike-Uzomah can produce the same productivity as DE George Karlaftis?

REID: "Yeah, I think you get that same play time amount from him. Again, that's a long ways away but we felt comfortable enough in the first round to take him and not trade ourselves out of the first round which we had opportunities to do but we felt we wanted to stay right there and take him."

Q: What did Felix Anudike-Uzomah do that stood out from the rest of the local talent?

REID: "Well he didn't work out, he stood right next to me. He came up just to talk to us and didn't do his workout at that time."

Q: On the scouting benefit of Felix Anudike-Uzomah having a lot of snaps within his college career.

REID: "Yeah, I think that's big for that part of it. I know our guys came out feeling very comfortable about the way he plays, and I think I might have answered your question there, but I think our guys felt comfortable with all the stuff that they saw there."

Q: Felix Anudike-Uzomah turned 21 this year, how do you see him evolving over the next few years?

REID: "Yeah, he's young. So listen, you're going to see growth in that first year. Probably a little bit less the second year but you'll still get something - that's normal. Again, I would like to get hands on him before I start filling all that in."

Q: How special is drafting a player from Kansas State with the NFL Draft in town?

REID: "Yeah, I think it's neat and then the draft's right here in Kansas City. I know the people down at the Draft were excited. We're on the tv and they were fired up about it so Kansas State, Kansas City, and then the Draft. I think that's a real positive. I was proud of our fans they showed up like crazy today down there. That was a neat deal."

Q: Did you seriously consider drafting out or did Chairman/CEO Clark Hunt have any poll in that situation in wanting to announce the first-round pick?

REID: "Yeah, well I don't think he would have risked that if we felt like we wanted to trade out, but you get to that point and if you're that pick, you're going to have opportunities to trade out and so people were calling us but again, we felt very comfortable taking him."



Chiefs General Manager Brett Veach Quotes April 27, 2023

OPENING STATEMENT: "Alright well appreciate you guy sticking around. It's one of those good problems to have when you have to wait till the end of the Draft to make a selection, but needless to say, we're excited to add Felix (Anudike-Uzomah) to this roster and just want to first give a shoutout to the amazing fans that filled the streets downtown. What an awesome site. What an awesome night for Kansas City. All the feedback I got from all the NFL members downtown working this game (2023 NFL Draft), they couldn't be more excited for the turnout tonight. Again, quite an exciting night for us, and (I'm) excited to add Felix to this roster and with that I'll take your questions."

Q: What was the conversation like when you first called Felix Anudike-Uzomah?

VEACH: "Oh no he was super excited. It's one thing obviously just to get drafted in the NFL but then to have a local kid to get that kid on Draft night, while the draft is being held in Kansas City. Needless to say, he was really excited and obviously the conversation went really well."

Q: What did you see from him as a prospect?

VEACH: "Yeah, well we had a chance to see him obviously, for playing right down the road there in Manhattan, but you know one of the younger guys in the Draft too, I think he just turned 21 and he's done nothing but grow and develop throughout the last couple of years. We're excited for (Defensive Coordinator) Steve (Spagnuolo) and for (Defensive Line Coach) Joe Cullen to get their hands on him now and continue that growth and trajectory uphill, but again, anytime you can add a premium position and one of the youngest players in the draft and have that to work with for a long time is something we're excited about."

Q: How confident are you that by Day 1 you can get him ready to step into the rotation of the defensive line and play?

VEACH: "Yeah, I feel really good about not just the prospect but the coaching staff we have. Those guys (are) great teachers, great coaches and we had an opportunity to spend a lot of time with Felix, being so close, so again, (Defensive Line Coach) Joe's (Cullen) excited, (Defensive Coordinator) Steve's (Spagnuolo) excited and think he'll come right in here and having him next to George (Karlaftis) here for the next handful of years is something those guys will quickly develop a bond and they'll be a good one-two tandem there for the next few years."

Q: When you got on the clock, was he the declared guy or was there a process you went through to select him?

VEACH: "No, he was the top guy. We did have some calls, I think (Head) Coach (Andy Reid) maybe mentioned that. It's a situation though when you have a guy that is clearly the top guy left and then you know the calls that we had were – you're talking mid-40's. It's a long way away and then you're going to

end up just trading those picks to try to get back up and get a guy like Felix, so we thought let's not get cute here. There's a guy we like (at a) position that we need, and we'll just go ahead and make the pick and certainly glad we did."

Q: Was there a possibility of trading up earlier in the Draft? Were you close at all?

VEACH: "Yeah, we had conversations and some of the teams that we spoke to earlier in the day, I mean, you know the price was pretty steep at the time and then there was a window, I think, minus the Bills moving up two spots with the four, there was conversation that we had with teams. You know when it was their time to pick, they were staying, they weren't trading. You know Jacksonville had that small move with Buffalo there at four and the teams around they were not interested in trading and then teams higher than that, the asking price was a lot. You know having picks the next couple of days, having a two, a three, two fours, we still want to deal in volume here. We want to get some good players and we just thought it was best to keep those picks and have an arsenal the next few days."

Q: You mentioned the premium positions. Did you go into this draft thinking we've got to get an edge rusher the first 'x' amount of rounds or anything?

VEACH: "Well I think you know just looking at our roster there were check boxes that we wanted to address throughout the weekend and whether that was defensive end or a skill position or offensive line or what have you, we just wanted to come away with one of those premium positions right off the bat and then work from there and see how the board goes. But, again, when we were sitting there at 31, he was the top guy on the board, and it made that decision easy."

Q: Did he rise up your board specifically because of your need or because of his position?

VEACH: "Well he was on our - are you asking if he rose if the draft was going on?"

Q: Was it more based on the team's need or the player himself?

VEACH: "Really the player himself. We're going to set our board and our board is going to stay locked in and then we're going to follow the board and then when we get to our pick it's pretty easy I think when you set that board and stay true to it and when you get your pick you face a decision of take the highest guy on your board or trade down and again, then you're looking at a scenario where you're probably trying to trade back up to get the same player. He was a top guy on the board and a position we need so it made sense at the time and you know, again, certainly excited for the next few days and the additional picks we have coming up."

Q: How do you feel now about the group of guys you have on the edge?

VEACH: "Yeah, no, listen it's a good group. We've got a lot of young guys now. We've brought in Charles (Omenihu) and we have some flex with Charles and now we have George (Karlaftis), Felix (Anudike-Uzomah) is in there and certainly with Chris (Jones), Turk (Tershawn) Wharton is coming back now from an injury now so we're excited to get him back and he looks good so again, can't have enough depth on that defensive line and that's something that we're always going to look to add. So, we're excited to add Felix tonight and get ready for tomorrow and for Saturday."

Q: You've talked about some of the excitement from Defensive Line Coach Joe Cullen and Defensive Coordinator Steve Spagnuolo. What is it that excites them about him? What excites you about him?

VEACH: “Just the motor, the relentless effort. Again, guy that had a ton of production at Kansas State as I mentioned, just turned 21 so a majority of this production was coming in a big time conference at 19 and 20 years old so I think every year he’s been there you can see the growth and development and being so young, I still think there’s a huge window for him to continue to grow and develop and we’re excited that we get him at this stage of his career and being so young. We’ve got a lot of years to continue to grow and develop him.”

Q: Head Coach Andy Reid credited you for having discipline tonight. How difficult was it to maintain discipline tonight?

VEACH: “Yeah, it’s one of those things where you’re just trying to calculate and when you’re on the clock there and teams are trying to trade up there right at the end. Just trying to read the board and I think it wasn’t that hard just because again, the trade offers were so far down in the mid-40s where you just try to quickly do the math in your mind and think about the board and how it’s likely to play out tomorrow. Just, the fact of the matter was it was just a matter of us having to use a lot of those assets to go right back up and sometimes when you get too cute you just miss out on a good player, so we just wanted to sit there and do what made sense and that was just make the selection.”

Q: How many guys did you have first-round grades on? Was Felix Anudike-Uzomah one of those guys?

VEACH: “I think we had, you know, a handful of guys, 16-18 guys. Felix was right up there in that list. You know, these lists are different depending on whether or not you count the quarterbacks, right? So, we have a little different model that we use just to kind of project where guys are going to go and what we’re going to do but I think all these teams by the time you get to the 20s, you’re picking on guys that if they’re not first round value picks, I mean they’re high twos. These drafts turn into first rounders are 15 and then even the picks at 25, 28, 30 they’re right there so these values are all the same when you get to pick 31.”

Q: There was a wide receiver run around pick 20. How did the strategy change and was there temptation to move up?

VEACH: “Yeah, I mean – like you said Pete (Sweeney) the run was there with the wideouts there and we had gotten out in front of that, though and we kind of knew where the market was. Obviously, there were a few teams that were up there and they were AFC teams and they weren’t interested in talking to us and trading with us. And after you get locked out of there of not being able to trade then it comes into ‘well, we would do it but the asking price is going to be even more than what you would think.’ So, (It’s) just one of those things that you’ve just got to stay discipline and know that the object is to fill out a deep, talented roster and you have to work with the strength in numbers and obviously our guys do a great job of identifying talent throughout the course of the draft. So, I think that’s the part of being disciplined there. You could be too aggressive at times but when teams want – it’s a little bit tougher sometimes when you’re dealing with teams in certain positions that are in your division or conference or what have you or teams that you’ll play. The asking price may be more. So we were aware of that and then it was just a matter of doing what made sense for our team in the long run.”

Q: Felix Anudike-Uzomah seems pretty durable. Do you agree?

VEACH: “Durable, healthy, young and again, a guy that plays a premium position (and) a guy that’s continued to grow and develop and again, had a lot of exposure of seeing him a ton and (I) got the chance

to meet with him on multiple occasions. Certainly that played into it and again, a ton of production for a guy that really did a bulk of that work at 19 (and) 20 years old in those big time conference. (And) going against some really good tackles the last couple of years. A lot of these guys have gotten drafted early and played early and they've had success in the NFL so the sky's the limit there. With our coaching staff, we're excited for him to come in here and continue this upward trajectory."

Q: With the first round in the books, what would you say your priorities are going into day two?

VEACH: "Yeah, I think – Herbie (Teope) you can make a case for other than a linebacker, I think – again, I've been down this road a few times and you may go into a season thinking that you're good at a position and then – a couple years ago, I think our first Super Bowl run in '19, we lost three defensive ends within a matter of three or four weeks. So you've got to plan and prepare for a 20-game season hopefully and I think that when you have that mindset these guys that lineup and start week one, they never end up being the same starting lineup (in) week 17,18, 19, 20 (or) into the playoffs. Other than positions, I think that we just have numbers and there's just not enough play time to go around. I think anything's on the table rather it be offensive line, more defensive line, cornerbacks, (or) receivers. That's where I think that you just stay true to the board and when you have a guy that when the value fits where you're picking. Other than you can make a case for linebacker, I think anything will be on the table for sure.

Q: Last week you mentioned this class being heavy defensive back wise. Is that position still in your thought process?

VEACH: "I think it's an opportunity where it's one of those premium positions that I think you're going to find a lot of guys that are super talented and (can) come in right away and not just make the team but push for playing time. Anytime you have one of those positions and you have a lot of depth in numbers, I don't think you discount – 'maybe you need another this or that' when you have a guy that you think is – like tomorrow if we're picking at 63 and there's a guy that we felt is a second round talent cornerback and he's on the board I think you stay true to the board, just like we did tonight."



FELIX ANUDIKE-UZOMAH

DEFENSIVE END ##
KANSAS STATE

ROOKIE

HEIGHT: 6'4"
WEIGHT: 225 LBS
DRAFTED: D1-23
BIRTHDAY: 1/24/02



👁️ First-year defensive end enters his first season with the Chiefs in 2023.

👁️ Originally entered the NFL as a first-round pick (31st overall) by the Kansas City Chiefs in the 2023 NFL Draft.

Transactions:

Originally entered the NFL as a first-round pick (31st overall) by the Kansas City Chiefs in the 2023 NFL Draft.

COLLEGE

Saw time in 32 games with 27 starts for Kansas State ... Finished his career tied for sixth in school history in career sacks (20.5), while he tied for fourth in career forced fumbles (eight) ... The second player in school history to tally three games with 3.0 or more sacks (DL Nyle Wiren) ... Left college football ranking fourth nationally and tops in the Big 12 among active players in forced fumbles per game (0.25), while he was sixth nationally and tops in the Big 12 in sacks per game (0.64) ... Received the following awards and honors: 2022 Lott IMPACT Trophy Finalist, 2022 Ted Hendricks Award Finalist, 2022 Second Team All-American (Walter Camp, FWAA, AFCA, CBS Sports), 2022 Third Team All-American (Associated Press), 2022 Chuck Bednarik Award Semifinalist, 2022 Rotary Lombardi Award Semifinalist, 2022 Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year (Coaches, AP), 2022 Big 12 Defensive Lineman of the Year (Coaches), 2022 Bronko Nagurski Trophy watch list, 2022 Lombardi Award watch list, 2021-22 First Team All-Big 12 (Coaches, Associated Press), 2022 Lott IMPACT Trophy Player of the Week (Texas Tech), 2021 Third Team All-American (Phil Steele), 2021 Big 12 co-Defensive Lineman of the Year (Coaches), 2021 Honorable Mention Big 12 Def. Player of the Year (Coaches), 2021 Walter Camp National Defensive Player of the Week (TCU), 2021 Bednarik Award Player of the Week (TCU), 2021 Bronko Nagurski Trophy Player of the Week (TCU), 2021 Big 12 Defensive Player of the Week (TCU), 2021 Big 12 Newcomer of the Week (Southern Illinois) and 2021 Ted Hendricks Award watch list.

PERSONAL

- 👁️ Played at Lee's Summit High School under head coach Eric Thomas.
- 👁️ Picked up first team all-state honors a senior from the Missouri Football Coaches Association (MFCA) and the Missouri state media, while he was a second-team pick by the MFCA as a junior.
- 👁️ Earned all-district honors his final three seasons from the MFCA.
- 👁️ Carded 184 tackles, 55 tackles for loss and 13 sacks over his three-year career.
- 👁️ Had 77 tackles as a junior, 20 of which went for a loss.
- 👁️ Also totaled 20 TFLs as a sophomore.
- 👁️ Recorded five sacks as both a junior and senior.
- 👁️ Born in Kansas City, Mo.
- 👁️ Son of Felix and Cynthia Uzomah.
- 👁️ Has one brother, Celestine, and two sisters, Destiny and Vanessa.
- 👁️ Majored in social sciences.



Chiefs DE Felix Anudike-Uzomah Quotes

April 27, 2023

Q: What was your Draft party like?

ANUDIKE-UZOMAH: "It was amazing. It was just a lot of people, a lot of emotions. (My friends and family) were more excited than me, for sure. It was just – first of all, I wanted a small (amount of) people because I'm a type of person that (doesn't) like all the attention on me, so I just need my family. But it worked out good. I got drafted by literally my favorite team growing up, so it's just definitely a dream come true."

Q: What has made Kansas City a home for you? How happy are you to get to play for your hometown team?

ANUDIKE-UZOMAH: "It's (my) number one love. I remember going to my first Chiefs game back when I was seven years old, from there I just fell in love with this. Back in the (former QB) Matt Cassel days – it's funny – back in the Matt Cassel days, back whenever we were like 1-12 and we beat the Green Bay Packers and we were all excited because we just beat, like, the Packers at the time – it's a dream come true. Also, I just remember me and my friends just went up to training camp just to watch (Travis) Kelce and the Chiefs literally just play. It's coming full circle which is crazy and it's unbelievable that I'm even in this position now. I'm a Kansas City Chief. So, I'm definitely going to celebrate with my family and (everyone) else. I'm thankful for the Kansas City Chiefs fans because I was one of the Kansas City Chiefs fans, so I know how die hard we are for the Chiefs."

Q: What's the most surreal part of the night – that the NFL Draft is in Kansas City, that the Chiefs selected you? What were you hearing ahead of time about where you might go?

ANUDIKE-UZOMAH: "The thing is, I in my heart felt like first-round possibility. I had other people saying I was (a) second rounder, people in the media saying I was a second rounder. I saw the Kansas City Chiefs host me three times, so I'm like, 'Ok, I'm destined to go to the Chiefs.' I saw you guys loved Frank Clark. Frank Clark is one of my favorite pass rushers (just) watching him. And I was just like, 'Listen, if he left, like, I could definitely have input for the team, especially because I'm a young rusher and I could learn from the people ahead of me.' So, it was just a wild experience – having the Draft in KC, me coming out this year. This is all I dreamed of. Like this is literally – I had a dream of this like four times in my lifetime and it's crazy how I'm living in the moment, I'm literally stepping foot...Tomorrow I'm going to probably wake up and check my phone to make sure I'm still on the Kansas City Chiefs. It's honestly surreal. And I'm glad to be a part of the Chiefs. I'm glad to be a part of a winning culture. (I'm) glad to be a part of (Head Coach) Andy Reid and everything else. And I thank (General Manager Brett) Veach so much for even having me out on the Kansas City Chiefs."

Q: General Manager Brett Veach talked about how you just turned 21 in January. How much more development do you think your game is still going to have? Are there any specific things that you need to work on in this next phase?

ANUDIKE-UZOMAH: “Yeah, (in) the next phase I want to work on my upper body. I want to work on my hand placement. I want to work on a lot of things. There’s a lot of things I want to work on because I’m only 21 years old. So, it’s just a dream come true. Again, a dream come true. And me being a younger rusher, there’s a lot of things I can get from the older players about, like, how to perform (at) the next level, what you need to do, tips and stuff like that. So, in a couple of years I can still be a veteran, but I’ll be probably 23 or 22 or 24, so and then have a long career. So, I’m glad I came out this early being young. I’m glad I took the opportunity. And I’m glad a freaking Kansas City Chief.”



1st-Round Draft Notes

April 27, 2023

- With the 31st pick in the 2023 NFL Draft, the Chiefs selected **DE Felix Anudike-Uzomah** out of Kansas State.
- It marks the second time in franchise history that the club used the 31st overall pick. The only other time the club used the 31st overall pick was to select **T Trezelle Jenkins** out of the University of Michigan in the 1995 NFL Draft. In 2021 the Chiefs traded the 31st overall pick to the Baltimore Ravens as part of the T Orlando Brown Jr. trade and in 1979, the Chiefs traded the 31st overall pick (then a second-round selection), along with a 1980 second-round pick, in exchange for the 23rd overall pick in the 1979 NFL Draft which was used to select QB Steve Fuller.
- It marks the 26th time in franchise history that the club selected a defensive player with a first-round pick. **Anudike-Uzomah** is the third-straight defensive player selected in the first round by the Chiefs, joining **CB Trent McDuffie** and **DE George Karlaftis** who were both picked in the first round of the 2022 NFL Draft.
- **Anudike-Uzomah** becomes the second-straight defensive end selected by the Chiefs in the first round, joining **DE George Karlaftis**, who was selected with the 30th overall pick in the 2022 NFL Draft.
- Following the pick of **Anudike-Uzomah**, Kansas City has now selected 13 defensive linemen in the first round in franchise history. He joins **DE George Karlaftis** (30th overall, 2022), **DT Dontari Poe** (11th overall, 2012), **DE Tyson Jackson** (3rd overall, 2009), **DT Glenn Dorsey** (5th overall, 2008), **DE Tamba Hali** (20th overall, 2006), **DT Ryan Sims** (6th overall, 2002), **DE Neil Smith** (2nd overall, 1988), **DE Mike Bell** (2nd overall, 1979), **DE Art Still** (2nd overall, 1978), **DT Gene Trosch** (24th overall, 1967), **DE Aaron Brown** (AFL Draft, 1966), **DT Buck Buchanan** (1st overall, 1963). The Chiefs have now selected a defensive end in the first round eight times in franchise history.
- **Anudike-Uzomah** is the first player from Kansas State to be selected by the Chiefs in the first round in franchise history.
- **Anudike-Uzomah** is the eighth Kansas State Wildcat to be selected by the Chiefs in franchise history, joining **FB Braden Wilson** (204th overall, 2013), **LB Monty Beisel** (107th overall, 2001), **WR Kevin Lockett** (47th overall, 1997), **LB Gary Spani** (58th overall, 1978), **LB Randy Ross** (416th overall, 1973), **E Cedric Price** (30th round, 1961 AFL Draft), **E Joe Vader** (first selections, inaugural 1960 AFL Draft).
- In **General Manager Brett Veach's** time as a personnel executive working with Head Coach Andy Reid (2007-23), he has been part of staffs that have selected 12 first-round players – four in Philadelphia and eight in Kansas City – with **Anudike-Uzomah** being the third defensive end selected in the first round, joining **Karlaftis** (30th overall, 2022) and **Brandon Graham** (13th overall, 2010).
- **Head Coach Andy Reid** has now drafted a defensive end in the first round four times during his tenure as an NFL head coach with the Philadelphia Eagles (1999-2012) and the Kansas City Chiefs (2013-23): **Anudike-Uzomah** (31st overall, 2023); **Karlaftis** (30th overall, 2022), **Brandon Graham** (13th overall, 2010) and **Jerome McDougle** (15th overall, 2003).

- **Anudike-Uzomah** was the seventh defensive end/edge rusher taken in the first round of the 2023 NFL Draft, joining **Will Anderson Jr.** (3rd overall out of Alabama), **Tyree Wilson** (7th overall out of Texas Tech), **Lukas Van Ness** (13th overall out of Iowa), **Will McDonald IV** (15th overall out of Iowa State), **Myles Murphy** (28th overall out of Clemson) and **Nolan Smith** (30th overall out of Georgia).
- **Anudike-Uzomah** was the first and only Kansas State player to be selected in the first round of the 2023 NFL Draft. He becomes the first Wildcat to be picked in the first round of the NFL Draft since **QB Josh Freeman** was selected 17th overall by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in the 2009 NFL Draft.
- **Anudike-Uzomah** is the only former Kansas State Wildcat on Kansas City's current roster.
- **Anudike-Uzomah** is a Kansas City native, attending Lee's Summit High School and starring for the Tigers as a prep. He becomes the first Kansas City native selected by the Chiefs since the club selected **T Donald Stephenson** (Blue Springs High School) out of Oklahoma with the 74th overall pick in the 2012 NFL Draft.

Round 1 Reset

- The Chiefs currently hold nine selections in the remaining rounds of the 2023 NFL Draft:
 - 2nd Round – 63rd overall (Friday)
 - 3rd Round – 95th overall (Friday)
 - 4th Round – 122nd overall (Saturday)
 - 4th Round – 134th overall (Saturday)
 - 5th Round – 166th overall (Saturday)
 - 6th Round – 178th overall (Saturday)
 - 6th Round – 217th overall (Saturday)
 - 7th Round – 249th overall (Saturday)
 - 7th Round – 250th overall (Saturday)



Chiefs Chairman & CEO Clark Hunt Quotes

April 28, 2023

OPENING STATEMENT: “Before we get there (to questions), I want to say a few things. You know, first of all, I want to compliment the job that the city has done in hosting the Draft. I had a chance to be down there before the Draft and then also at the end of the Draft and I just thought it was spectacular. I thought it showed great on TV as well. I’ve heard nothing but compliments from the League office personnel in terms of the job that the city has done and based on my experience walking around the street beforehand, it looked like everybody was having a very fun time as well. I also want to mention how excited we are to add Felix (Anudike-Uzomah) to the roster. Both (Head) Coach (Andy) Reid and (General Manager) Brett Veach believe that he’ll be able to come in and make a significant contribution this year. I had a chance to meet him a few minutes ago and he’s so excited to be a member of the Chiefs. In fact, last night when I was talking to him on the phone, he broke down crying and I could hear him say, ‘I’ve been dreaming about this my entire life.’ So, it’s really neat to add a local kid and somebody who went to college pretty close by at K-State to the roster. He definitely wants to be a Chief and is excited about it. And then finally, I want to congratulate Dante Hall on being the 52nd member of the Chiefs Hall of Fame. I think it’s a very deserving honor for him. What an incredible player he was and also, I want to compliment on him on his many contributions to the community both during his time as a player and also in retirement. I had a chance to be over with him in Germany last year helping market the NFL and the Chiefs in Germany and he’s just a great ambassador for the team and the community and with that I’ll open it up.”

Q: There’s no blueprint for a team to host the Draft after winning the Super Bowl and it was quite a statement for the club. How much did you think that through? How did it feel?

HUNT: “Yes, it was a very unique situation to have the Super Bowl champion Chiefs drafting last in the first round. It was a conversation that took place between our staff and the League office, and the League office thought it would be neat to close the Draft with something very Chiefs-focused like they had opened the Draft with a Chiefs vibe with Patrick (Mahomes) and (Travis) Kelce out there on the stage.”

Q: What did it feel like to bring out the third Super Bowl trophy?

HUNT: “I really think the Draft has been all about Kansas City and it’s an exclamation point on an incredible decade that we’ve had here with our sports teams, starting with Sporting Kansas City winning the MLS Cup in 2013, then the Royals hosting two consecutive World Series in 2014 and 2015 and then of course the five AFC Championship Games that we’ve been fortunate enough to have hosted, claiming a couple of Lombardi Trophies along the way. So, I think the Draft in a lot of ways is a celebration of all that success and certainly we’re very proud of the Chiefs accomplishments this past season and it was great having not only the Super Bowl LVII trophy out there but the other two we’ve won as well.”

Q: How was it looking out to the crowd on the hillside? Was it overwhelming?

HUNT: “Yeah it really was, and I’ve had the good fortune of being on a stage very similar to that several times in the last few years with the Super Bowl parade concluding right there (at Union Station) and the visual from that stage particularly during the Super Bowl parades where it was all red up on the hill, I mean it’s really overwhelming. The Draft was a little bit different in that you had the pods for each team. So, I really liked the Chiefs pod which was right down in front to the left. I did hear a few boos from some of the other pods, but it was overwhelming, and that stage is much bigger than a football field. I thought it showed tremendously. It did a great job of incorporating the architecture of Union Station and not covering that with stage, so I think all that worked really well.”

Q: What would have happened if you traded out of the first round, in terms of you announcing the Chiefs first-round pick on stage?

HUNT: “Well, I don’t think I would have made it out on the stage had that happened. And certainly, with (General Manager) Brett Veach, those are always possibilities.”

Q: Logistically, were you down there 30 minutes early?

HUNT: “So, I got down there, probably, 15 minutes before we were on the clock and was in a green room actually with the Kelce brothers (Travis and Jason) and their mother (Donna), who was announcing the Eagles’ pick right before us. So, there was a lot of optionality to how that could’ve turned out and whichever way it went, it would be great for the Chiefs.”

Q: How do you quantify Patrick Mahomes’ contribution to the franchise in elevating its status in the League? Can you sum up what he’s meant for the franchise in elevating it to where it is now?

HUNT: “Well, certainly when you talk about the success that we’ve had over the last five years, Patrick (Mahomes) has to be right there at the top of the list, although I think it’s unfair to rank people because the role that (Head Coach) Andy Reid has played certainly makes him one of the most important figures in the history of the franchise. And then (General Manager) Brett Veach and (President) Mark Donovan and their respective responsibilities have also done an outstanding job. And I feel like in some ways, we’ve been stacking one brick on top of another as we’ve built this and found a way to evolve and get a little bit better each year. And that’s really a credit to all those individuals that I mentioned, but certainly Patrick’s incredible and he’s not only incredible as a player on the field but also as a representative of the franchise off the field.”

Q: General Manager Brett Veach has hinted at potentially altering Mahomes’ contract after some other quarterback deals get negotiated. How do you go about determining his value to the franchise?

HUNT: “Well, I don’t know that there’s really a way to quantify it financially and no matter what he makes over his career, I’m sure one way or another he’ll be underpaid. The great thing about Patrick (Mahomes) is, when we did that deal, he recognized that he wanted to give the club the flexibility to build the team around him. And that contract was structured in that way. We’re only one year in to a 10-year contract, so there’s a long way to go but I think what Patrick cared most about was winning and he’s certainly been able to do a lot of that. (General Manager) Brett Veach has had enough flexibility to be able to add quality players each year and that’s part of the reason why we were able to lift the Lombardi Trophy again.”

Q: Have you altered anything since the NFLPA report has come out?

HUNT: “Yeah so, we were surprised by some of the negative things in that report. I’ve heard reports that at least some of that survey was taken earlier in the year and there were some things that were subsequently changed even before we were aware of the report. I’ll be interested to see it this coming year. Nobody likes criticism, but from my standpoint, feedback’s always positive. And so, we’ll take it and learn from it.”

Q: Some of it is related to financial investments such as the upgrades to the facilities. Are you planning on making any changes?

HUNT: “I think one of them was related to the travel accommodations, including the aircraft size. There was a time during COVID that we were forced to fly smaller airplanes and only recently have been able to go back to bigger airplanes, so that would be an example of one thing that I think is corrected. Another thing that was similar to that is providing babysitting services for the players during the game. We had to eliminate that during COVID and we will bring that back going forward so those are examples. And then things related to the facility – you know, I think we’ve all been thrilled to be in this beautiful training complex here for the past 16 or 17 years and it’s hard to believe that it’s already aging, but it is. The League continues to grow, the staff continues to grow, and we certainly have to figure out how to accommodate our needs going forward – not only at the stadium, but also at the training facility.”

Q: Are there any updates on a trip to the White House?

HUNT: “There’s not any specific news, but we have been in contact with them and are discussing a couple dates. But nothing has been confirmed at this point.”

Q: How is everything going on your end as far as the stadium situation with the Royals?

HUNT: “It is (going) and we do stay in communication with the Royals. They’ve been going through a process, receiving some feedback from some community events that they’ve done to try and get thoughts from the community on what’s the best direction for them. Truthfully, we’ve not focused on it a lot since the playoffs started, we got busy with that and then the Super Bowl and now the Draft, but we’ll turn our focus back to it. And we’ll work with the Royals from a timing standpoint because obviously the two of us have a partnership here and we’ve got to make a decision that’s good for both franchises.”

Q: Royals Chairman and CEO John Sherman said that it’s a possibility that they can have a stadium before the lease is over and you guys could be separated. Will it be good for the Chiefs to have their own lease?

HUNT: “I don’t really think that it’s worked to our disadvantage to have them as partners. I mean, this sports complex is special and there’s certainly enough space here for both franchises. They haven’t made a final decision on where they’d like to go, but I know that they’re looking at some sites around downtown and if that’s the decision that they end up making then we’ll have more flexibility to do something here.”

Q: You recently expanded the international marketing area. What’s the significance of that?

HUNT: “I think it was an opportunity that we and the league recognized that we should have had a couple of years ago because as you expand in Germany, from a language standpoint, you have a lot of German speakers in Austria and Switzerland and those are really similar markets from a sports marketing standpoint. So, when the league indicated that that would be an opportunity, we were eager to seize it. I think the timing will be great with the team playing in Germany this fall.”

Q: How important was it to you to see Patrick Mahomes in front of the crowd last night?

HUNT: “I would say it a little bit different. Anything that we can do to highlight either Kansas City or the Chiefs is a huge win for the community, and I think it’s safe to say that our number one ambassador is now Patrick (Mahomes), so having him out there on stage made a lot of sense, particularly given the number of NFL fans that were watching.”

Q: Have you heard anything about people thinking it was too Kansas City centric?

HUNT: “I haven’t heard that yet and I’m betting that I don’t hear that here in Kansas City. It’ll be interesting maybe a few months down the road whether it is. Again, I think it just ties back to the uniqueness of us being the Super Bowl champions and that was just a few months ago, so the timing was really good. It was a great way to extend our celebration.”

Q: Has your preference changed on staying at GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium?

HUNT: “No it hasn’t. We feel structurally that the building has an opportunity to go further and that was a part of the evaluation process that we’ve been through over the last couple of years. We’re still trying to make a final decision between a renovation and a new building but at least we know at this point that it’s an option if we’d like to renovate GEHA Field at Arrowhead and keep one of the greatest traditions in pro football alive.”

Q: Can you share your perspective on how much you contribute to a possible draft trade? And as you head into the second round, do you anticipate you guys will trade up tonight?

HUNT: “Yeah, so I mentioned earlier that (General Manager) Brett (Veach) is fairly aggressive and willing to trade both up and down. And he and his staff are constantly working the phones during every draft, you know, looking for opportunities to make a move because there are always players that you believe are going to be taken before you get to your natural pick, and you want to know if there is an option there that makes sense in terms of the compensation for the trade. Last night, you know, was like any night and Brett’s staff was working that. When we go through those processes, if something looks like it has traction, he and I and typically (Head) Coach (Andy) Reid will get together to really talk about the compensation and whether it really makes sense for the franchise and what it then means in day two and day three – particularly if you’re giving away draft picks – you know, is it going to limit what we’d like to get accomplish? That’s a dialogue that happens every year and last night was no different. You know as we go into the night, I don’t have any expectation that he will trade, but I certainly believe that it’s a possibility and I know he will have some options based on the work that his staff will do as we get into the middle of the round.”

Q: Do you have a moment that has been most special for you?

HUNT: “So, like the Super Bowl parade, I would have a hard time picking out just one thing from last night. You know, certainly getting to announce the selection of the player with local roots I thought was special. But, before the Draft I was up on the World War I Museum and Memorial and I was doing some interviews up there and I had a chance to look back at Union Station – and that’s a view that I’ve never seen before – and there were already 40,000 or 50,000 fans that had streamed in, most of them wearing red, and it was a pretty special sight to see the draft stage and all the Chiefs fans from that vantage point.”

Q: The first round gets a lot of attention, but the Chiefs have drafted a lot of prominent players in the second and third rounds. How excited are you for tonight and tomorrow?

HUNT: "I think day two and day three are really where personnel staffs can distinguish themselves and (General Manager) Brett's (Veatch) staff has certainly done that in recent years. We look back to last year and the number of players that we were able to select in the later rounds who ended up making a big contribution last year all the way through the Super Bowl. You tend to get a lot of dispersion on day two and particularly day three in terms of how teams evaluate players and I think it's where the really good staffs can shine. So, I'm looking forward to adding some talented players here over the next two days and hopefully ones who will be able to help us get back to the Super Bowl this year."



Chiefs Assistant General Manager Mike Borgonzi Quotes

April 28, 2023

OPENING STATEMENT: “So we had two picks tonight. (We) felt good about both picks. Two offensive guys, obviously. The first one Rashee Rice, SMU. You know, explosive, fast-twitch kid, really good with the ball after the catch – he’s like a running back after the catch. So, he can play inside, he can play outside so coaches will find a way to get him involved in the offense but feel really good about him and then with second pick we took Wanya Morris out of Oklahoma, tackle. You know, (he) played right tackle at Oklahoma and also played, he was at Tennessee before, first couple years and actually played beside Trey Smith playing left tackle. (He’s a) big, long athletic guy that will get in the mix here at tackle. So, excited about both picks. You know, we’ve got five picks here tomorrow but feel good about these two picks here tonight.”

Q: Did you just feel like defensive line, wide receiver and offensive tackle were the three biggest needs that the team had? Are you glad to have those checked off?

BORGONZI: “Yeah there’s always a sense of what you need but we’re really looking at the best value on the board so the first night we took Felix (Anudike-Uzomah), obviously a pass rusher, you can’t get enough of those guys. And then we came back, and we knew we wanted to take a receiver here in the second round here early. We move up for Rice and you know were able to get a tackle here in the third (round) so we felt good about filling the needs but also staying true to the board too as well.”

Q: What made trading up in both scenarios appealing for you guys?

BORGONZI: “We have a cluster of guys that we’re looking at and we felt like, (General Manager Brett) Veach just said, ‘Let’s go up and get our guy.’ So I think heading into this night here we were targeting some wide receivers and Rashee was our guy so we went up and got him and that was really it. And then we got to the third round, and we had a cluster of guys and knew we wanted to get a tackle and Wanya was the guy we were going after.”

Q: What was it about Rashee Rice that led you to believe he’d be better than some other available receivers?

BORGONZI: “When we looked at him in the fall and (Regional Scout) Jason Lamb, our area scout and (National Scout) Jonathan Howard went in there, you know, just really talented guy and then we got a chance to see him at the Senior Bowl (and) got a chance to see him up close (and) live and he’s a big kid. He’s explosive. The one thing he really does, he has like a 41-inch vertical leap. This kid is explosive. He’ll go up and get the football and then once he catches the ball, you could see, he’s violent and he turns into a running back after the catch and so that’s a big part of our offense here. So, we felt really comfortable with him. You know, like I said, got a chance to see him at the Senior Bowl and then had him in here for a visit as well and he met with our offensive staff and we felt really good about him.”

Q: Does he have kick return potential?

BORGONZI: “Yeah, I mean he’s got the – he didn’t do much of it as SMU but he can do that, for sure.”

Q: How much does you guys having these premium positions locked down factor into your draft strategy for tomorrow?

BORGONZI: “Yeah so, Sam (McDowell), you’re always looking at the best value on the board but when you see those premier position like Felix is a pass rusher so you can’t – (Head) Coach (Andy) Reid always says you can’t have enough of those guys – pass rushers, offensive line, defensive line, corners. So, yeah, that certainly does come into play when we’re looking at the board is those premier positions. The cost is high to get those guys and it’s early in the draft or if it’s in free agency, those guys cost a lot. So, yeah, that does come into play.”

Q: How much of what you guys have accomplished before this draft allows you to implement that?

BORGONZI: “Yeah, so you have the two big acquisition periods, so we had free agency to look. You end the season with some strengths and weaknesses and (we look at) what else are our needs. And so, you look at what can we fill in free agency that makes sense and then heading into the draft you look at what the needs are. Fortunately, we have a pretty good roster here so we’re just getting guys who can come in here and compete and add depth to the roster right now.”

Q: Does adding Wanya Morris mean that Jawaan Taylor is going to play left tackle?

BORGONZI: “I don’t think anything is set in stone right now. We’ll get to OTA’s and (Offensive Line) Coach (Andy) Heck plays these guys everywhere just to kind of see what’s the best five (offensive lineman) and who fits where. That’s all up to Coach Heck and the offensive staff.”

Q: There were a lot of pass catchers that went down to Texas to with Patrick Mahomes and Rashee Rice was one of them. What did Mahomes say he liked about playing with Rice?

BORGONZI: “He was down there (laughs)? It’s Patrick Mahomes and everyone’s going to want to go out and work with him. The thing about Pat (is) he’ll go out on the playground and throw the ball around to anyone. There’s a bunch of players down there (and) of course we’re going to take Pat’s input.”

Q: How do those workouts with Mahomes come about?

BORGONZI: “Pat’s down there (and) everyone knows he’s down there in the Dallas area and Rashee (Rice) was down there in the area so he linked up with Pat and he went down there to work out with him.”

Q: How much is Wanya Morris pick a bet on the measurables and the traits and that belief translating to what Offensive Line Coach Andy Heck can do with him?

BORGONZI: “Yeah, he’s a big, long, athletic tackle – (he) played right tackle at Oklahoma and like I said he played left tackle at Tennessee when he was there playing next to (offensive linemen) Trey (Smith). He’s got a ton of tools. You know he’s long, he’s athletic, he’s got the feet, now he’s just got to put everything together and we feel comfortable with our room here that he’ll learn from some of the guys here.”

Q: Did Morris’ familiarity with Trey Smith factor into this draft pick?

BORGONZI: “Yeah, you know he did have a relationship with Trey (Smith) and I think some of the guys reached out to Trey about him and then we brought him in here of course so yeah that does factor in to

it a little bit. I think that Trey was like a big brother to him at Tennessee so like I said we have a really good room in that offensive line room so yeah some of that does come into play.”

Q: With Morris playing at multiple colleges, will a stable environment like the Kansas City Chiefs be good for him?

BORGONZI: “Yeah, you always have to look at the room that they’re going to go into, and like I said, we feel like we have a very good room here for him to kind of gravitate towards and learn from those guys so yeah that does factor into it.”

Q: What are those areas you need depth in?

BORGONZI: “You go across the board, you can always add more offensive linemen. (You can) always add more defensive linemen. Like I said, the premium positions, right? (You) can’t have enough corners, can’t have enough safeties – secondary guys. So really, we’re at a point now where we’re looking at the board and who’s the best player on the board that we can add into the mix, that can add some depth to the roster.”

Q: What did you like about Felix Anudike-Uzomah when talking to him and watching his tape?

BORGONZI: “Yeah, he’s a great kid. (He’s a) self-made kid. He came into Kansas State, he was under weight and he put on some weight there. And then he just got better along the way as we watched him the last couple of years. He’s relentless as a pass rusher. And it’s kind of funny, I was looking at him in the fall and he’s got that 91 number and all I could think of was (former Chiefs LB) Tamba (Hali) – I was here with Tamba. And he does play a lot like him. (He’s a) local kid and he’s going to work and he’s still (a) young kid, so I still think he has a lot of room to grow but excited to get him here.”

Q: Can you elaborate on what similarities you see in his game with Tamba Hali?

BORGONZI: “He’s relentless and that’s how Tamba was. He just found a way to the quarterback. (He was) constantly trying to get off blocks. He’s got a little bit of slither to him too, like Tamba did. But really just that relentless motor kind of reminded me of Tamba.”

Q: Is George Karlaftis like that?

BORGONZI: “George (Karlaftis) is just like that, yeah. Yeah.”

Q: Were you able to see Felix Anudike-Uzomah in person at Kansas State?

BORGONZI: “I saw him here at the local pro day here for the first time and got a chance to visit with him and talk with him. He’s an impressive young man and it’s going to be great to add him to the group here with all these other guys.”

Q: What did you feel like you learned most about Rashee Rice throughout this process?

BORGONZI: “You watch the tape and he just jumps out to you – the physical traits, right? He can go up and get the football. But you also want to try to get – you really don’t know until you get them in the building and the coaches start meeting with them (about) the football intelligence piece is a big part of it. So, when we go through the whole process it’s, first, we’re watching the film and grading the player on the film. But then, you have to also bring the person in here to see if he’s going to be a culture fit, to see if he’s capable of picking up the offense here and he checked all the boxes.”

Q: How do you feel Rashee Rice fits into the wide receiver room you already have? You mentioned the after-the-catch stuff, is that what's maybe different than what you already have?

BORGONZI: "Yeah, (Kadarius) Toney brings a lot of that too. But, he's versatile which is good. He can play outside, he can play inside. He's just a physical receiver that we can really add into the mix here. (He's a) little bit bigger, so he can play in a slot. But he can also play outsides. So, we really like the versatility that he brought to the table for us."



RASHEE RICE

WIDE RECEIVER ##

SMU

ROOKIE

HEIGHT: 6'1"
WEIGHT: 204 LBS
DRAFTED: D2-23
BIRTHDAY: 4/22/00



👁️ Rookie wide receiver enters his first season with the Chiefs in 2023.

👁️ Originally entered the NFL as a second-round pick (55th overall) by the Kansas City Chiefs in the 2023 NFL Draft.

Transactions:

Originally entered the NFL as a second-round pick (55th overall) by the Kansas City Chiefs in the 2023 NFL Draft.

COLLEGE

Played in 44 games and started 33 for the Mustangs ... In four years (2019-22), Rice hauled in 233 passes for 3,111 yards and 25 touchdowns ... Led the FBS in receiving yards per game (112.9) in 2022 ... His 1,355 receiving yards (third) and 8.0 receptions per game (fifth) were top five in the nation during his senior year (2022) ... In 2022, was 13th nationally with 10 receiving TDs ... Left SMU holding the single-season receiving yard (1,355 yards in 2022) ... Received the finals awards and honors: 2022 AP All-America second-team, 2022 Reese's Senior Bowl Invite, 2022 Biletnikoff Award Semifinalist, 2022 Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award Semifinalist, 2022 Pro Football Focus second-team All-American and All-AAC first-team, 2022 All-AAC first-team, 2022 Reese's Senior Bowl All-American Offensive Team, 2022 ESPN Top 100: No. 70, 2022 PFF The Athletic Midseason All-American: second-team, 2022 DCTF All-Texas first-team, 2022 Pro Football Focus Midseason All-American: second-team, 2022 Cajun Bowl Invite, 2022 Phil Steele All-America and All-AAC first-teams, 2022 East-West Shrine Bowl Breakout Offensive Player (Oct. 31), 2022 AAC Weekly Honor Roll (Nov. 28, Oct. 31, Sept. 12), 2022 Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award Honorable Mention (Nov. 1, Sept. 13, Sept. 6), 2022 Senior Bowl Watch List, 2021 All-AAC Honorable Mention, 2021 Biletnikoff Award Watch List, 2021 PFF All-AAC second-team, 2021 Phil Steele All-AAC third-team, 2021 Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award Honorable Mention (Sept. 21), 2020 Dave Campbell's All-Texas College second-team and 2020 Biletnikoff Award Watch List.

PERSONAL

- 👁️ A three-star recruit by 247sports.com and Rivals.com.
- 👁️ Had 51 receptions for 841 yards and five TDs in 2018.
- 👁️ Registered 72 catches, 1,386 yards and 19 TDs in 2017.
- 👁️ Was named first-team All-District as a junior.
- 👁️ Team went 11-3 and advanced to the 5A D2 Quarterfinals in 2017.
- 👁️ Received offers from Washington State, Houston, Virginia, Texas Tech, Northwestern, Tulsa, UConn and others.



Chiefs WR Rashee Rice Quotes

April 28, 2023

Q: What are your initial reactions of landing here with the Kansas City Chiefs? What's your excitement level to be catching passes from Patrick Mahomes?

RICE: "Man, that's what I was going to be going to. I can't complain about a great quarterback. I'm going to be able to build my relationship with (Patrick Mahomes) and just improve my game on the field with him."

Q: What wide receivers do you like to model your game after? Just generally speaking, how would describe what you bring to the table?

RICE: "I'll probably say (Cardinals WR) DeAndre Hopkins just because we both attack the ball real aggressive and then you never know what we can do when the ball's in our hands."

Q: From the highlight clip the broadcast showed after you were picked, it showed that you like to play physical. Where did that nature come from?

RICE: "It comes from loving the game that I'm playing. There's not only one part to the game besides – you can catch the ball, but when the running back's got the ball in his hands, you got to block too. I just try to do my job all around."

Q: If you could speak directly to Chiefs fans, what would you tell them about the player they're getting in you?

RICE: "You're getting a playmaker. You're getting someone who really wants to be a part of the Chiefs' program. Chiefs Kingdom, we're going to go win another Super Bowl, there's no doubt about it."



WANYA MORRIS

OFFENSIVE LINEMAN ##
OKLAHOMA

ROOKIE

HEIGHT: 6'6"
WEIGHT: 307 LBS
DRAFTED: D3-23
BIRTHDAY: 10/10/00



- 👁️ Rookie tackle enters his first season with the Chiefs in 2023.
- 👁️ Originally entered the NFL as a third-round draft pick (92nd overall) by the Kansas City Chiefs in the 2023 NFL Draft.

Transactions:

Originally entered the NFL as a third-round draft pick (92nd overall) by the Kansas City Chiefs in the 2023 NFL Draft.

COLLEGE

Spent 2019-20 seasons at Tennessee before transferring to Oklahoma for 2021-22 seasons ... Played in 37 career games (15 at Oklahoma) and made 27 starts (eight at OU) ... While at Tennessee in 2020, allowed two sacks on 195 pass-blocking plays according to PFF and was flagged for just three penalties on 398 total snaps ... During his true-freshman year at Tennessee in 2019, he helped pave way for a season-high 297-yard rushing performance against Vanderbilt (11/30), helped protect Jarrett Guarantano at Missouri when the quarterback became the third Volunteer to ever pass for 400 yards (11/23) and started at left tackle vs. Georgia State (8/31) to become first Tennessee true freshman offensive lineman to start in a season opener since 2017 ... Received the following awards and honors: 2022 AP All-Big 12 second-team, 2019 SEC All-Freshman Team, 2019 247Sports True Freshman All-America Team and 2019 The Athletic's Midseason Freshman All-America Team.

PERSONAL

- 👁️ Attended Grayson High School.
- 👁️ A five-star recruit by ESPN and a four-star prospect by 247Sports and Rivals.
- 👁️ Ranked No. 7 in USA Today's High School Football Chosen 25.
- 👁️ Rated as No. 9 overall recruit by ESPN, No. 41 by Rivals and No. 51 by 247Sports.
- 👁️ Regarded as country's No. 5 offensive tackle by ESPN and Rivals and No. 6 by 247Sports.
- 👁️ The No. 3 player in Georgia by ESPN, No. 5 by Rivals and No. 9 by 247Sports.
- 👁️ Selected to participate in 2019 Under Armour All-American Game.
- 👁️ Participated in "The Opening".
- 👁️ 2018 MaxPreps preseason first-team All-American.
- 👁️ 2018 Georgia Class 7A All-State selection.
- 👁️ Recorded 73 pancake blocks during his senior season.
- 👁️ Led Grayson to 10-3 record and an appearance in 2018 state quarterfinals.
- 👁️ Named after Boyz II Men artist Wanyá Morris.
- 👁️ Enrolled at Tennessee in January 2019.
- 👁️ Majored in communication studies at Tennessee and Oklahoma.



Chiefs OL Wanya Morris Quotes

April 28, 2023

Q: It looks like you've played left tackle and right tackle. What does your versatility bring to Kansas City?

MORRIS: "I think my versatility speaks for itself, but I don't know where I'm going to go in there and play. I'm going to play whatever they need me to play. But shoot, I just got drafted, so I'm just enjoying this moment right now (laughs). I can't tell you how excited I am at this moment. Whatever they need me to play, I'm going to play and that's that."

Q: Did you have any indication that you would be drafted by the Chiefs?

MORRIS: "I didn't, man, but I'm glad I'm a (Kansas City) Chief. Let's do it! I'm glad I'm a (Kansas City) Chief, man!"

Q: You played with Trey Smith at Tennessee. Have you heard anything from him? How close are you guys and how excited are you to be his teammate again?

MORRIS: "He was one of the first people who called me when I got the pick, man. I can't tell you how good it feels to just get those acknowledgments from the guys that you see doing great in the League and just to know that I'm going to be right there back with them. (We're) going to start off where we left off, so it's exciting. It's exciting. I'm really excited."

Q: What did Smith tell you to expect when you arrive in Kansas City?

MORRIS: "He told me to expect (to) work. Don't expect anything. Don't go in there with any expectations, (just) go in there and just do your job and work. Work your (butt) off, and that's what I'm going to do. Chiefs Nation, I'm ready! I'm ready, lets do it! Let's do it!"



2nd and 3rd-Round Draft Notes

April 28, 2023

Second Round

- The NFL featured Legends making second-round picks during the 2023 NFL Draft from downtown Kansas City. Announcing the third-round pick for the Chiefs was the father-son duo of **Ed and Brad Budde**. The Buddes were both selected by the Chiefs in the first round of their respective drafts (Ed – 8th overall, 1963 AFL Draft; Brad – 11th overall, 1980 NFL Draft), making them the only father-son duo ever selected in the first round of the Draft by the same NFL team.
- The Chiefs traded their original second-round selection (63rd overall) along with a fourth-round pick (122nd overall) and a seventh-round pick (249th overall) to the Detroit Lions to move up to the 55th overall pick. With the 55th overall pick, the club selected **WR Rashee Rice** out of SMU. The club also received a sixth-round pick (194th overall) from the Lions as part of the trade.
- **Rice** becomes the 12th player from SMU to be drafted by the Chiefs and he's the first Mustang to be selected by the Chiefs since **DE/TE Clayton Korver** (431st overall, 1973). Rice and Korver join fellow Mustangs **QB Chuck Hixson** (328th overall, 1971), **QB Mike Livingston** (48th overall, 1968), **QB/K Danny Thomas** (61st overall, 1965 AFL Draft), **LB John Hughes** (200th overall, 1963 AFL Draft), **T Guy Reese** (83rd overall, 1962 AFL Draft), **DT Jerry Mays** (5th round, 1961 AFL Draft), **HB Glynn Gregory** (13th round, 1961 AFL Draft, 1961), **HB Frank Jackson** (19th round, 1961 AFL Draft), **T Gary Ferguson** (1960 AFL Draft) and **QB Don Meredith** (1960 AFL Draft).
- Tonight marks just the second time in franchise history that Kansas City has made a selection with the 55th overall pick. **Rice** joins **C Rodney Hudson** (2011, Florida State) as the only other 55th overall selection in franchise history.
- **Rice** is the fifth wide receiver selected by the Chiefs in the second round in franchise history. Other wide receivers selected by the Chiefs in the second round include **Skyy Moore** (54th overall, 2022), **Mecole Hardman** (56th overall, 2019), **Dexter McCluster** (36th overall, 2010) and **Kevin Lockett** (47th overall, 1997). Of the five second-round wide receivers selected in franchise history, three have come in the past five drafts (Rice, Moore and Hardman), with Rice and Moore coming in back-to-back drafts.
- With the selection of **Rice**, it marks the fourth time that the Chiefs have taken an offensive player in the second round under **General Manager Brett Veach**. Those three previous selections include **WR Skyy Moore** (54th overall, 2022), **C Creed Humphrey** (63rd overall, 2021) and **WR Mecole Hardman** (56th overall, 2019).
- Kansas City has now selected a wide receiver in three consecutive drafts with **Cornell Powell** (181st overall, 2021), **Skyy Moore** (54th overall, 2022) and **Rice** being taken from 2021-23. It marks the first time the club has drafted a wide receiver in three-straight drafts since 2015-17 when the club selected **Chris Conley** (76th overall) and **Da'Ron Brown** (233rd overall) in 2015, **Demarcus Robinson** (126th overall) and **Tyreek Hill** (165th overall) in 2016, and **Jehu Chesson** (139th overall) in 2017.
- **Rice** was the first player from SMU to be drafted in the 2023 NFL Draft and was seventh wide receiver taken in the 2023 Draft. He becomes the first NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) player to be selected in the 2023 NFL Draft.

Third Round

- The Chiefs third-round pick was announced by Craig Thurber. Thurber is member of a Gold Star family, having lost his father – Master Sergeant Bernie Deghand – who was killed in Afghanistan in 2006 as a member of the Kansas Army National Guard.
- Kansas City traded its original third-round pick (95th overall) and a sixth-round pick (217th overall) to the Cincinnati Bengals to move up for the 92nd overall pick in the third round.
- With the 92nd overall pick in the 2023 NFL Draft, the Chiefs selected **OL Wanya Morris** out of the University of Oklahoma.
- It marks the fifth time in franchise history that Kansas City selected a player with the 92nd overall pick, with **Morris** joining **CB Julian Battle** (Tennessee, 2003), **WR Lake Dawson** (Notre Dame, 1994), **TE Ron Wetzel** (Arizona State, 1983) and **RB Mark Bailey** (California State University, Long Beach, 1977).
- **Morris** is the 13th Oklahoma Sooners selected by Kansas City in the NFL Draft and the first since **C Creed Humphrey** (63rd overall) in 2021. Other players drafted out of Oklahoma include: **OL Donald Stephenson** (74th overall, 2012), **DE Jimmy Wilkerson** (189th overall, 2003), **CB William Barte** (54th overall, 2000), **T Lyndie Byford** (241st overall, 1982), **LB Jimbo Elrod** (144th overall, 1976), **T Wayne Hoffman** (189th overall, 1975), **WR Kent Lashley** (313th overall, 1967), **RB Joe Don Looney** (44th overall, 1964), **G Dennis Ward** (104th overall, 1963), **RB Ron Hartline** (1961 AFL Draft), **T/G Gilmer Lewis** (1960 AFL Draft).
- Tonight's selection of **Morris** marks the sixth-straight NFL Draft (2018-23) in which Kansas City has selected an offensive lineman, selecting seven offensive linemen over that time. **Morris** joins **T Darian Kinnard** (145th overall, 2022), **C Creed Humphrey** (63rd overall, 2021), **G Trey Smith** (226th overall, 2021), **T Lucas Niang** (96th overall, 2020), **G Nick Allegretti** (216th overall, 2019) and **OL Kahlil McKenzie** (198th overall, 2018).
- **Morris** was the third selection from Oklahoma in the 2023 NFL Draft following OT Anton Harrison (27th overall) and WR Marvin Mims Jr. (63rd overall).
- **Morris** was the 14th offensive lineman to be drafted in the 2023 NFL Draft and was the ninth offensive tackle selected this year.

Round 3 Reset

- The Chiefs currently hold five selections in the remaining rounds of the 2023 NFL Draft:
 - 4th Round – 134th overall
 - 5th Round – 166th overall
 - 6th Round – 178th overall
 - 6th Round – 194th overall
 - 7th Round – 250th overall



Chiefs Hall of Fame Inductee Dante Hall Quotes

April 29, 2023

Q: Where do you rank this honor in your career?

HALL: "My career? Not in life, my career? Number one. I think because I've just realized as I've gotten older and you reflect back that the Chiefs – this organization, the late great Lamar Hunt – took a chance on me. An immature kid, they nurtured me, they gave me time to mature and grow. I just appreciate that so much because I realize most organizations, most teams and coaches, they don't do that. So, to live out my childhood dream, fall in love with this team and now to have that team reciprocate that love back – by far the best accomplishment."

Q: What will it be like to see your name up in GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium?

HALL: "For me, it's really not about me. It's more so that I can now take my kids to GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium like, 'Look, look what daddy did.' And when I preach working hard and striving for success I'm not just talking out of both sides of my mouth, you know? I have proof that I know what it takes."

Q: When you look back over your career, what play stands out the most?

HALL: "I remember this one the best and it's my favorite by far. It's the play in Denver – not the return here – the catch on the sideline, the spin, step back. Just aesthetically, just as a football fan, I love it the most. But it's also the most important because at that time I was primarily just a return man, they would stick me in on gadget plays as a receiver but I remember coming in after that particular play and that particular game and having so many more plays designed and drawn up just for me. What that did was it allowed me to play more on offense which allowed me to get in the game and get in the groove more, which I think helped spring my actual return game because it was tough the first two years only being a return man – you're not playing much on offense, you're coming in cold, trying to make a play. You don't get the flow and the speed of the game but after that I played in about 30 percent or 40 percent of the offense and the return game became much easier to me."

Q: What has it been like this weekend being in Kansas City for the 2023 Draft and for your announcement?

HALL: "Can you hear my voice (laughter)? I'm running on fumes right now. It's been amazing, it's been nonstop, be here, be there. What an honor to be selected after the Chiefs won the Super Bowl, as they're hosting the NFL Draft and to be incorporated and a part of it all is just amazing."

Q: Can you walk us through how you found out that you were going to be Chiefs Hall of Fame inductee this year?

HALL: "So I'm an avid golfer now. I was golfing so my phone was away, but I had a moment to check it. I see a 214 number (area code), I recognize that, I'm a Texas guy, that's Dallas. Who do I know in Dallas? I'm thinking it's family. I check my voicemail and it's (Chiefs Chairman and CEO) Clark Hunt. In a monotone

voicemail he tells me, 'This is Clark Hunt with the Chiefs. Give me a call back when you have a chance.' (Laughter) If you know me, this could be really, really good or this could be really, really bad (laughter). That's what I'm thinking, 'What have I done? What have I done in the past (laughter)?' And then I called him back, this is obviously great news. I go to the tee box for my next shot – and I'm a pretty good golfer, pretty much down the middle for the most part – I was so excited and full of so much joy that tee shot went so far right I never saw that ball again. So, amazing moment for me, I was doing what I love and the team that I love the most called me and gave me that great news."

Q: You've described the feeling of what the crowd gives you when you know you've broken a play. Can you compare that to what you envision when you're on the field next year and the crowd acknowledges you when your name is revealed?

HALL: "I just got a sense at the Draft. I just went out and did a pick – I think it was the 166th pick – and it's pretty amazing, the reception that I received. So, if it's anything like that, I'm good."



Player Personnel Assistant Anthony McGee Quotes

April 29, 2023

Q: What is it that you guys like the most about Chamarri Conner?

MCGEE: "His versatility because he was asked to do a lot of things, play a lot of positions at Virginia Tech, and so just his versatility. He will play any position that you need (him) to on the back end, and he just brings size, speed, burst – everything. So I just love the way he plays, and (he's) a guy that will want to do anything and everything for the team."

Q: Do you guys see him starting out more as a corner or a safety?

MCGEE: "Safety but like I said, he can play anything. He had to play in their (Virginia Tech's) nickel role this past season, so I think the kid really can play back deep. He has film playing back deep, (and) he has film playing closer to the line of scrimmage and then he can go out into the nickel so he has a lot of versatility. Safety will probably be where he's at, but the kid will play anywhere that you want him to."

Q: Understanding how loaded you guys are at the defensive back position, how much do you think he'll contribute on special teams?

MCGEE: "He's going to be probably a really good special teams player. I feel like he'll come in and he'll want to be a four phase (player) right off the bat. He seems like the type to just be gritty and want to just play (and) get on the field. I mean, his whole career – anything you asked him to do, he'll do so I don't think he'll change that mindset coming to the next level. So special teams wise? I think he'll be great for us."

Q: What have your conversations with Chamarri Conner been like?

MCGEE: "They were good. Talking to him at Virginia Tech – he plays and acts the same off the field. I mean, he's just down to earth, anything you want him to do, he'll do. I talked to him and asked him about special teams, and he was just like 'I will come in and play whatever you guys want me to do.' But the conversations were good. He's just one that's just excited just to be able to have the opportunity and you can feel the joy and excitement and it's fluid and it's natural. So, I'm excited to have his energy in the room and in the building. I think it'll be great."



CHAMARRI CONNER

DEFENSIVE BACK ##
VIRGINIA TECH

ROOKIE

HEIGHT: 6'0"
WEIGHT: 202 LBS
DRAFTED: D4-23
BIRTHDAY: 7/11/00



👁️ Rookie defensive back enters his first season with the Chiefs in 2023.

👁️ Originally entered the NFL as a fourth-round pick (119th overall) by the Kansas City Chiefs in the 2023 NFL Draft.

Transactions:

Originally entered the NFL as a fourth-round pick (119th overall) by the Kansas City Chiefs in the 2023 NFL Draft.

COLLEGE

Played 61 games (starting 57) in five seasons (2018-22) for Virginia Tech ... Recorded 314 tackles (207 solo), 21 TFLs (-110yds), 7.5 sacks (-73yds), four interceptions returned for 20 yards, 23 passes defended, four forced fumbles and one block ... Finished his college career ranked 10th all-time at VT in career tackles ... Received the following awards and honors: 2022-23 Reese's Senior Bowl selection, 2021 All-ACC Honorable Mention (S), 2021 Phil Steele All-ACC Second Team, 2021 ESPN All-ACC Midseason Team, ACC Defensive Back of the Week (Sept. 7, 2021), 2020 All-ACC Honorable Mention (CB) and 2020 Phil Steele All-ACC Third Team.

PERSONAL

- 👁️ Led Trinity Christian Academy to a 9-4 record at the 5A level as a senior, following four-straight 3A titles.
- 👁️ A ballhawk safety who tallied 107 tackles, including 58 solo stops, 1.5 sacks, one forced fumble and one fumble recovery under the watch of head coach Verlon Dorminey.
- 👁️ Helped the Conquerors' defense average 2.5 turnovers a game.
- 👁️ Son of Charles Conner and Erica Williams.
- 👁️ Has two brothers and one sister.
- 👁️ Majored in criminology.



Chiefs DB Chamarri Conner Quotes

April 29, 2023

Q: The first reaction from the team is that they really like your versatility. What plays into that for you and what makes you so versatile?

CONNER: "I'd say just always being able to play multiple positions. You know ever since high school I always played every position in the backend from corner to safety to nickel. I always was able to move around and that moved into my college career as well, just being able to move around and always be the guy that if we need anybody to do this or do any job, I could always be that guy to step up and do that job. That's something I've always been doing for a minute so, yes sir."

Q: Is there anybody you like to model your game off that is in the NFL?

CONNER: "Yes sir, somebody that I love to study – I'd say over the past couple years he's been one of my favorite players is (Cardinals S) Budda Baker. The way he flies around and makes plays and just always around the ball that really always stood out to me. I always want to be that kind of player, so the way that he just flies around (and) make plays, he can play multiple position so that's definitely somebody I study."

Q: What excites you most about joining the Chiefs? What were your conversations like before the draft?

CONNER: "Just everything about the Chiefs just excites me. It's a great team, great program, great NFL club. You know, the Chiefs, man, (have been) part of the last couple Super Bowl champions. They're a great team. I'm ready to get started and join those guys. As far as my conversations before (the Draft), I had a meeting with the Chiefs on the 18th (of April) and it was something that was planned like a month early so they had scheduled a meeting like a week before the Draft, so I was very excited to get on a call with them and talk to them so it was a great feeling when I heard my name called."

Q: Special teams was a big part of your game at Virginia Tech. How much pride do you take in special teams?

CONNER: "I take so much pride in special teams. Special teams was how I earned my name at Virginia Tech. You know my freshman year I came in and started all four (years on) special teams (and) didn't redshirt. (I) was always that guy to get those special teams honors, so I take it very serious. Even outside of my freshman year that was always part of my career to be on those teams and slide down and make those plays on special teams. That was always a big part at Virginia Tech, so I'm definitely going to carry that with me."



Chiefs Regional Scout Jason Lamb Quotes

April 29, 2023

Q: Aside from being long and athletic, was there any other reason why you picked BJ Thompson?

LAMB: "Yeah, this guy is a freaky athlete. He's almost 6'6", he's got 35-inch arms – I mean his bend, his flexibility, his ability to come off the edge is pretty impressive. I mean you kind of saw that obviously, through his whole time at (Stephen F. Austin) and then also in the East-West Shrine game that he played at. There's where he kind of really jumped off the page, yeah, so you got a long, athletic, defensive end, arrow up on this kid so his ability to rush the passer, you get excited about that for sure."

Q: How important are interviews for a prospect like Thompson after he left Baylor, left football for a while, ends up at a small school, is from a small town and unsure how he will transition to the NFL spotlight?

LAMB: "Yeah, you interview the kid at the school. Talked to the coaches and even then, talked to the kid at the school. I mean, you meet him for the first time, he shakes your hand, looks you in the eye, yes sir, no sir type of kid. Then you go through the whole interview process obviously. You can tell this kid is just motivated. He loves football, he wants to do well, he's excited and just getting to spend that time with him. All of our coaches have talked to him, loved him and he's just done a really good job for himself through this whole process for sure."

Q: What is the opinion of Thompson gaining weight?

LAMB: "Yeah, I mean he played at 220 at SFA, and since then until his pro days, he's around 240 so it's definitely an arrow up and he's got the frame, he's tall, he's got the length. This kid could easily gain another 20 pounds and you take that time to add the weight, you have the frame so when it's all said and done this kid will fit in perfectly."

Q: Could Thompson contribute to special teams?

LAMB: "Absolutely and also with special teams, especially from a defensive lineman, you got to get the in the right mental standpoint to get out there and this guy I know will go out there and do whatever it takes to get on the field."



BJ THOMPSON

DEFENSIVE END ##

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

ROOKIE

HEIGHT: 6'6"
WEIGHT: 243 LBS
DRAFTED: D5-23
BIRTHDAY: 3/23/99



👁️ Rookie defensive end enters his first season with the Chiefs in 2023.

👁️ Originally entered the NFL as a fifth-round pick (166th overall) by the Kansas City Chiefs in the 2023 NFL Draft.

Transactions:

Originally entered the NFL as a fifth-round pick (166th overall) by the Kansas City Chiefs in the 2023 NFL Draft.

COLLEGE

Transferred to Stephen F. Austin, where he had to sit out during the 2019 season due to NCAA rules ... Recorded 20.0 sacks in three seasons (2020-22) with the Lumberjacks ... In 2022, Thompson was a first-team All-WAC selection, leading the team with 5.0 sacks along with 25 tackles, 6.5 for loss and three forced fumbles in 11 starts ... Originally committed to Baylor, playing two seasons there (2017-18) and seeing action in 19 games (three starts) ... As a Bear, accumulated 18 tackles, 6.5 TFLs, 4.0 sacks, three quarterback pressures, one pass breakup and three blocked kicks ... Won football team slam dunk contest during halftime of Baylor basketball game in Feb. 2018.

PERSONAL

- 👁️ All-State tight end and defensive end from England (Ark.) High School.
- 👁️ Two-way star played under head coach Terry Farmer at EHS.
- 👁️ Ranked No. 301 national prospect by 247Sports.
- 👁️ Rated nation's 17th-best athlete prospect in 2017 recruiting class by 247Sports and ranked No. 53 among defensive ends by ESPN.
- 👁️ Rankings among Arkansas prospects: No. 3 by 247Sports and No. 6 by ESPN.
- 👁️ Named to 2016 USA TODAY ALL-USA Arkansas first team as senior, led England to 14-1 record and 2016 2A state semifinals as senior, caught 37 passes for 601 yards and 10 TDs.
- 👁️ Defensively, made 29 tackles, 16.5 TFL, 7.5 sacks, two interceptions (one TD return), two breakups and one forced fumble as senior.
- 👁️ Helped EHS to 13-2 mark and 2015 2A semis as junior, totaled 52 receptions for 830 yards and 11 TDs.
- 👁️ Defensively, had 91 tackles, 13 sacks and one interception-return TD as junior.
- 👁️ Moved to outside linebacker and defensive end as sophomore, was starting cornerback for varsity as freshman.
- 👁️ Four-sport star at EHS, also competed in basketball, baseball and track and field for EHS.
- 👁️ Son of Kutisha Aldridge and Brandon Thompson.
- 👁️ Brother, Blake Mack, played tight end at Arkansas State.
- 👁️ Communications sciences and disorders major at Baylor.



Chiefs DE BJ Thompson Quotes

April 29, 2023

Q: Can you talk about being from a small town in England, Arkansas, to going to college and being drafted by the reigning World Champions?

THOMPSON: “Man, all I can say is it’s a blessing, for sure. It’s a blessing, especially coming from where I come from – this small town, England, Arkansas. Man, it’s really a blessing. I give all honor and praises to God because without him, couldn’t none of this be possible at all. Just keeping my faith to Him, keeping my eyes on Him and just staying hungry, stay grinding. (I) look forward to living in the present and just knowing that everything’s going to work out in the end. That’s kind of all the emotions. I’m just glad that I’m able to accomplish my dreams and all my hard work hasn’t been unnoticed, so just blessed right now.”

Q: How would you describe your pass rushing ability?

THOMPSON: “Speed. Especially my pass rush ability, my athletic ability. I was blessed with great athletic ability, so I’m always going to go with speed first. I’m always going to try to use my speed, my athletic ability to be able to bend around that edge and that corner. And just continue to develop my pass-rush toolbox, moves, refine some things. I’m sure that, especially with this coaching staff here at the Kansas City Chiefs, that I’ll be able to do just that. So, for sure, I’m going to utilize my speed off the back.”

Q: Can you tell us more about your hometown and what makes it so special?

THOMPSON: “Man, England (Arkansas) is a special place, for sure. I feel that we’ve had countless number of athletes come out of England, Arkansas, that I feel could’ve really done something whether it be football or basketball, baseball, track, one thing or another, (they) just never got the notoriety being a small, country town – England, Arkansas. Or other things may have happened – circumstances, situations, what not. And since I always feel like I’ve kind of been destined to be one of the ones to break that barrier. It’s kind of been a loss of hope here in my hometown, like it’s kind of the sense that people from England, Arkansas – it’s going to be hard for people to make it out of England, Arkansas. You got to move somewhere else to do something out of England. And I just take pride in sticking it out here in my hometown and actually making it happen and trying to be the one to restore faith in my hometown being one of the first ones to make something of themselves. So, I take a lot of pride in that. I grew up – the people I played with my senior year of high school are the same people I played with in first and second grade. We all grew up together, the whole town knows everybody. So, I’m just really happy I can do that for my hometown.”



Regional Scout Jason Lamb Quotes

April 29, 2023

Q: Tell us about Keondre Coburn.

LAMB: "Yeah, so Keondre (Coburn), I mean he's a big dude up front. (He's) strong, powerful (and) explosive and the thing about him though, for being as big as he is, the dude can move. He'll go out there and go chase quarterbacks, he can run around (and) make the quarterback scramble outside (of) the pocket. He's going to bring a big presence up front and a lot of explosiveness. (There's) a lot of power (and) a lot of strength in his game."

Q: You guys have had success in the late rounds of the draft. What's the common denominator that leads to this success?

LAMB: "It's really just the process that we do as a staff. All of the time that we put in there (and) kind of going through and with (General Manager Brett) Veach, obviously and everybody else, just how we stack the board, how we spend all the time, (and) watching tape. I mean, it's all the time, it's all the commitment that you put into it and then when you do get down into the fourth through the seventh, that's when you can really find some good guys."

Q: You guys lost Khaleke Hudson who was a guy that could move pretty well. Coburn can also move pretty well. Was that a factor in this pick?

LAMB: "He is kind of similar to (Saints DT) Khaleke Hudson. You definitely know where you need some numbers at. I don't think you're necessarily going out to mimic someone that you have in particular, it just kind of happens that way. But yeah, the more guys that you can get up front, either O- or D-line, that's always a good thing. And I know we've gotten a lot of defensive linemen this draft and so it's definitely a good thing."

Q: Describe how Coburn plays.

LAMB: "He's kind of played everything from a one tech out to a three tech. He kind of seems more like a true nose (tackle). He's got the athletic ability to move down the line either way, doing slants (or) doing stunts (and) all that kind of stuff. He's got a pretty quick first step. For being as big as he is, he's got a pretty quick first step. So, I know (Defensive Coordinator Steve Spagnuolo) Spags and all of our coaches, they'll definitely use him in a bunch of different ways for sure."



KEONDRE COBURN

DEFENSIVE TACKLE ##
TEXAS

ROOKIE

HEIGHT: 6'2"
WEIGHT: 332 LBS
DRAFTED: D5-23
BIRTHDAY: 5/23/00



🏈 Rookie defensive tackle enters his first season with the Chiefs in 2023.

🏈 Originally entered the NFL as a sixth-round pick (194th overall) by the Kansas City Chiefs in the 2023 NFL Draft.

Transactions:

Originally entered the NFL as a sixth-round pick (194th overall) by the Kansas City Chiefs in the 2023 NFL Draft.

COLLEGE

A five-year defensive lineman who played in 51 career games and started 45 times at Texas ... Named second-team All-Big 12 by the league's coaches and the AP in 2022 ... A 2022 third-team All-Big 12 Preseason selection by Athlon Sports ... Named preseason fourth-team All-Big 12 by Phil Steele in 2022 ... Selected to the 2021 Bednarik Award preseason watch list ... A third-team All-Big 12 Preseason selection by Athlon Sports in 2021 ... Named a fourth-team All-Big 12 Preseason selection by Phil Steele in 2021 ... Named All-Big 12 honorable mention in 2020 and 2021 ... Earned Academic All-Big 12 First Team honors in 2021 ... A first-team preseason All-Texas selection by Dave Campbell's Texas Football Magazine in 2020 ... An All-Big 12 Preseason selection by Phil Steele in 2019 and 2020 ... Was a high school All-American and three-time all-district honoree ... A four-time member of the Big 12 Commissioner's Honor Roll (spring 2020, fall 2020, spring 2021, fall 2022).

PERSONAL

- 🏈 Played for head coach Matt Meekins at Westfield.
- 🏈 An All-American and three-time all-district honoree.
- 🏈 Played in the 2018 Under Armour All-America Game.
- 🏈 Earned Defensive Player of the Year honors from the Touchdown Club of Houston in 2017.
- 🏈 Named District 16-6A Defensive MVP and first-team all-district.
- 🏈 Named first-team "Tops in Texas," and chosen to the 2017 Super Team by Dave Campbell's Texas Football.
- 🏈 Listed No. 9 in the Austin American-Statesman's Fab 55 and No. 10 in the Houston Chronicle's Top 100.
- 🏈 Rated No. 47 nationally (No. 2 DT) and No. 6 overall in Texas by ESPN.
- 🏈 Ranked No. 167 nationally (No. 12 DT) and No. 16 overall in Texas by Rivals.
- 🏈 Rated No. 194 nationally (No. 19 DT) and No. 20 overall in Texas by 247Sports.
- 🏈 Named first team All-State by the TWSA and honorable mention All-State by the Associated Press in 2017.
- 🏈 Recorded 56 tackles, including 20 tackles for loss, 7.5 sacks, two forced fumbles, four pressures and two passes batted down as a senior.
- 🏈 Part of a defense that allowed just 101 points (8.4 ppg) all season, including a five-game stretch with a total of nine points allowed that included three shutouts.
- 🏈 Helped Westfield to an 11-1 overall record, including a 7-1 district mark, a district title and an appearance in the 6A Division II regional playoffs in 2017.
- 🏈 Named to the Touchdown Club of Houston's 2017 Preseason Team.
- 🏈 Tabbed honorable mention 6A All-State by the Texas Sports Writers Association in 2016.
- 🏈 Selected first-team All-District 16-6A.
- 🏈 Chosen first-team All-Greater Houston by the Houston Chronicle.
- 🏈 Part of a defense that allowed 13.2 points per game, and just 7.5 points per game over its last 11.
- 🏈 Helped Westfield to a 10-4 overall record, including a 7-0 district mark, a district title, and an appearance in 6A Division II state quarterfinals in 2016.
- 🏈 Unanimously chosen Defensive Newcomer of the Year in District 16-5A in 2015.
- 🏈 Collected 26 tackles, two tackles for loss, one sack and five pressures as a sophomore.
- 🏈 Part of a defense that allowed just 16.5 points per game.
- 🏈 Helped Westfield to a 10-2 overall record, including a 6-1 district mark, a share of the district title, and an appearance in the 6A Division II area playoffs in 2015.
- 🏈 Transferred to Westfield after playing his freshman season at Oak Ridge.

- 👁 Son of Andre Coburn and Jemimah Allen.
- 👁 Siblings are Tre, Andre, Jordan, Klee, Sequoia, Arin and Sanaiya.
- 👁 Was born in Los Angeles, Calif.



Chiefs DT Keondre Coburn Quotes

April 29, 2023

Q: What does it mean to you to be a member of the Kansas City Chiefs?

COBURN: "Man, it means a lot. It means a lot. The fact that – first off, just for me being in this situation and being in the NFL is a blessing. It was a dream come true since I was a kid. And then plus to be in Kansas City, I mean just, Kansas City, Missouri. They told me, Chiefs Kingdom don't get mad at me I'm still learning right now (laughter) but just to be a part of this franchise is amazing. So just for me to be a Chief is a blessing because (they) literally just won a Super Bowl and all I want to do is help the team win any type of way that I can so me already coming to a winning team I can just add my gifts into them. Hopefully we can just keep winning the way that they did and the way I can say we did because I'm part of the Kansas City Chiefs. It's crazy, I'm sorry, I'm sorry. I'm just happy. Yeah, I'm excited, yeah."

Q: Are there any tackles around the league that you admire and model your game after?

COBURN: "A lot of them. I mean, I could sit here and give you a whole list. I could give you (Buccaneers DT Vita) Vea from Buccaneers. But I mean Chris Jones. I can't believe I'm about to play next to Chris Jones if I even get to play next to Chris Jones. Man, a lot of players I could give you so many names to be honest (inaudible). So, I could tell you Vea from the Buccaneers is someone I kinda see myself as too. Chris Jones, he's a heck of a player. I need to prove some more if I could even see myself like him but there's a lot of players I could see myself like that but those couple players I could say."

Q: What are your thoughts on Creed Humphrey from playing him when he was at Oklahoma? Did you ever go up against Lucas Niang?

COBURN: "Lucas (Niang)? I remember Creed (Humphrey) for sure. I think his last one (year) at Oklahoma before he left and went to the draft. First off, he's a heck of a player. Obviously, that's why he's an All-Pro center ever since he's been in the league and things like that. I remember after that game, we lost, he came up to me said, 'You're a good player.' I was surprised for him to even say that. I remember that, even though it was a couple years ago, I still remember that. The fact that I get to play with him, the fact that I get to compete against him is just an honor. I'm going against probably the best center in the league for every day I get to practice with the Chiefs. So, yeah."



**NIC
JONES**

CORNERBACK ##
BALL STATE

ROOKIE

HEIGHT: 6'0"
WEIGHT: 189 LBS
DRAFTED: D7-23
BIRTHDAY: 10/15/01



👁️ Rookie cornerback enters his first season with the Chiefs in 2023.

👁️ Originally entered the NFL as a seventh-round pick (250th overall) by the Kansas City Chiefs in the 2023 NFL Draft.

Transactions:

Originally entered the NFL as a seventh-round pick (250th overall) by the Kansas City Chiefs in the 2023 NFL Draft.

COLLEGE

Played in 37 games at Ball State (2019-22) ... Notched 64 tackles (49 solo), one tackle for loss, three interceptions returned for 12 yards, 22 passes defended and two blocks ... Returned five kicks for 94 yards ... Received the Ball State John Hodge Award given to the team's most outstanding freshman in 2019.

PERSONAL

- 👁️ Earned two letters from head coach Tim Conley at Southfield A&T High.
- 👁️ 3-star recruit via 247Sports.
- 👁️ Second team all-league honors.
- 👁️ Posted three interceptions, four passes defended and three forced fumbles as a senior.
- 👁️ Son of William Jones and Natelege Sims.
- 👁️ Five brothers and two sisters.



Chiefs CB Nic Jones Quotes

April 29, 2023

Q: What does it mean to you to be drafted by the Chiefs?

JONES: "It's surreal. A dream come true to say the least. It's one thing to get picked, and it's another thing to get picked by the team that you were kind of hoping you'd get picked for. So, this is a great feeling."

Q: Why do you say that the Chiefs were the team you hoped to go to?

JONES: "It really was a handful but just because they've got a thing for playing DBs. Especially the DBs they take late. I just felt like that was a room I could really help put my stamp on. Obviously, the recent success, who wouldn't want to be a Chief. So, I just feel like it's a place that I feel like I can thrive, and as a team, we will thrive."

Q: Can you describe your style of play? What type of player is Chiefs Kingdom getting?

JONES: "I'm a dog. I'm hungry. You know I'm a risk taker. I feel like the regular people that just sit and watch games can relate to guys like me because everything I've done has just been the hard way if today wasn't just an example and even more indicative that I just get it the hard way. I'm from whatever they from, you know. I feel like I'm kind of like a bridge between the people and the team."

Q: What's your mindset for special teams? What's your approach to it?

JONES: "It's just another way of life for me. Football is football. It doesn't really make a difference what you playing out there. For me, it's just another chance to make plays. I feel like if I'm out there it's because they trust me to make plays so no matter how big or how small I want to make them."



4th through 7th-Round Draft Notes

April 29, 2023

Fourth Round

- Emmy Award-winning actor, comedian and Kansas City native Eric Stonestreet made the club's fourth-round pick in the 2023 NFL Draft.
- Kansas City traded its original fourth-round pick (134th overall) and a fifth-round pick in the 2024 NFL Draft to the Minnesota Vikings for the 119th overall pick which they used to select **DB Chamarri Conner** out of Virginia Tech.
- This marks just the second time in franchise history that the Chiefs have made a selection with the 119th overall pick, with **Conner** joining **P Jim Arnold** who was drafted 119th overall in the 1983 NFL Draft out of Vanderbilt.
- **Conner** becomes the sixth player from Virginia Tech be drafted by the Chiefs. He is the first Virginia Tech player to be drafted to the Chiefs since **LB Dadi Nicolas** (203rd overall, 2016). **Conner** and **Nicolas** are joined by **CB Brandon Flowers** (35th overall, 2008), **S Willie Pile** (252nd overall, 2003), **G Rick Piland** (335th overall, 1969) and **E Jake Adams** (93rd overall, 1964 AFL Draft).
- **Conner** is the first defensive back selected by the Chiefs in the 2023 NFL Draft. The Chiefs have now selected a defensive back in the fourth round in back-to-back drafts after drafting **CB Joshua Williams** in the fourth round of the 2022 NFL Draft (135th overall) out of Fayetteville State.
- **Conner** was the first player from Virginia Tech to be selected in the 2023 NFL Draft and is the only Hokie on the Chiefs current roster.

Fifth Round

- The club's fifth-round pick was announced by former Chiefs KR/WR Dante Hall along with Pascal Lippert, a Chiefs fan from Oer-Erkenschwick, Germany. On Friday, April 28, Chiefs Chairman and CEO Clark Hunt announced Hall as the 2023 Chiefs Hall of Fame inductee, while Lippert won a sweepstakes during the week of Super Bowl LVII, submitting how he became a fan and what the experience of announcing a pick in the 2023 NFL Draft in Kansas City would mean.
- With the 166th overall pick in the 2023 NFL Draft, the Chiefs selected **DE BJ Thompson** out of Stephen F. Austin.
- Thompson is the second player in franchise history to be selected with the 166th overall pick, joining Kansas **CB Steve Taylor** who was selected with the first of three sixth-round picks in the 1976 NFL Draft.
- **Thompson** becomes the second player from Stephen F. Austin to be drafted by the Chiefs in franchise history, joining **RB Derrick Blaylock** (150th overall, 2001). Thompson was the only player from Stephen F. Austin to be drafted in the 2023 NFL Draft and is the first Lumberjack to be drafted into the NFL since DE John Franklin-Myers was drafted in the fourth round (135th overall) of the 2018 NFL Draft by the Los Angeles Rams.
- The selection of **Thompson** marks the second defensive lineman selected by the Chiefs in the 2023 NFL Draft after picking **DE Felix Anudike-Uzomah** in the first round (31st overall). The Chiefs have now added to the defensive line in nine consecutive drafts dating back to 2015. The Chiefs

selected the following defensive linemen dating back to 2015: **DE George Karlaftis** (30th overall, 2022), **DE Joshua Kaindoh** (144th overall, 2021), **DE Mike Danna** (177th overall, 2020), **DT Khaleke Hudson** (84th overall, 2019), **DT Derrick Nnadi** (75th overall, 2018), **DL Tanoh Kpassagnon** (59th overall, 2017), **DT Chris Jones** (37th overall, 2016), and **DT Rakeem Nunez-Roches** (217th overall, 2015).

Sixth Round

- Kansas City traded its first of two sixth-round picks (178th overall) to the Dallas Cowboys in exchange for a 2024 fifth-round pick.
- The Chiefs acquired the 194th overall pick from the Detroit Lions as part of the trade that resulted in the Chiefs selecting WR Rashee Rice with the 55th overall pick in the second round of the Draft.
- With their second pick in the sixth round (194th overall), the Chiefs selected **DT Keondre Coburn** out of the University of Texas.
- The selection of Coburn marks the second time in franchise history that the Chiefs used the 194th overall pick, with **Coburn** joining **T Jerry McClurg** who was drafted in the 25th round of the 1964 AFL Draft out of Colorado.
- **Coburn's** selection is the third addition to the defensive line in the 2023 Draft for the Chiefs. The last time Kansas City selected multiple defensive linemen in the same draft was in 2012 with the selections of **DT Dontari Poe** (11th overall) out of Memphis and **DT Jerome Long** (218th overall) out of San Diego State. This marks the first time that the club has selected three defensive linemen in the same draft since 1995 when the team picked **DT Mike Pelton** (155th overall), **DT Bryan Proby** (202nd overall) and **DT/G Tom Barndt** (207th overall).
- With the 194th overall pick, **Coburn** was the fourth Longhorn selected in the 2023 NFL Draft joining his teammates **RB Bijan Robinson** (8th overall), **LB DeMarvion Overshown** (90th overall) and **RB Roschon Johnson** (115th overall).
- The Chiefs have now selected 12 players from Texas in franchise history and last drafted a Longhorn in 2008 with the selection of **RB Jamaal Charles** (73rd overall). **Coburn** and **Charles** are joined by **LB Derrick Johnson** (15th overall, 2005), **DT Ken Hackemack** (127th overall, 1990), **DE Eric Holle** (117th overall, 1984), **LB Mark Lang** (314th, 1984), **G Les Studdard** (262nd overall, 1981), **DE Rick Burleson** (150th overall, 1977), **T Rick Thurman** (388th overall, 1976), **DB Duke Carlisle** (42nd overall, 1964 AFL Draft), **E Sandy Sands** (153rd overall, 194 AFL Draft) and **HB James Saxton** (75th overall, 1962 AFL Draft).

Seventh Round

- Kansas City's seventh-round pick was announced by Chiefs fan and content creator James Droz and CommunityAmerica Credit Union CEO Lisa Ginter.
- With the 250th pick in the 2023 NFL Draft, the Kansas City Chiefs selected **DB Nic Jones** out of Ball State.
- The selection of Jones marks the third time in franchise history the club used the 250th pick. The Chiefs have also utilized the 250th selection to draft **G Tom Condon** (Boston College, 1974) and **WR Bruce Jankowski** (Ohio State, 1971).
- **Jones** is just the second player from Ball State to be drafted by the Chiefs, joining **DE Ken Kremer** (167th overall, 1979). There are no other players on the current Chiefs roster from Ball State.
- **Jones** is the sole Ball State player to be drafted in the 2023 Draft and is the first Cardinals player to be drafted since G Danny Pinter was selected in the fifth round (149th overall) by the Indianapolis Colts.