

Pittsburgh Steelers Draft Information



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**2020 NFL Draft
April 23-April 25**

Pittsburgh Steelers
2020 NFL Draft
Thursday, April 23 – Saturday, April 25



Kevin Colbert: Good morning, everybody. Appreciate you taking some time to be with us and talk a little NFL draft prep and Steeler prep and so on and so forth. This time of year, I always like to first off thank my staff and my scouts, for all the work that they have done throughout the fall and of course under the situation that they have worked through. Coach Tomlin and his staff, the same type of thing. It's been different but it's good. Bob McCartney with his video group; Scott Phelps with his IT group, John Norwig doing all the medical work with his trainers and our doctors, and of course Burt [Lauten] and his group and Jack Kearney and the security group, everybody did a remarkable job under the circumstances and I can't appreciate those football coaches enough for what everybody did. One guy I'd like to point out from the National Football League, who had a really huge job in trying to pull this off, and he's still working at it is Ken Fiore, vice president of player personnel. When this all came down, the virtual draft, Kenny had to pull and is continuing to pull all of us together and he's done an awesome job in trying to get this thing off the ground and one as flawless as it can be. So again, Kenny, thank you. Really, the prep has been great. We have absolutely no complaints. It's been different. We had three solid weeks of meetings with the coaches and the scouts. We put our board together. We're not sitting in a room, but we all can see a board and it's been great. No problems whatsoever. I think moving forward, we are all going to learn from this. I think we are going to find ways, not only in football, but in real life where we're all going to be more efficient at what we do. It was different, there's no question about it.

Coach Tomlin and myself, we got to one pro day. We went to Clemson and after that things got shutdown. A couple of our scouts were at a few other pro days before things got shut down but minimal, minimal participation, obviously, with pro days. Coming out of that, it will be a little bit different, because our totals indicate we have got 74 players that we will not have a 40-yard dash on. We have 76 players that will have incomplete physicals because they were not able to go back for the makeup physicals that they would do coming out of the Combine if they still had some injuries healing. Coach Tomlin and I have interviewed 125 players, either at Senior Bowl, at the Combine or through the FaceTime calls, which I think we ended up doing about 37 of those over the last three weeks. All said, you know, we still think the depth of this draft is good. We think we are going to get all six of our players from 140, and you know, we are going to get some that will start and some that will compete as starters, and some that will back up and some that will compete with our backups.

Mike Tomlin: You know, not a lot to add. I'll say this; although that the procedure or the process has been different, as I sit here today, I still have the same level of preparedness and comfort that I normally have going into a draft week. Areas where we may be lacking, we are probably stronger in some other areas. I feel really good from a preparedness standpoint in terms of the tape and the value that we place and I place on the tape. I had a real, real good opportunity to really delve into that, probably more so than we do than when we are traveling a bunch. We do glean a lot from the face-to-face opportunities from the young people and being on their campuses, but as Kevin mentioned, the calls and so forth have been very productive for us. We're not worried about how or why this is different. It's the same for all the people that we compete against and we are in this process with, so from that standpoint, it's fair, we are excited about getting into the work that we have in front of us this week. It has been a really about process. It been fun to kind of adjust and find ways to be productive.

One of the things that I think that was most significant about this process that Kevin did mention was once the pro days got shut down, we almost immediately started our meetings and so there was never a sense or a feeling of rebound rushed through the developmental process and we were able to adjust to the unusual circumstances with a significant amount of time that Kevin allowed it for the meeting element of the process. So we are thankful for that, and it's been a good process.

Given some of the struggles you had late last season, certainly second half of the season, is it fair to say that offense would be a high priority?

Mike Tomlin: You know, we have some positional need, no doubt. But as we always do, man, we are going to let the development do our work for us. We put a lot of effort into this development. There are a lot of good players on both sides of the ball. We can utilize good players on both sides of the ball and on special teams. We are going to come out of this thing with the guys that we need, no doubt. Our shared history together gives me that comfort and we'll get our needs addressed on offense, defense and special teams.

Kevin Colbert: The only thing I would add to that is you referenced the back end of the season, and what I'm going to reference is the front end of this season with the assumption that we are going to have a Ben Roethlisberger available. And when you have that caliber of quarterback available -- everybody's play picks up. So I'm looking forward to having Ben in the mix and seeing how the rest of the group respond with him and we'll factor that into all the thinking we have as we move forward into the Draft.

A couple of mock drafts have had the Steelers taking a quarterback with that first pick. Curious how closely you guys have evaluated this class of quarterbacks, and if you anticipate adding one, whether through the Draft or free agency or afterward and what kind of impact can Matt Canada have in developing some of the young quarterbacks you have in the roster?

Kevin Colbert: We look at every position no differently than any other given year and whether we are picking first or 37 or not picking, we evaluate the whole board by position, so as to properly stack it. So we have a good feel for those guys and there are several players in that group that are going to be future starters, possible Pro Bowlers. There are some nice backups. If any pick makes sense at any time of course we'll make those picks. As I've stated before and stated on the last question, you feel good about No. 7, Ben, coming back. We know what we have in place on and we'll see where we go. But again, we'll be prepared for any position regardless of who we have on our current team. I'll let Coach address the back part of that about Matt.

Mike Tomlin: We are excited about bringing Matt and Ike Hilliard into the fold. Hand-in-hand with all the quarterbacks and help them in their growth and development and readiness for the season and not only that, he's going to bring some fresh ideas to us as a coaches collective, and probably bring some schematic ideas, as well. That's all part of the process of kind of team development and excited about getting started with that, and whatever form we get started with that here in the week or so on the 27th when we start our off-season program.

Curious, when you're looking for multiple positions, how do you weigh best player available at the time versus one position or another that might be especially deep in a given draft? In other words, we like Player X here, but there are way more position players at Position Y. What's the dynamic round-to-round?

Kevin Colbert: It's all relative. We can always say this player is available, but there's several more that we may get down the road; we'd better look at another position first. And if the other position without the depth and the player's is equal, of course you take the player with less depth at that appropriate time. But you're never going to reach down into a group only because there's six that may help you, and the other group has 12. If the group that has 12, his player -- that player is significantly better, you take him. If not, you're going to make a mistake.

Can you walk us through, basically, what's going to happen this weekend and the dynamics? Who is going to be on the phone? Is it you? Mike? Art? Zoom meetings? How will you come to the final decision? Can you walk us through how all that is going to happen?

Kevin Colbert: I could probably do that better in about three hours because we actually have an NFL walk-through draft at one o'clock today. And we've been meeting about it, talking about it, and again, Scott Phelps and his group has done a lot to help us be able to manage this, but we're actually going through that later this afternoon. We have our room set up for the Steelers. Coach Tomlin and myself and Art Rooney and Omar Khan will be visible to each other because Omar will be involved in the drafts. Basically what we have available to us is if we were sitting in a room together, all the coaches and scouts will have access to every conversation going on via different lines. Coach and myself and art and Omar will get into trade talks and we can share a conversation as if we are sitting there. So we have it set up internally, again, Scott Phelps and his group were awesome in doing this. We each have a draft room set up in our homes and we'll work from that. The interaction with the league, we have that first dress rehearsal today and I'll know more myself at about 3 o'clock.

What's Thursday going to be like, not having a pick? How do you guys anticipate going through that process?

Kevin Colbert: I'll let you start with that one, Coach.

Mike Tomlin: You know, it's going to be a spectator's view, but you know, it's really a good opportunity for us to get comfortable with the organization of all of this in terms of how the draft is unfolding and how communication happens and trades and things of that nature. I think the consequences or benefits of not having a first pick from that perspective -- to be honest with you, I'm not fretting at all about not having a first pick. That first pick is Minkah Fitzpatrick, and we have already benefitted from his presence and looking forward to continuing to do so.

Either one of you, but maybe Mike might be better suited for it. Typically by this time in the process, you've had the guys in the building for the first part of OTAs. You've had players that had off-season surgeries, other things like that. How are you handling not being able to see these guys on a regular basis? Are you staying in contact with players who have had those kind of issues and keeping track of them throughout this whole process?

Mike Tomlin: To be honest with you, this process in terms of our ability to interact with our current roster in a formal way would be no different. Our off seen program was scheduled to start today. Now we're preliminary scheduled to have a virtual off-season start on the 27th. So today would have been the first official function obviously with the guys in the building. Now that being said, obviously guys under normal circumstances are in and out of the building, getting workouts in an informal way, but today would have actually been the first day for us to gather in a formal way in terms of the off-season program and interacting with players in a professional way. Can't say that we've missed a lot. Can't say that this process has changed information gathering from that become because every year the calendar is different, and this year, because of how the draft fell in relation to the large calendar, there wasn't a lot of opportunity for that interaction or that analysis of the current roster prior to draft weekend.

For either of you, Mike, you had mentioned a lot of tape that you had watched. Do you feel like you have a better idea or how different is the idea you have of these players because you've watched more tape and more in person and more numbers?

Mike Tomlin: You know, I don't know that I have more exposure to more players. I think I have just watched more tape on the same number of players that I usually watch. Because we're quarantined and so forth, I've had opportunities to come back and take a look at another game or two on a guy that we're discussing. You know, the video is just at think fingertips and through the isolation, it's just provided a lot of opportunities to take a deeper dive and so there's additional comfort from that perspective.

Kevin Colbert: I might add to that, in a normal season or a normal draft preparation, Coach and I may be at a pro day and our scouts are working on meetings of the more later picks. But right now,

Coach and I, we're on every call and every meeting more so than we've been in the past with the lower round guys, and I think personally I feel better knowing more about the later picks and the free agent types than I did, and of course we all feel comfortable what we know about the higher-rated guys.

You mentioned that there were 74 players that have incomplete physicals -- or 76, and another 74 guys there were some unknowns about. Are all those guys off your board or do you weigh the unknowns differently?

Kevin Colbert: Look, all teams are in the same boat. None of us have that information because players didn't have pro days so we couldn't get 40 times. Nobody got the extra information of the rechecks on the physicals because, you know, the physicals had to be postponed. Although we're relying on what we see on film as what we think a player can run, we do more background and talk to the strength coaches. There's been several videos sent out by agents throughout the spring and we assigned our scouts to watch those videos. You're not going to time anybody off a video because A, you don't know what the surface is; what the wind is; how much the player weighs. But what we do say, if we think a player is 4-5 and we watched video and looks like he's running 4-65, make that note. If it's 4-5 and looks like he's running 4-4, make that note. John Norwig and our team doctors, Dr. Bradley, Dr. Yates, they have been awesome in following up with phone calls and verifying as much information as they can medically talking to the player, the doctor that did the surgeries, talking to trainers, just making decisions as best we can with the information we've got. As we said from the beginning of this whole process, we are no different than the other 31 teams, so we've just got to make the most of it.

You talked about going through the mock draft this afternoon. Any concerns when it comes to making a trade, given you're all in different locations and you still have 15 minutes, do you worry you have enough time to make a move that you'll be able to do it in time?

Kevin Colbert: I think we'll find that out this afternoon, because part of the mock -- the mock that we do today, it's really just like drill with the NFL and the NFL working such things as you mentioned. I believe that we are all going to be asked to pull off a trade and to communicate with a team, get that communication into the league, and I'm assuming we are doing it today so as to -- if any problems pop up, the league can address it and say, okay, we've got till Thursday to work with this. So again, Ken Fiore and his group has been awesome in trying to iron out as many of these details as we can, and we'll know more again this afternoon. Did we talk about the possibility of what ifs? Sure. Again, Ken and his group and I think each team, we'll try it today. It's going to be a two-hour practice, and I'm sure we'll feel comfortable coming out of it, because if there's things that need to be addressed, we'll get it taken care of.

You weren't very good at running the ball last year and there were big reasons for that and Ben not being there. Assuming he's coming back, how important is it for you to find a running back in this draft?

Mike Tomlin: You know, like we mentioned earlier, we've got a lot of needs. There's some top-quality backs in this draft that could help us, but there are also some other positional guys that could help us. We'll let the development do the work for us. If we get an opportunity to add a back that could bring some things to our current pool, we'll be excited about that. We have every intention of running the ball better in 2020 than we did in 2019, whether we add that back or no mand that's just being bluntly honest with you.

Kevin Colbert: And to add to that, I know that starting the season, we'll have a healthy James Conner and we have some other young backs that have all been contributors in the past and there's no reason that they still can't be contributors when healthy. You know, I always go back to James Conner had acute injuries in 2019. In 2018, he avoided that and put up a Pro Bowl season. So he's still a young, ascending player, and when healthy, he's an NFL Pro Bowl player. Again, that's a hope -- I know James will enter the season healthy, but you know, can we complement it in we'll see. But I'm not going in thinking we don't have a starter-capable runner because I know James Conner is.

With the new CBA, you have the extra roster spots in coming years. Just wondering if that's going to change your draft strategy, maybe different types of players that can fit into your roster that maybe you didn't use a draft pick in the past?

Kevin Colbert: With what's coming down the road, I think one thing we've acknowledged this year with the ability to address the extra offensive lineman on game day, that's going to help the center-type player because in the past if you couldn't play two positions, it was hard to get a jersey on game day, and it's something we've talked about. A lot of times when you're talking about offensive lineman, we look at position, flexibility and the ability to play more than one spot. But now, because we will be able to address that extra offensive lineman, I think that changes our thinking and then we'll adjust as the different rules come into play over time. Coach, anything?

Mike Tomlin: No, no, nothing to add. I'll just expand on that center discussion. The backup center, particularly the backup center only, there are going to be more global opportunities for employment and participation and availability for games because of the rule.

On wide receivers, were you able to glean the depth of talent that might have been there before the shutdown happened? Were you able to get enough of a sense of how deep the talent is for this pool of receivers? And Mike, your depth chart at wide receiver, is it too stocked right now that a second round draft choice, your first draft choice, would have a tough time getting into the team?

Kevin Colbert: I'll take the first part. That's a nice way to sneak in two questions. I like that.

Mike Tomlin: That's pretty sweet.

Kevin Colbert: Fortunately, the wide receiver group, when I talked about players that didn't run 40s, the majority of the wide receivers did either run at the Combine or the pro days that we were able to get done before the shut down. So we do feel good about that group. It is a deep group. There are some dynamic players. There are some nice depth guys. There's some slot types. There's some big outside guys. So it's a nice group and I feel good about it from an evaluation standpoint, probably good as we feel about that position as we do any other.

Mike Tomlin: From a depth and competition standpoint, I'm always excited about adding talent to our team, particularly with this wide receiver pool. I think Kevin would agree, in recent years, it's been interesting to watch the level of development of receivers and corners specifically. From a draft standpoint, it's reflective of the development seven-on-seven in the year-round skill development that now permeates our game at the high school level. I think these guys are just coming in with a higher level of preparedness and that allows them from a skill standpoint to maybe ascend and be helpful to us as an early stage.

Both of you, Kevin, you mentioned earlier that you felt there could be positives pulled from this experience that you guys are going through in draft preparation. I'm hoping you can expand on that a little bit. I'm wondering, also, if that means an increased reliance on analytics, or what did you mean by that? What are the ways you are trying to overcome some of the shortcomings this situation creates?

Kevin Colbert: I'm usually optimistic and try to look for positives within a situation, but not only the football world has been challenged but the whole world has been challenged; life in general, and how do we go about things and priorities and those types of things. But what I was referencing is when we got shut down, as Coach mentioned, we went right into a meeting phase. Again, through our IT people and our video people, we were able to do this in a much more efficient manner. We got it -- I think we're as thorough as we can be with as much information, but maybe when we look at it and do it in a different manner: Do I have to fly the scouts in in February for preliminary meetings and why can't we just do those via conference like we just did; is there a for efficient way, rather than flying in 30 players to spend a day with you, we get them on the phone and for 20 minutes, we can talk to them and get a lot of the same details we might have had had we spent a day with them. Of course, you can watch film with them via FaceTime; we chose not to do that. We just want to meet the player if we haven't met him. Like I said, we got 37 visits done in a much more efficient manner and cost-efficient manner than we did, or have in the past from having to fly people.

The analytic part will continue to grow and we have two young men that help us in our scouting staff, Tosin [Kazeem] and Jay [Whitmire], and they do awesome work and they provide information, and we use that information to supplement our scouting information, and maybe answer some questions that we have if we are looking for tie breaker-type things. I know all that will continue. I know the meetings were efficient. The meetings were timely. We got it done, and I think business in general and everybody that's been obviously affected by this will have a different way to look at things and I think that there will be plenty of positives that come out of this whenever it all comes to be.

What is the biggest challenge in your mind with just the unusual nature of this year's draft?

Kevin Colbert: You know, I think we've talked about those challenges, but they are not unique to us. So I think -- I hope that we've met those challenges. The meetings were different. Again, we don't have as much information as we've had, but going back to the -- when this thing first started, I reminded our scouts that the best draft in NFL history happened not during a pandemic, but it happened in an era when that group, Art Rooney, Junior; Bill Nunn, Dick Haley, they trusted their information. So they were able to do it. There's no reason why we can't. So I really don't view it as challenging. It's different, but the challenge, I welcome the challenge and hopefully we can meet it. Coach?

Mike Tomlin: Yeah, I think I'm beyond worry regarding the process of drafting and I guess my focus now is on the welcoming and the development of the guys we are going to draft and what's that going to look like or not drafting. The Draft is just the beginning of the process. How we develop these men, not only as players, but into our team and this community is something that we take personal pride in and work very hard at, and so these present circumstances are going to change the look of that. And so, you know, my attention is probably moving in that direction in terms of what rookie orientation looks like and how do we get to know these young men and help them grow and develop under present circumstances. But that's a few days away. We have to draft them and acquire them first and I'm comfortable with the direction that we are headed in terms of that.

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PITTSBURGH STEELERS 2020 DRAFT PICKS

Rnd.	No. In Rnd.	Overall	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College
2.	17	49	Chase Claypool	WR	6-4	238	21	Notre Dame
3.*	38	102	Alex Highsmith	LB	6-3	248	22	Charlotte
4a.	18	124	Anthony McFarland Jr.	RB	5-8	208	22	Maryland
4b.**	29	135	Kevin Dotson	OL	6-4	310	23	Louisiana
6.	19	198	Antoine Brooks	DB	5-11	220	22	Maryland
7.	18	232	Carlos Davis	DT	6-2	320	23	Nebraska

*Compensatory pick

**Acquired via trade with Miami Dolphins

PITTSBURGH STEELERS 2020 UNDRAFTED FREE AGENTS

Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	College
Spencer Nigh	FB	6-0	267	Auburn
Christian Montano	G	6-4	300	Tulane
Trajan Bandy	DB	5-9	186	Miami (Fla.)
James Pierre	DB	6-2	185	Florida Atlantic
James Lockhart	LB	6-2	263	Baylor
Leo Lewis	LB	6-2	245	Mississippi State
John Houston	LB	6-3	220	Southern California
Josiah Coatney	DE	6-4	325	Mississippi
Calvin Taylor	DE	6-9	311	Kentucky
Corliss Waitman	P	6-2	210	Mississippi State (South Alabama)

**Second Round
49th Overall**



**Chase Claypool – WR
Notre Dame**

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Chase Claypool
Wide Receiver
Notre Dame
6-4 3/8, 238
Abbotsford, British Columbia
Abbotsford High School
2nd Round – 49th Overall

2019 SEASON

Led the team with 66 catches for 1,037 yards and 13 touchdowns while playing in all 13 games ... left Notre Dame seventh in career receptions with 150 ... 13 TD receptions were the sixth most in a season by an Irish player ... earned the game ball with four TD receptions in the win over Navy ... named Camping World Bowl MVP after making seven catches for 146 yards and a score in win against Iowa State.

2018 SEASON

Played in all 13 games, starting 12 of those contests ... finished the season second on the team with 639 receiving yards on 50 receptions and four TDs ... made TD grabs in consecutive games against Wake Forest and No. 7 Stanford ... had a season-best eight catches for 130 yards at Northwestern ... made six grabs for 98 yards and a TD win over No. 12 Syracuse.

2017 SEASON

Saw action in 12 games and started eight contests ... ranked second on the Irish in both receptions (29) and receiving yards (402) ... caught nine passes for 180 yards, including a career-long 44-yard grab, and a TD vs. Wake Forest (Nov. 4) ... registered four receptions of at least 20 yards ... hauled in a seven-yard TD grab vs. Miami, Ohio (Sept.30).

2016 SEASON

Became the eighth player from Canada to appear in varsity action for Notre Dame ... played in all 12 games ... one of 10 true freshmen who played in at least eight games ... one of seven true freshmen to register at least 11 tackles ... led the Irish in special teams tackles with 11 and punt-return tackles with eight ... registered eight of Notre Dame's 19 tackles on punt coverage ... recorded six receptions for 81 yards, good for an average of 13.5 yards per reception ... amassed 90 all-purpose yards, including a career-best 33 against Michigan State (Sept. 17) ... had one catch for 33 yards against the Spartans ... registered a nine-yard rush in the win vs. Nevada (Sept. 10).

HIGH SCHOOL

One of the top players ever to come out of British Columbia and an elite wide receiver prospect ... helped Abbotsford reach the 2015 British Columbia High School Football AA Championship game (first such berth since 1984) ... in 2015, versatile athlete caught 58 passes for 1,473 yards and 18 TDs; rushed for 567 yards and eight TDs on 47 carries; completed six of eight passes for 103 yards and three TDs; added 74 tackles, including two sacks, two fumble recoveries and five interceptions; returned four punts for 195 yards (two TDs) and seven kickoffs for 176 yards (one TD) ... held the following school records: career and single-season TDs, career and single-season receiving yards, career and single-season receptions, single-season tackles, career and single-season interceptions and longest receiving TD ... one of three finalists for the Sports BC 50th annual Athlete of the Year ... selected to participate in Nike's 2015 "The Opening" in Beaverton, Oregon and the 2016 Blue-Grey All-American Bowl in Jacksonville, Florida ... No. 280-ranked player nationally and No. 12-ranked tight end on Scout.com 300 list ... No. 159-ranked player in the nation and No. 12-ranked wide receiver on ESPN 300 list ... No. 170-ranked player in the nation and No. 33-ranked wide receiver on 247Sports.com Top 247 ... No. 109-ranked player in the nation and No. 22-ranked wide receiver on Rivals.com 250 list ... No. 262-ranked player on the Tom Lemming Prep Football Report ... played for head coach Jay Fujimura at Abbotsford Senior Secondary School.

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Chase Claypool Teleconference Transcript

Did you have any idea the Steelers were this high on you and have you had any interaction with them since the combine?

I had no clue that the Steelers were going to pick me. I had a good talk with Coach [Mike] Tomlin at the Senior Bowl, but that was kind of it. Obviously, I talked to some of the area scouts and what not. That would have been my last guess. But I guess that is usually how it goes. They told us that all the time, the team you least expect.

What would you say led to your improvement year to year and how would you describe your senior year?

I think a big part of that was confidence. Just being put in that situation and making those plays and knowing you can make those plays, it is so much easier to make that play again and again. So that was big. That was something that just came with hard work and practice and all that. I think once I acquired that confidence, it was something I could really shake. I think that was pretty big and then the extra time put in before and after practice.

Can you talk about getting yourself noticed coming out of Canada to end up at Notre Dame?

I just threw my highlights on Facebook just because it was something I wanted to do for friends and family to see. Not really any attention for any recruiting purposes. But the right people saw. This guy named Eddie saw it and helped my film go to the states. They wanted to see me compete against competition in the states, so I did the camp circuit, went to a bunch of different camps. Went to Notre Dame's camp during the summer. Ultimately, it led me there in a round-about way. It was pretty cool to get that opportunity when it was something I least expected.

What do you know about the Steelers offense and have you ever interacted with any of your new teammates?

I'm not too involved with what they are doing with the X's and O's, but I'm sure it is not going to take long to learn. Ben Roethlisberger called me right after I got off the phone with the Steelers. He introduced himself and congratulated me. And then JuJu [Smith-Schuster] texted me. They have been really good so far reaching out and making it pretty special.

Is there anyone you model your game after?

Not too long ago, JuJu was one of those guys. He is one of those guys I watch on film my senior year. The answer usually is DeAndre Hopkins, Keenan Allen and Calvin Johnson, Julio Jones. I watch a whole bunch of different receivers, so it really depends on the day you ask me but those are the receivers I like to look at.

Did you have some catching up to do coming out of Canada? Are you a late bloomer in that regard?

You can say I am a late bloomer in the sense that I never really had my time to shine until my junior and senior year. I always thought I had the skill set. It just thought it improved year after year. I definitely broke out my senior year, but I thought I always possessed the skillset.

How do you think the virtual offseason and possibly not being in the building effect your development as a rookie?

I don't think it will be too bad. It will be more time for me to get one-on-one work. I am working with T.J. Houshmandzadeh in California. I will be working with him for a while and then I will try to get to the facility as quick as I can just to get some work in with Ben and JuJu and the other receivers there and familiarize myself with the offense. I don't think it will limit me because there will be more one-on-one work that I will be put in.

What convinced you that you had a future in football?

It is something that I always played my entire life. Basketball is something that I picked up later on in life. I certainly had an interest in basketball, especially when I was getting better. No matter how many times I picked up basketball as a hobby, I always gravitated back to football. And that is something I couldn't say for anything else. Football was just home for me. It was my comfort zone. It was kind of a guy feeling that football was the sport for me.

Do you feel like you understand how to use your combination of size and speed at the NFL level?

I think that is something that a lot of teams talked about with me was just that combination of size and speed. It allows offenses to do a lot of different things. A lot of coaches were excited about that. I am excited to bring those skills to the table and kind of offer what I have. I think there are a lot of different things any offense can do. I am just kind of excited to see how that all plays out.

What was it like waiting for your name to be called and what did you and Coach Tomlin talk about?

Me and Mike Tomlin, it was more of just a brief congratulations. He had me high on his draft board and he was excited he got the chance to get me. I was just talking with the staff. Waiting wasn't too bad. As long as I went Day 2, I would have been happy. Hearing my name called was a blessing in and of itself. This process has been a very cool experience for me.

What excites you most about this wide receiver group and playing with a QB like Ben Roethlisberger?

A big thing is going into the right situation wherever you get drafted. Obviously, you can't control that, but some guys get lucky enough to be put in that situation. But I think being on a historic team with a proven background is a pretty cool opportunity. Especially playing with a QB like Ben who has been in the League for a long time who knows what it takes to succeed. I was fortunate enough to be drafted into a place that is the right situation.

What are the advantages you see playing in the slot of an NFL offense?

I think that they are just going to talk to me about the mismatches and versatility they can add to their offense being able to move different guys around to different places. I am sure they are going to kind of utilize that and make the most of that. It is pretty exciting to think about when they start drawing up the X's and O's.

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Chase Claypool Zoom Conference Transcript

Being the first pick by the Steelers this draft comes with some pressure, how do you handle pressure?

I honestly don't see it as something that should be seen as a pressure situation. I just think they picked me for a reason with their first pick and it is not like I have to do anything superhuman. They just want me to do what I have been doing for the last two years in college.

What is the football culture in British Columbia? Were you a CFL fan or root for an NFL team?

We take football pretty seriously. But, obviously, we don't have the big audiences like the states or a lot of the players like the states. We take it pretty seriously. A lot of people I am surrounded with are pretty avid football people, so I kind of grew up with it my whole life. I grew up a CFL fan, but I always watched the NFL. I was more fans of players than anything just because we didn't have our own team.

Who were some of those players you watched?

I liked LaDainian Tomlinson growing up. That is why I wore 21 for most of my career. And I was a running back and all that. And then for the defensive side of things, Sean Taylor was someone I looked at and watched.

What has the reaction from your family and friends been like with you being drafted to the Steelers?

All my friends and family over here are pumped. They couldn't get the smile off their faces like me. I was smiling for the whole night. It was awesome. They are super excited for me to go to a pretty historic franchise and hopefully add to that legacy.

Has it sunk in yet that you are heading to the NFL?

I don't think it has fully sunk in yet. I think it is something that gets more real and real each day that goes on. Definitely starting to see the transition, I guess you could say. Things are a lot different, I think every day I am getting more and more.

How did your adversity when you were younger shape you and fuel you as an athlete?

I just think it gave me another thing, another reason to push that much harder. I kind of like to use adversity to my advantage and just learn from it and become a better person from it. Happening early in my life helped me kind of push all the way through to where I am at now.

Were you always a bigger kid or did you have a growth spurt in high school?

I have always been the bigger kid in class or on teams. My feet were size 15 in seventh grade, so I kind of knew I was going to be taller because I was pretty short for a size 15 feet at the time. I kind of grew into that, so I have always been a little bit bigger.

What was your reaction at the Combine when teams were saying you might be a tight end?

I was definitely receptive just because a lot of that talk came after I weighed in and I knew kind of what I was going to run. So, I knew some of that talk would also kind of disappear after I ran the

40. So, I like the creativity that people started to place me in different roles on offenses. I think it just added to the versatility that I bring to teams.

Did you ever have any interaction with Jerome Bettis at Notre Dame and if you've heard from him since you've been picked?

He was obviously really involved with the team. So there have been times where he's talked to us. I have been able to thank him after his speech for chatting with us, but I'm going to have to go through my phone and kind of see who all reached out and put my phone down after the picks, and just try to enjoy that with my family. He might have, but I'm sure if he hasn't, he will soon.

A lot of people still question your in-game speed. Do you take consider that or do you think that is being overblown?

Yeah, I think maybe people view me as slower just because of my stride or something. I had a teammate Miles Boykin who was always seen as if he was slow on film because his legs were so long, but when you actually got on the field with him, you realized how fast he really was. That's just perception. In-game speed is something I always like to get better at if it's something I can improve at.

Brian Kelly said he's never had a guy that's as competitive as you even in practices. Was that an everyday absolute for you?

Yeah, being ultra-competitive is kind of just who I am. I brought that to the table. I came in with a chip on my shoulder coming from Canada. Not a lot of guys give that respect right off the bat as you can imagine. So, the respect was kind of earned for me, and that was through tough, physical play and just being competitive. There's been some situations where it might have been too competitive in a situation, but I'd rather be too competitive than not competitive at all.

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Randy Fichtner on WR Chase Claypool:

Good evening. First, I'd like to say I miss ya'll and hope that everyone there is safe and healthy. This is about Chase [Claypool] and this is our first pick. We're very excited about this opportunity to work with him. Enjoyed the quick opportunity I had to just talk to him again on the phone just like this. You know, he is one of those rare types of combination of size and speed. You know, his wingspan is greater than 80. He's got big hands. His production this past season was off the charts. It's been growing every season for him. He's one of those guys that scores [with] the ball all the time, and there's ways to do it, and he finds ways to basically average a touchdown in every game he plays. He's a point scorer. Some of the small things that just grow on you as you watch his tape and you watch his play, is his ability to be a dependable, ball-security player. A guy that plays without the football. There's no job too small. He'll block. He gives effort when balls aren't coming to him in his routes, and in his job he's supposed to do. He volunteers for special teams. This guy's just a football player and he's growing. You know, he's got a lot of unique traits for the position from the size of 6'4", 235-plus and all of that type of thing. So just a lot of things to be really excited about. He's a potential red-zone threat. When we're down there, he's an outside position player first, and has shown the ability to play in the slot as well. So just overall, really excited about Chase being a Steeler and look forward to getting the chance to be with him and working on the grass with him.

Did you have the chance to meet with him before the pandemic set in and what interactions have you had?

I didn't get the chance to meet him here. I did at the Combine. He was in and went through a lot at the stadium there. It's hard to miss him, you know, he has an air about him, when you walk down and you're that size and you've got that little smile and just a sharp look about yourself. He's really well spoken and an intelligent young man. I wish I'd get to know him more. We were set to go to his pro day, and unfortunately that didn't get to happen, but I'm really confident in our staff and all of the scouts in Kevin's [Colbert] department because we did the extra things to try and get to know these guys, and that gives you a great sense of feel, and like I said, I think this is going to be an exciting time for this young man and for us.

Have you thought about how you're going to use him or how he fits, and at what point do you go through that process?

When we go through them and grade them, and we've got Ike Hilliard and myself and Blaine Stewart, and we watch all of these guys, and we'll go back and watch them again, and we cross check each other. You don't want to ever put anyone in a box. He's played some inside position. He's probably more comfortable in being an outside-type receiver. He wins an awful lot of one on ones. I don't remember not seeing him win a one on one, contested-type play. I didn't get the chance to watch every game, but boy, the eight games he had, and a lot of big competition that they do play. I would think outside probably first. It's a more natural thing for the developing of a young receiver to be able to fit in and help. Obviously, the first thing you think about is a possibility in the red zone. Big target, back of the end line, in the corners. Those types of things. I probably wouldn't put him in just say "well, he's locked in, he'd have to be this," and I'm real hopeful that at some point of time, we're going to get some time on the grass with him soon, and we'll try and figure all of that out.

You have at least three receiving targets of at least 6'4" or taller. What does it do to just add another big body target for Ben Roethlisberger?

Well, you know, the size is great from the height standpoint, the wingspan, all of that is wonderful if it's used right, and you learn how to use it at this next step. It's really exciting. It's really exciting for a quarterback because you've got this catch radius and these ball placements that don't always have to be perfect. You put them against the defender, and so many times defensive players are competing too, and they're good players, and they stay closely to you. They try and make plays on balls, and just that size alone and the competitiveness, I think it's going to be an advantage to him, as well as us.

Does he compare in style of play to JuJu Smith-Schuster?

Well you know, you could say that. I saw JuJu play a lot more into the slot-type area in that position. You see Chase used in there for specific things. It's not the first natural place for him to play. JuJu was very comfortable inside and out, and it allowed JuJu at a young age to do that. I think that in time, there are some similarities to be able to go in there. You look at enough toughness. You look at a guy that, like I said, there's no job too small, and if you continue with that kind of attitude, he's only ever going to get better and help us win. You know, I think the comparison would come to toughness and to size, strength, and no, it's not a guy coming in that I'd say needs 10 pounds of strength. I remember years ago when I had Nate Washington and how I said he'll need 10 pounds just of natural strength, and then the world's going to come to you. He's already coming in like that, and that's kind of exciting too, especially in a possibility that we don't have as much time in development before the season.

What really set him apart from the rest of the other receivers that were available and were you surprised he felt you guys?

I was really excited when he ran a sub 4.4 at the Combine, and I don't get excited because boy, you just assume you're probably not going to get to him at 49, so every team looks at guys and see potentially what their need is. You talk about just a characteristic in general, in comparative to what we maybe have offensively on our roster at wide receiver is that down the field speed, and then coupled that with size and the ability to win one on ones. I think he brings a lot to us. In my heart I know Ben [Roethlisberger] is working hard to get back, and when he has the ability to throw the ball down the yard and feel really good about the percentage of those completions and big plays, I know for a fact he's going to be excited about the opportunity to have one more weapon and be able to throw balls up.

How much did you miss having that deep threat last year and was that a goal in this draft to get faster on offense?

I think you just always do in general. You know, you can't run from the idea that football players are football players. That all has to be a part. The guys make plays and they don't always test, and they don't have these numbers and those types of things, and then you've got guys that do have these types of phenomenal, physical traits that allow them to do certain things. You know, naturally as a coach, you get excited about the opportunity that maybe this one has to be defended deep, and now guys like JuJu, Diontae [Johnson], James [Washington], they work in the intermediate, and all of a sudden, it just seems to open things up a little bit cleaner. Everyone needs those levels to be able to attack, and I think from just the speed alone puts him into that conversation. So, very excited.

What are some of the challenges you see with the virtual offseason with a rookie like Claypool?

Well, I'm still not clear yet on how soon he'll be involved with us. I'm sure it's very similar to when the rookie minicamp can occur. We'll be ready for when that day occurs. I think it does give you a chance to make it as close and personal as you can because I think it allows for some individual coaching, so I challenge our guys just in working with our players next week that are on our campus, that are going to be working virtually with us on the team to make it personal, and to get an opportunity fine tuning details to those that need it. I think that if we're going to use this tool and we've got a lot of things we can do with it, I'm pretty excited about it, and I'm an older generational, non-computer, no iPhone, so it's probably going to be more difficult on me, but I'm excited about that challenge. I think it really helps when you have an intelligent player on the other end of the line as well, and he fits that build.

Has Ben Roethlisberger talked to you at all about what he wanted or have you spoken with him since this pick, and do you think it's making him very happy right now?

I think so. Ben's been around such a long time. I think that he realizes that whoever we take, people we're going to work with, he's getting an opportunity to groom young guys, work with guys. I really like where we're heading at the beginning of last season and offseason with young James Washington and Diontae, and it's just going to be really another opportunity for him to share his leadership style, his want to, his drive, and instill it in another young wide receiver, and like I said, I'm just very hopeful that we'll get a chance to do that soon and safe.

Were you determined to get use a receiver with this pick and how nervous did you get as they were coming off in front of you?

No, not so. I've come to appreciate our system and the evaluation and just the development. I knew it was a pretty deep draft at receivers, and you're always hopeful that one of them was going to be there, and it just so happened Chase was there, and I'm awful glad that he was. I saw them come off in the first round and then tonight, and we were just hopeful that we were potentially going to get a chance to discuss Chase at that pick.

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Head Coach Mike Tomlin and General Manager Kevin Colbert

Kevin Colbert Opening Statement:

Good evening everybody. It seemed like it was a longer evening because we had to wait until later to pick in the third round, but very happy with the two young men we were able to draft today. Chase Claypool, University of Notre Dame. Sharp young man. He has great size, he has great speed, he has great competitiveness. We really got up close to him at the Senior Bowl. The work he did on the special teams really stood out in the practices. Of course we knew about his receiving abilities, but when you saw him up close working the way that he did in the special teams parts of practice, it really showed the competitiveness that this young man has to go along with his size, his speed and his receiving abilities. Alex Highsmith, we had a couple scouts go through there in the fall. First time I saw him was at the East-West game, the practices. You could tell that he was above where we thought he might have been going into that because he kind of stood out in the East-West practices. Long, fast, athletic guy. He continued to impress us athletically at the Combine. And when you look at what he did as a walk-on that was a special teams stand out as a young player, to end up putting up the stats that he had this season, we all think this kid isn't anywhere near where he might be somewhere down the road. Excited to get these two young men. They are both two awesome young men. One has graduated. Chase has graduated and Alex is scheduled to graduate in August, but obviously that is on hold because of the situation. I think he is finishing up online, but he won't be able to walk.

Mike Tomlin Opening Statement:

As Kevin stated, we are excited to have both men. Adding to what he described in terms of those guys, I thought we were really impressed, in Chase's case, his physicality and it really captured his attention like Kevin said regardless of what drill he was in down in Mobile. Whether it was a special teams drill or whether it was a wide receiver DB blocking drill. As I started to study his tape after that exposure, it was consistent on his tape as well. There is a physicality in his play that was really attractive outside of the things that were mentioned. And then the case of Alex, really enjoyed getting to know him through the process and having football conversations with him. It is obvious he is a technician. He studies the rush element of play. He took a significant step in 2019 in terms of developing his rush repertoire. I think it was obviously beneficial to him in terms of his production and it is reasonable to expect that growth in understanding and analyzing what he does and how he produces plays to continue even as he takes a step to this level of play. Excited about both guys.

Were you focused on taking a wide receiver?

Colbert:

Again, we never go into it looking for a position. We have ideas where strengths are, we have ideas where our wants are. And if they match up at a certain point, great. In the case of a wide receiver, we were excited that that player was available to us in particular. Not that position. Chase Claypool the player was available to us for all the reasons we stated. He's big, he's fast, he's strong, he's physical. He can make a contested catch. Again, when a player like that is available, it was easy. We didn't go in looking for any particular position.

Is there any truth to Chase Claypool's playing speed is slower than his 40 time shows?

We know he ran that. At that size, I could say I was a little surprised that he did run that fast. But I definitely didn't think he was a 4.6 (second 40 time) or anything of that nature. He ran an exceptional time. He plays fast for his time. He usually is right around 230 or 228 (pounds). Until we actually time him, you never know. Sometimes the bigger guys with the long stride, they are deceptive. I have seen it throughout my career. This didn't disappoint us. But when it was verified, then we were like, "This could be pretty special." Really, he did what he did. You can't fake a ton. He does play fast, he does play strong. He does play physical.

When it comes to Alex Highsmith, do walk-ons have an attitude and a chip on their shoulder that you are drawn to?

Tomlin:

I don't necessarily categorize him in the category that way. Talk about attributes, I am just looking at Alex and the things that he brings. We were really by his resume. The development of his skills over his time there. I wouldn't necessarily call him raw with the techniques relative to rush. I mentioned in my opening statement that it was a fluid and fun process getting to know him because he is a football junkie in that way in terms of skills relative to his position. Obviously, there is going to be an adjustment as they transition to the National Football League. Not only for him, but for all of these guys. Particularly for him coming from North Carolina Charlotte, he is going to have to get acclimated to the pace of play and things of that nature and playing on two feet all the time, which I am sure he will be excited about attacking and we will be in terms of attacking with him.

Is the plan to split up time for the outside linebackers to get more bodies?

Tomlin:

In regard to play, Alex is a quality depth to the position where you need quality rush men. So, we now have three Heisman Trophy winning quarterbacks in the AFC North. We've got to employ people to hunt those guys. Hopefully he'll aid us in that regard.

Does having linebackers like TJ Watt and Bud Dupree allow you to draft a developmental guy like Alex Highsmith? And is there any movement to sign Bud Dupree to a long-term deal now that he signed his franchise tender?

Colbert:

We've always said it will always be our intention to try and get Bud signed to a long-term deal so he can finish his career here. We have a very dynamic duo with Bud and TJ, and I'd like to see that end together. I don't think he's going to get a redshirt year; I can't think for the coaches. I know Coach Tomlin's expectation will be this young man will contribute when he's ready. Again, physically, he's 6'3" 344 pounds. He can run. Can he get stronger? Sure. They all can. Again, it's just learning at this level. I don't think anybody is going into this is a redshirt situation. We're going to expect him to come in and contribute. Again, like we mentioned, first and foremost on the special teams, it'll give us another size guy that can run. Like Chase, both of those guys will be able to help immediately on the special teams as they grow as a receiver and a linebacker.

Is there something specific you see in guys that leads you to believe they can make that transition at outside linebacker?

Tomlin:

You know, so much of it is predicated on rush and the ability to rush. So, you see those things obviously we watch of defensive end tape. The rest of the things you can glean just in terms of just evaluating the pedigree from at least an aptitude standpoint and some of the drills that are conducted in situations like in Indy. We were completely comfortable with his level of pedigree, in terms of his ability to move and move in space, and the rest is just teaching and learning.

**Third Round
102nd Overall**



**Alex Highsmith – LB
Charlotte**

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Alex Highsmith
Linebacker
Charlotte
6-4, 242
Wilmington, North Carolina
Eugene Ashley High School
3rd Round – 102nd Overall

CAREER

2020 NFL Combine participant ... named to the 2020 NFL All-Combine Team as an edge rusher ... 2020 East-West Shrine Bowl ... 2019 Third Team All-America by both AP and Pro Football Focus ... first 49er to earn all-America honors ... 2020 East-West Shrine Bowl ... 2018 and 2019 First Team All-Conference USA (coaches) ... first 49er to be named first-team All-C-USA twice ... 2019 First Team All-C-USA by PFF and Phil Steele ... ranked fourth in the nation in sacks (14.0) and fifth in TFLs (21.5) ... named to PFF's 2019 All-Draft Stock Team for those players who draft stock rose the most this season ... starting DE in 49ers' first-ever bowl game (2019 Bahamas Bowl) ... 2019 Team Captain ... 2019 Chuck Bednarik Award (Defensive Player of the Year) Watch List ... Burlsworth Trophy Semifinalist ... owns school records for sacks in a game (4.5), season (14.0) and career (20.0) and TFLs in a game (5.0) and season (21.5) ... second all-time with 46.0 TFL ... fifth all-time with 185 career tackles ... 2019 Preseason all-Conference USA (coaches) ... 2018 first-team all-C-USA by PFF and second team by Phil Steele ... joined the 49ers for the 2015 season as a walk-on ... earned scholarship during the summer of 2017.

2019 SEASON

Chuck Bednarik Award (Defensive Player of the Year) Watch List ... Burlsworth Trophy Semifinalist (top collegiate player that began career as a walk-on) ... broke school records for sacks in a game (4.5 vs. Old Dominion), season (14.0) and career (20.0) and TFLs in a game (5.0) and season (21.5) ... fourth in the nation in sacks (14.0) and fifth in TFLs (21.5) ... career-high 75 tackles ... team-high 8 QB hurries ... three PBUs and 1 forced fumble ... started all 13 games ... 7 tackles vs. Buffalo in Bahamas Bowl ... PFF National Team of the Week after Old Dominion win (career-high 12 tackles; records of 4.5 sacks and 5.0 TFL) ... Five-time C-USA Defensive Team of the Week (PFF) ... preseason All-Conference USA (coaches) ... preseason All-C-USA First Team selection by Athlon Sports, Phil Steele and Street & Smiths.

2018 SEASON

Breakout season with career-best in tackles, TFL and sacks ... 49ers' single-season school record with 17.5 TFL ... tied 49ers single-game record with 4.5 TFL at FAU in season-finale victory ... 2018 first-team all Conference USA ... named first-team all-C-USA by Pro Football Focus (PFF) and second team by Phil Steele ... had C-USA's highest run-defense grade (90.6) and second-highest overall grade (89.7) by PFF ... PFF ranked him first in C-USA with 46 stops ... started all 12 games at DE ... earned PFF National Team of the Week honors following win at FAU (career-high 10 tackles; school-record 4.5 TFL; 1.5 sacks) ... also named Madness C-USA POTW ... named league's Defensive Player of the Week after 7.0 tackle; 4.0 TFL outing at the SEC's Tennessee as Charlotte held Vols to season-lows of 192 yards of total offense and 20 yards rushing ... had three games with at least 2.5 TFL (4.5 at FAU; 4.0 at UT; 2.5 vs. App State).

2017 SEASON

Increased impact dramatically mid-season ... played in 11 games without a start ... led 49ers with a career-high 7.0 QB hurries (sixth-most in a single season) ... fifth on the team with 5.0 TFL ... tied for 2nd on the team with 2.0 sacks ... totaled 33 tackles (23 solo) with 5.0 TFLs, 2.0 sacks, 7.0 QB hurries and one fumble recovery ... over the final 5 games had 22 tackles, all 5.0 TFLs, both sacks, six QB hurries and one fumble recovery ... had a career-best 8 tackles (7 solo), 4.0 TFLs with 1.0 sack at Western Kentucky ... 4.0 TFLs were second-most by a 49er in a game ... 5.0 tackles with 1.0 TFL, 1.0 sack at Old Dominion ... 5.0 tackles vs. Middle Tennessee and Georgia State ... tied a school record with four QB hurries vs. Middle Tennessee ... key fumble recovery in 25-24 OT win over UAB.

2016 SEASON

Played in all 12 games, making one start as a redshirt freshman ... lone start came in season-finale at UTSA ... finished year with 17 tackles (11 solo), 2.0 TFL, 1.0 sacks, one QB hurry and 1 pass breakup ... top game came in starting assignment at UTSA: season-high five tackles (five solo), 1.0 TFL on his first career sack ... at least one tackle in each of his final 11 games ... TFL vs. Middle Tennessee ... two tackles at Temple and at Florida Atlantic in 49ers' first-ever C-USA win ... one tackle and one QB hurry vs. Old Dominion ... one tackle (TFL) and one PBU vs. Middle Tennessee.

2015 SEASON

Redshirt season.

PERSONAL

Born August 7, 1997 ... parents are Sam and Pam Highsmith ... has a sister, Lauryn ... major in exercise science with a minor in American Studies ... A/B Honor Roll throughout high school ... National Honor Society ... also played basketball and baseball.

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Alex Highsmith Teleconference Transcript

In terms of your role in 2020 and beyond, what have the Steelers spoken to you about? Are you slotted in as a backup for outside linebacker?

That's where they're looking at me right now. I had an interview with coach Tomlin and Mr. Colbert a couple of weeks ago. So, they talked to me about being on special teams and being that guy behind [Bud] Dupree and [TJ] Watt. I'm just so excited to be able to learn from those two guys who are two of the best pass rushers in the League. So, I'm just ready to set up everything. I'm just ready to learn so much from them and just really do whatever I can to get them to another Super Bowl.

Did you have any inclination that the Steelers were that interested in you and are you aware of their history in taking college defensive ends and making them outside backers in the NFL?

Yeah, so like I said, I had an interview with Coach [Mike] Tomlin and Mr. [Kevin] Colbert, one of the only two teams that I had with the head coach and GM. I knew they were really interested in me. I knew coming into this scheme, they want to do four. I knew this was the position I was going to be, so that's a position I feel like I can play. I played it my freshman year of college, a head defensive end the past two years, but there wasn't a lot of jobs for that role.

Was the position you played in college conducive to the pass rush or was it more difficult to get opportunities of how you were asked to play that position?

My junior was tougher for me. My junior year, I didn't have as many snaps, so I had to play a 4-1 that year. So, I was probably defensive tackle. It was harder for me to get sacks that year and press the quarterback, but you know, this past year running the 4-2-5 and really just being an edge guy, I felt like that helped me be the best pass rusher and get to the quarterback better. That role really helped me get more sacks and just get more pressure on the quarterback. We got a new scheme this year and a new coaching staff, so I'm just thankful to coach and the football staff for putting me in that position.

Coming from a smaller school and conference, what kind of transition do you anticipate it being going to the NFL and what kind of impact will the offseason workout and rookie minicamp?

I'm ready for the challenge. Me being from a smaller school, not having as much good competition playing against, some of my best games in the past couple years were against top five teams that we played. So, I'm excited for the transition. Like I said, I'll do whatever I can and just be the hardest worker on the team and do the right thing to be better for this football team. I just can't wait to get to work. I'm hoping we can report soon, and for now, I'll do what I can to stay in shape, you know, get the playbook. They sent it to us, so ready to get to work.

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Alex Highsmith Zoom Conference Transcript

You were a walk-on in college and became an All-American. Do you think that experience impressed the Steelers and helped them determine you were the guy that would best fit their needs?

You know, honestly, I think that's definitely a good part of my story and what I bring to the table. Yeah, I probably think that it did because being a walk-on, I had a mentality and a work ethic a lot of people didn't have, so that's one thing I think I bring to the table and they know I bring to the table. So, yeah, I think me being a walk on was my story, something I wouldn't have wanted any other way. I've always had this walk on mentality ever since I got to college. That's just something I'm bringing to the NFL as well, just a mindset I'm going to have in everything I do.

You are self-motivated and can coach yourself up. Where does that motivation come from?

Yeah, I feel like I've always been a self-motivator guy. Me being a walk-on, somebody that is, well, for me, my faith is what is most important in my life. I'm a Christian first and foremost. I really feel like I get that motivation from God, just being the best that I can be. He's blessed me with this amazing gift to play football, so I do whatever I can every day to just make the most of it and just give it all to him. So that's where my motivation comes from.

Coming into Pittsburgh, they've lost a couple of special teams guys, but you said that you're more than willing to fill that role. How do you feel about stepping into a smaller role, but in Pittsburgh it's a major contribution that they look for?

I'm so excited. Special teams is something I take pride in. I know how important it is to winning games and how key it is. I feel like that's another thing I bring to the table. He knows I'm a great special teams guy. That's something that I did starting more role at Charlotte. My first two years I played kickoff, punt, kickoff return. So I'm willing to do whatever it takes. Whatever role I've got to play to help this team win games. That's what I'm going to do. I'm excited to be able to play special teams and play outside backer. I'm just ready to learn so much and just can't wait.

Everyone knows your story of being a smaller school guy and starting as a walk on. Did you have opportunities to transfer to a bigger school after your junior year after you were All-Conference? And if so, what made you stay at Charlotte?

I really don't think transferring was in my mind. First off, I used my fifth year to be able to graduate. Charlotte, I feel like it was a place I needed to be. So no matter what, I was going to stay. Thought of transferring never came to my mind. Like I said, I'm so thankful and blessed to be a part of such an amazing team with Coach [Will] Healy last year. Just for us to go to our first bowl game in school history was just so amazing, just as it was to be a part of that team. Transferring never came to my head. I was just glad to be on that team last year.

You're going to be hunting Heisman trophy winning quarterbacks in the AFC North. Have you given this much of a thought to where this is all headed?

I have. This is going to be awesome to play against great caliber quarterbacks. I'm excited to get after them. I remember it was our freshman year, we played Louisville, and Lamar Jackson

smoked us. So, hoping to get some revenge here soon. So just can't wait to be able to lay against these AFC North teams. So I just can't wait to get after them.

Re: On where he gets his motivation

To see how far I have come, I can really attribute it to two things: God's grace and my work ethic. That is really it. That is what I tell people. It is just so cool to see how far I have come and look at pictures from my freshman year of high school. Especially in my sophomore year of high school. No one thought I would be in the position I am in now. Not even me. I am just so thankful and blessed to be in this opportunity and so blessed to be apart of this organization. The work just starts now. It is just the beginning and I can't wait to get to work.

How aware are you of the Steelers' history at linebacker?

I am aware of recent history. James Harrison is one of the GOATs. You know about him, you know what T.J. Watt and Bud Dupree have been doing. I don't know if I said it on here, but I grew up a Panthers fan. I didn't really know much about the Steelers, but I am just excited to learn about their history and just learn about the great linebackers that have come through here. Just hoping that I can be another great one for this franchise.

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Head Coach Mike Tomlin and General Manager Kevin Colbert

Kevin Colbert Opening Statement:

Good evening everybody. It seemed like it was a longer evening because we had to wait until later to pick in the third round, but very happy with the two young men we were able to draft today. Chase Claypool, University of Notre Dame. Sharp young man. He has great size, he has great speed, he has great competitiveness. We really got up close to him at the Senior Bowl. The work he did on the special teams really stood out in the practices. Of course we knew about his receiving abilities, but when you saw him up close working the way that he did in the special teams parts of practice, it really showed the competitiveness that this young man has to go along with his size, his speed and his receiving abilities. Alex Highsmith, we had a couple scouts go through there in the fall. First time I saw him was at the East-West game, the practices. You could tell that he was above where we thought he might have been going into that because he kind of stood out in the East-West practices. Long, fast, athletic guy. He continued to impress us athletically at the Combine. And when you look at what he did as a walk-on that was a special teams stand out as a young player, to end up putting up the stats that he had this season, we all think this kid isn't anywhere near where he might be somewhere down the road. Excited to get these two young men. They are both two awesome young men. One has graduated. Chase has graduated and Alex is scheduled to graduate in August, but obviously that is on hold because of the situation. I think he is finishing up online, but he won't be able to walk.

Mike Tomlin Opening Statement:

As Kevin stated, we are excited to have both men. Adding to what he described in terms of those guys, I thought we were really impressed, in Chase's case, his physicality and it really captured his attention like Kevin said regardless of what drill he was in down in Mobile. Whether it was a special teams drill or whether it was a wide receiver DB blocking drill. As I started to study his tape after that exposure, it was consistent on his tape as well. There is a physicality in his play that was really attractive outside of the things that were mentioned. And then the case of Alex, really enjoyed getting to know him through the process and having football conversations with him. It is obvious he is a technician. He studies the rush element of play. He took a significant step in 2019 in terms of developing his rush repertoire. I think it was obviously beneficial to him in terms of his production and it is reasonable to expect that growth in understanding and analyzing what he does and how he produces plays to continue even as he takes a step to this level of play. Excited about both guys.

Were you focused on taking a wide receiver?

Colbert:

Again, we never go into it looking for a position. We have ideas where strengths are, we have ideas where our wants are. And if they match up at a certain point, great. In the case of a wide receiver, we were excited that that player was available to us in particular. Not that position. Chase Claypool the player was available to us for all the reasons we stated. He's big, he's fast, he's strong, he's physical. He can make a contested catch. Again, when a player like that is available, it was easy. We didn't go in looking for any particular position.

Is there any truth to Chase Claypool's playing speed is slower than his 40 time shows?

We know he ran that. At that size, I could say I was a little surprised that he did run that fast. But I definitely didn't think he was a 4.6 (second 40 time) or anything of that nature. He ran an exceptional time. He plays fast for his time. He usually is right around 230 or 228 (pounds). Until we actually time him, you never know. Sometimes the bigger guys with the long stride, they are deceptive. I have seen it throughout my career. This didn't disappoint us. But when it was verified, then we were like, "This could be pretty special." Really, he did what he did. You can't fake a ton. He does play fast, he does play strong. He does play physical.

When it comes to Alex Highsmith, do walk-ons have an attitude and a chip on their shoulder that you are drawn to?

Tomlin:

I don't necessarily categorize him in the category that way. Talk about attributes, I am just looking at Alex and the things that he brings. We were really by his resume. The development of his skills over his time there. I wouldn't necessarily call him raw with the techniques relative to rush. I mentioned in my opening statement that it was a fluid and fun process getting to know him because he is a football junkie in that way in terms of skills relative to his position. Obviously, there is going to be an adjustment as they transition to the National Football League. Not only for him, but for all of these guys. Particularly for him coming from North Carolina Charlotte, he is going to have to get acclimated to the pace of play and things of that nature and playing on two feet all the time, which I am sure he will be excited about attacking and we will be in terms of attacking with him.

Is the plan to split up time for the outside linebackers to get more bodies?

Tomlin:

In regard to play, Alex is a quality depth to the position where you need quality rush men. So, we now have three Heisman Trophy winning quarterbacks in the AFC North. We've got to employ people to hunt those guys. Hopefully he'll aid us in that regard.

Does having linebackers like TJ Watt and Bud Dupree allow you to draft a developmental guy like Alex Highsmith? And is there any movement to sign Bud Dupree to a long-term deal now that he signed his franchise tender?

Colbert:

We've always said it will always be our intention to try and get Bud signed to a long-term deal so he can finish his career here. We have a very dynamic duo with Bud and TJ, and I'd like to see that end together. I don't think he's going to get a redshirt year; I can't think for the coaches. I know Coach Tomlin's expectation will be this young man will contribute when he's ready. Again, physically, he's 6'3" 244 pounds. He can run. Can he get stronger? Sure. They all can. Again, it's just learning at this level. I don't think anybody is going into this is a redshirt situation. We're going to expect him to come in and contribute. Again, like we mentioned, first and foremost on the special teams, it'll give us another size guy that can run. Like Chase, both of those guys will be able to help immediately on the special teams as they grow as a receiver and a linebacker.

Is there something specific you see in guys that leads you to believe they can make that transition at outside linebacker?

Tomlin:

You know, so much of it is predicated on rush and the ability to rush. So, you see those things obviously we watch of defensive end tape. The rest of the things you can gleam just in terms of just evaluating the pedigree from at least an aptitude standpoint and some of the drills that are conducted in situations like in Indy. We were completely comfortable with his level of pedigree, in terms of his ability to move and move in space, and the rest is just teaching and learning.

**Fourth Round
124th Overall**



**Anthony McFarland Jr. – RB
Maryland**

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Anthony McFarland Jr.
Running Back
Maryland
5-8, 193
Hyatsville, Maryland
DeMatha Catholic High School
4th Round – 124th Overall

CAREER

Finished his Maryland career third in school history with 6.7 yards per rush ... ninth in Maryland history with six 100-yard rushing games ... 21st in Maryland history with 1,648 career rushing yards ... 2019 Maxwell Award Watch List ... 2019 Doak Walker Award Candidate ... 2019 Phil Steele Preseason All-Big Ten Second Team ... 2018 FWAA Freshman All-American ... 2018 All-Big Ten Second Team (Media) ... 2018 All-Big Ten Third Team (Coaches) ... 2018 Associated Press All-Big Ten Second Team ... 2018 Phil Steele All-Big Ten Second Team... Big Ten Freshman of the Week (9/24/18, 11/19/18) ... set the Maryland record for single-season rushing yards by a freshman (1,034).

2019 SEASON

Appeared in 11 of 12 games, making 7 starts ... tallied 614 yards on 114 attempts with 8 TDs with two 100-yard games (at Temple, 9/14; at Michigan State, 11/30) ... hauled in 17 receptions for 126 yards and a TD ... ran for 134 yards on 8 carries including a 63-yard TD to put Maryland ahead 16-13 in the third quarter in last game of Maryland career at Michigan State (11/30) ... quickest Terp to 11 career rushing TDs since 2010 ... was first Maryland player to have 7 rushing TDs in the first 6 games since Keon Lattimore in 2007 ... scored two more times, including the second-longest rush of his career, an 80-yard TD at Rutgers (10/5) ... fifth 100-yard game in career with a 132-yard performance, adding a TD at Temple (9/14) ... had three TDs in the first half vs. #21 Syracuse (9/7), two rushing and one receiving, the most by a Terp in 5 years ... opened up season scoring 2 first-quarter TDs against Howard (8/31).

2018 SEASON

All-Big Ten Second Team ... appeared in all 12 games with 5 starts ... broke the Maryland freshman rushing record with 1,034 yards and 4 TDs, averaging 7.9 yards per rush ... second player in Maryland history to have back-to-back 200-yard rushing games (210 at Indiana, 298 vs. Ohio State) ... had second-most rushing yards in game by a Terp with 298 against Ohio State (11/17) ... set Maryland record for most rushing yards in a game by a freshman (210 at Indiana and then 298 against Ohio State) ... set Maryland record for 100-yard rushing games by a freshman (4) ... set Maryland record for single-season rushing yards by a freshman (1,022) ... had most rushing yards in the first quarter by any player in the FBS with 175 vs. Ohio State (11/17) ... sixth in FBS in yards per rush (7.9) ... totaled second-most rushing yards in a single game ever with 298 on 21 carries (14.2 yards per rush) against Ohio State (11/17), with two TDs ... reached 1,000-yard plateau, becoming the 10th player in Maryland history and first freshman to do so ... led the Maryland offense with 210 rushing yards on 29 carries (7.2 per rush) at Indiana ... got the ball on a then career-best 16 rush attempts, tallying 83 yards against Illinois (10/27) ... rushed for 74 yards on 9 carries vs. Rutgers (10/13) ... carried 9 times for 34 yards at #15 Michigan (10/6) ... rushed 6 times for 112 yards (18.7 yards per rush) and two TDs vs. Minnesota (9/22) ... notched first career 100-yard rushing game against Temple (9/15), rushing 11 times for 107 yards (9.7 yards per rush).

MCFARLAND JR.'S CAREER STATS

Rushing

YR.	G-GS	ATT	GAIN	LOST	NET	AVG	TD	LP	AVG/G
2018	12-5	131	1077	43	1034	7.9	4	81	86.2
2019	11-7	114	646	32	614	5.4	8	80	55.8
Totals	23-12	245	1723	75	1648	6.7	12	81	71.7

Receiving

YR.	G-GS	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LP	AVG/G
2018	12-5	7	73	10.4	0	46	6.1
2019	11-7	16	122	7.6	1	39	12.2
Totals	23-12	23	195	8.5	1	46	8.5

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Anthony McFarland Jr. Teleconference Transcript

Can you summarize your career at Maryland and what do you feel you're capable of at the next level?

I feel like my experience at Maryland was a lot of ups and downs just with everything that we went through, coming in freshman year, me having to redshirt. Coming in after that, losing our teammate Jordan Nunez who I came in with. It's a lot of ups and downs on and off the field through everything at Maryland. I'm glad I went through those things because it made me who I am today. At the end of the day, I went through a lot of adversity at Maryland and had a lot of success and a lot of downfalls. I feel like that's the great thing about life and that's something that I understand. You won't always have success. Sometimes you're going to fall, but it's all about how you respond in life. I think it's the same way with football.

How much did the high ankle sprain bother you last year and are you fully recovered from it now?

Yes, I'm 100 percent now. I was injured the whole season. It happened in like Week 2 against Temple and I didn't get 100 percent until the end of the season, and that was at Michigan State. So, I dealt with that the whole season, just trying to play on it. I only missed one game, and that was the Indiana game because that's when I got the MRI and found out it was sprained. Now I'm 100 percent. That's over with, and I'm ready to go.

Why did you choose Maryland over Alabama?

At the end of the day, I look at it as me going back to high school, me breaking my leg, not being able to have a senior year. Those are things I think about a lot. So, sometimes I try to not get down on myself or beat myself up so much because I know all of the things I've been through going back to high school. Like I said, all the injuries and things I went through, I'm ready for the next chapter in my life, and that's just being a person and playing football.

What did the Ohio State game do for your confidence and what were you able to do to have a big game against them?

The Ohio State game did a lot for my confidence. It let me know, even though I committed to Maryland, that I could still compete with the best. That let me know a lot, not just that game. That let me know that not only that I can play football, but I can go toe to toe with the best. At the end of the day, I think that's the confidence you've got to have when you play this game. It's a violent sport, a violent game. That's what it comes with and that's the type of mentality that you've got to have.

What running back or style do you model your game after in the NFL?

I look at a lot of running backs in the NFL like Alvin Kamara, Christian McCaffery. I'm a versatile back. At the end of the day, that's the type of games I look at. I want to be a versatile back in the NFL. I want to be a running back known for doing it all.

Did you have any interaction with Mike Tomlin prior to the draft process?

I never had interaction with Mike. I'd always see him out there. The team, we never talked, but I always seen them up there just walking around in Maryland. Dino [Tomlin], he's been a real good

teammate. Everybody loves Dino. He's a great guy. He's very smart, very intelligent. Being a guy I've been around, I respect that about him. I know that comes from his family.

What kind of zone were you in against Ohio State and how's your relationship with Matt Canada?

I don't know. I just had a feeling man. I couldn't tell you what I did that game. I just got up and said, "today's going to be the day," and I had one. Matt Canada being with the Steelers really means a lot to me because he was my coach that year, and the fact that he's here with the Steelers and how much Matt Canada means to me, he's kind of like a father figure, that means a lot man. Every time I see Matt Canada, I pick his brain. He'll always let me know right from wrong. I'm glad I get to be around him.

How much indication did you know the Steelers were interested in you and did you talk at all during the draft process?

I talked to a lot of teams. There were a lot of teams that I thought was going to pick me up. I knew I was going to land where I was supposed to. God doesn't make mistakes. I'm right where I need to be.

What does it mean for you to be joining this Steelers organization and hoping to be a part of this offense?

It's a big opportunity for me. It's a blessing in disguise. I'm going into a good organization, a good football team. I couldn't be more excited to do that. I'm getting to do it at the highest level. It's definitely a good feeling. I'm excited. I'm just ready to get to work.

How do you feel your blocking came along at your time at Maryland along with your return skills?

I feel like I can do it all. Kick return. I feel like I can do it all, and did it. It's something I need to do to versify. That's what I can do. In high school I was an all-purpose back. I feel like anyway a coach is going to line me up there on the offense, I can do it. I'm not necessarily too worried about that.

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Eddie Faulkner on Anthony McFarland Jr.

How's everybody doing? I hope that everybody is staying healthy with their families and what not with the way things are currently. Really excited to add a guy like Anthony McFarland Jr. I think he is a good fit to the room, a good compliment to what is already on our roster. Obviously, we had some familiarity with him, be it Coach [Mike] Tomlin and his connection to Maryland with Dino [Tomlin] or Coach [Matt] Canada having coached him in 2018. In both regards, people speak very highly of him. You look at the tape, he offers a change of pace to our room. I think he will be a great addition. Really excited to get him in the fold once we get a chance to get back out there and work with him. I am really excited.

You said he brings a change of pace, what does he do that some of the other running backs in your room don't do?

He is really explosive. One game that pops into your head in 2018, they played Ohio State. He rushed for near 300 yards in that game. He sees a crease, he has the ability to hit the crease. He gets from zero to 60 really quick. Quickness, speed and has shown the ability to hit the long ball. That is a little bit of a change from what we have. We have those people who are capable of doing it, but when you compare him to the likes of [James] Conner and Benny [Snell], he is a little different as a runner which I think makes us more valuable as a group.

Do you see him as a versatile running back?

Absolutely. And like I mentioned early, Coach [Matt] Canada had him at Maryland so he can speak to kind of his versatility when he coached him there a couple years ago. He has shown the ability to catch the ball. He has shown the ability to run the ball outside, inside. He has that versatility you are looking for as an all-around guy. I think he is a good compliment.

Did you have to rely more on the 2018 tape because of the high ankle sprain last year?

I am the type of person who I want to make sure I dot the i's and cross the t's. Whether it is Anthony McFarland Jr. or anyone else that we are evaluating, I really try to dive in. Not just this year, but in the past years. In this case, with him having some injury issues, yes, the 2018 tape did bode well for him. Quite honestly, a guy like him, if he is healthy all last year, he probably is even a little higher as a pick. I feel fortunate that we got him. I feel that he is a steal at this point in the draft.

What did Matt Canada and Mike Tomlin say about his football character?

Coach [Mike] Tomlin is looking at him more from a perspective as a parent and watching the games and seeing it. Coach [Matt] Canada has been much more involved in the day-to-day activities. He just speaks very highly of his football knowledge. His ability to work and his love for the game and the way that he approaches it have all been positive. And obviously I trust Coach Canada's opinion very strongly. And then when you go back—you don't have that information when you start, but you see it checks out across the board. He will be a good add to the room, not only from an ability standpoint, but also from what he can bring just as a person and an individual.

Do you feel like you have a little bit of everything in that running back room?

I do. I like my room. I love my room. Good guys, good football players. Young players who can continue to develop and he just adds to that as well. When things start getting closer here to where we can get our hands on them, we will see where they fit into the equation.

How difficult was it to check his injuries with no physicals or pro days?

I think just across the board when this whole evaluation process was different for all of us, we had to rely on ulterior motives and ulterior ways of communicating with these guys. But we have a great staff. From John Norwig and all the guys that were involved in medical. Obviously, I am not a doctor, but they did a great job of getting that evaluation and checking it out. We feel good about it.

Do you see the adversity he faced at Maryland having impacted him in any particular way?

I think we all, just as people and just as football players, as we go through some things and adversity, it makes us better. I think, yes, he did have some adversity, but he came out the other side of it stronger. That is only going to help his football ability and how it applies to our organization.

Would you be more open to a running back by committee after adding Anthony McFarland Jr.?

Without getting too much on the room and staying on [Anthony] McFarland, I think he brings something to the equation in the room that compliments the other guys. As we get going, we will see how that all fits and how guys are playing and go from there.

How much did you consider him having possibly fresh legs after not getting as many carries in his college career?

That is definitely a positive. When you are going through the process and speaking about each individual running back, you are speaking about their pros and cons. That was a pro in his regard. I think it doesn't hurt him. I think he could be the beneficiary of it. As we continue to go with this, hopefully he just continues to perfect his craft and make the most of what he is working with now.

**Fourth Round
135th Overall**



**Kevin Dotson – OL
Louisiana**

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Kevin Dotson
Offensive Line
Louisiana
6-4, 321
Plaquemine, Louisiana
Plaquemine High School
4th Round – 135th Overall

CAREER

2019 Associated Press First Team All-American ... 2019 USA Today First Team All-American ... 2019 Sports Illustrated First Team All-American ... 2019 Pro Football Focus First Team All-American ... 2019 Sporting News Second Team All-American ... 2019 First Team All-Sun Belt Conference ... 2019 All-Louisiana First Team ... 2018 First Team All-Sun Belt Conference ... 2017 Second Team All-Sun Belt Conference ... 2017 Second Team All-Louisiana ... 2016 Sun Belt Conference All-Newcomer Team.

2019 SEASON

One of the highest-graded offensive linemen in the nation ... started all 14 of Louisiana's games in 2019 ... named a First-Team All-American by the Associated Press, USA Today, Sports Illustrated and Pro Football Focus ... named a Second Team All-American by Sporting News ... became the second player in school history to earn AP All-America honors after Orlando Thomas garnered third-team honors in 1993 and second-team honors in 1994 ... first player in program history to be named a First-Team All American by the other publications ... named First-Team All-Sun Belt and First-Team All-Louisiana ... made his 52nd career start against Miami (Ohio) in the LendingTree Bowl, the second most by any offensive lineman in 2019 ... helped pave the way for a Louisiana ground attack that finished the year ranked third nationally in yards per rush (6.28), fourth nationally in rushing TDs (42), sixth nationally in rushing yards per game (257.4) and seventh nationally in total rushing yards (3,604) ... part of an offensive line that ranked fifth nationally and first in the Sun Belt in sacks allowed (1.07) ... participated in the East-West Shrine Bowl.

2018 SEASON

Started all 14 games ... All-Sun Belt First Team selection ... one of the leaders of the offensive line that blocked for three 700+ yard rushers.

2017 SEASON

Started all 12 games at right guard ... part of an offensive line that helped the Ragin' Cajuns rushing attack finish third in the conference ... named Second-Team All-Sun Belt Conference.

2016 SEASON

Earned the starting job at right guard in the second week of the season and entrenched himself the remainder of the year ... played in all 13 games ... named to the Sun Belt Conference All-Newcomer Team.

2015 SEASON

Redshirt season ... served as a member of the scout team.

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Kevin Dotson Teleconference Transcript

What do you know about the Steelers as a team?

The craziest thing about it is, they're legit my family's favorite team. So, to get this pick is ridiculous. It's crazy.

Can you tell us about your unique way of trash talking?

It's more of an intimidation type thing. I feel like I can win any play that I do. So, I'll tell them the play, so they have to try to find a way to do it when I know that they can't. So, if I tell you the play and you still can't stop it, it hurts your moral way more.

How can you explain the way you were so durable throughout your college career?

I get it mostly from my dad. Since I was young, he always told me either you're hurt, or you're injured. So, there've been a lot of games that I've been hurt. I feel like I've been hurt enough to get out of the game, but I knew I could keep playing. So, I always kept playing.

How closely did you follow the Steelers growing up?

They've always been my number one team. I followed them since I was about five. Even in my house, we have a big man cave and it's all Steelers decked out. I've been following them forever. My favorite player used to be The Bus (Jerome Bettis). All of my passwords used to have 36 at the end just because of that. So now that this is happening, this is ridiculous. I couldn't even imagine this happening.

How much time have you spent in college moving to various positions on the offensive line?

I came there at left tackle, started playing right tackle, and then moved to right guard, and that's where I ended up staying. So, I've played tackle before, but I'm mostly a guard the last four years.

How tough was it getting ready for the draft with pro days being canceled since you didn't have the additional time in front of scouts, coaches, and GM's at the combine?

There's a saying that I go by. 'If you can't control it, then why worry about it?' I can't control what's going to happen, so I do what I can to try to influence what I can and everything else is just up to God. If we have no control over something, there's no need to worry about it, and I knew I couldn't just automatically be in the Combine. So, I'm going to do what I can to get noticed. I did my virtual pro day, did good there, did good in the East-West Shrine Game, just did everything possible to get my name out there.

What was it like teaming with Robert Hunt and how did teams handle you two guys coming out?

They couldn't. Me and him have been roommates since day one. So, we always had that chemistry of knowing what to do with each other, and we knew the plays. We learned together. We always studied together. So, when it came to game time, we both knew we could play full power. We knew we could go against anybody we played.

What's it going to be like to get into a huddle with Ben Roethlisberger?

I've always been a fan of Ben's. It's going to be crazy because in my mind, I've always thought of him as like someone I'd never meet, being one of the legends. I never thought I'd be blocking for him. So, this is going to be one of those dreams you get to play with people that you've always looked up to for your entire life, pretty much.

Your mom ran what kind of track? Who were your uncles and where did they play in the league? Did your dad know Ike Taylor and did that help you be a Steeler fan?

My mom didn't actually run. I don't know how that came out. I've tried to correct that for years. She ran in community college and she was a sprinter. I have two uncles who were in the League, Albert McKinley and Dennis McKinley... one played for the Browns, one played for the Cardinals. My dad played in '96. He didn't really know Ike Taylor. It really wasn't a big determining factor, but we've always been fans of the Steelers.

How much interaction do you have with Mike Tomlin and Kevin Colbert, and do you know the style of blocking on the team?

I've had a few meetings with them. We didn't really get into all of that, but I know what type of player you have to be to be an offensive lineman for the Steelers. It's all what football represents. Being a tough guy, being a guy who knows what he's doing, and being able to come off hard every play. So, I guarantee I'll be that guy for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Do you consider yourself a guard or a guy that will be able to move around a bit?

I feel like I'll be able to play wherever they need me at, but I feel like the interior is where I'm most at home. I just feel like my power and my agility helps me in that interior. So, I feel like that will be my best position.

A scouting report said you move defenders around like a 'pissed off club bouncer.' How accurate is that?

It's crazy because I was a bouncer for the last two years. It's kind of accurate, but I'm pretty technical in my hand usage. So, I feel like people try to put you in a box just because you're strong. As soon as they hear you're strong they say you're a brawler. They kind of just take everything else out.

Did you get challenged much as a bouncer?

No, I did a lot of preemptive type things. Just walking around the club, got to keep that mean look on your face just to keep people from doing stuff. I did everything so I didn't have to. I did a few times, but if you do it enough, people know not to do anything.

Have you ever stepped into a center role and do you feel comfortable there too?

I haven't really played center before, but I've been working it this offseason. I'm starting to get more comfortable with it.

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Shaun Sarrett on Kevin Dotson

First off, I would like to say high to everybody, hope everybody is doing well during this pandemic that we are going through. These are very unique times for everybody, I hope everybody is safe. Now, to talk about Kevin Dotson a little bit. Watching him on tape, he is a really big man with great length and a very good athlete. What shows up on his tape is that he is a people mover. Really like that showing up on his tape. This guy can move, he can do all the stuff we were looking for. Second level stuff, all that is good. He is the type of guy when you look at that old school run game stuff like back in the day when you run through guys, this really flashes on his tape. That was the stuff that really jumped out at us when we started watching this guy. Really liked him. Really liked the stuff off the field as well. Talked to some people, some coaches and some different people and nobody ever had anything bad to say about this kid. Nothing but ravings about him. I know he is a 52-game starter, so that shows you the durability this guy has from that. He is a self-made guy who is looking for the next step. First-Team All-American across the board and all that in college and we are looking forward to getting him in a Steelers uniform and getting him rolling.

How excited are you to bring in a guy like Dotson that fills a need?

Like you said, it fills one of our needs. He is going to come in, he is going to compete for the spot. He has all the intangibles. I think he is going to be a good fit for our room. Just what I have heard so far about the guy, I think he should be a good fit for us.

What did you see that translates to the NFL level even though he was playing against lesser competition?

We look at that on the tape. He was also in the all-star game at East-West Shrine. He played against guys at a higher level. I still think he dominated those guys. There were times that he flashes as a true dominator on the offensive line. I go back to saying he is a people mover. When you watch this guy, he runs through people, now. And he can move them off the point of attack. When you see that on college film, it just grabs your eye. That is something we take into account here.

Do you think it is a realistic option for you at left guard?

When it comes down to it, it brings flexibility to the room and gives us options. At the end of the day, the best five will start. I think this guy is realistically that guy that can go in and compete for the spot.

Is he more likely to learn center or do you think he can go back to his old skills at tackle?

That is a great question. In my mind right now, I see him as an interior player. We will start to teach him the center thing, but some guys they can't do it. He still brings the value of being able to go back out to tackle. Very similar to some of the guys we have on the roster now. They can go in and play guard then go out and play tackle, which that flexibility is great for us.

Kevin and his family are big Steelers fans. Did you sense some extra excitement from him?

One of our coaches, Blaine Stewart, was at the Shrine Bowl, and when he came back he kind of mentioned that to us, to me personally. I got my notes here in front and I know that his uncles played in the NFL as well. That was something that was said, so that just goes in the process too,

and I'm happy for him. He's getting to play for his lifelong team that he's loved and grew up watching.

Do you think he'll be a good fit for your room, and would you be cool with his unique trash talking of telling the other team the plays?

As long as that play's successful I'll be cool with it. No problem. Just from what I've heard about this kid, there's nothing negative. Coach [Karl] Dunbar's son played there as well and works in the weight room, and I spoke with him. He raved about him as well. There were no negative things. I kept trying to find something negative about the kid and I couldn't find it, talking with people, talking with coaches. I've got a lot of texts already from coaches around the league said that's a great pick by us by picking this guy.

How did a First-Team All-American, 6'4", 310 not get invited to the combine?

I didn't really look into that much after hearing it, after watching the tape, so it really doesn't matter to me. I knew once I watched the tape, this guy was on our list. I really like this guy. The first game I watched him, he popped on film, and then from there, I continued to watch more film, and he just got better and better. I didn't really take into that account about the Combine. He was a good player out there. The Steelers did a great job of identifying him in the scouting department, and they got him to me, and I watched him, and I agree with them.

Do you see him having that edge that makes so many offensive linemen so good when they're in the game?

It shows up on his tape. He's the guy that will finish you. Just like you guys have already asked me about is his trash talk. I heard a little bit about that, and that's just part of the game. Those guys are going to do that anyway. I think that's just the fierce competitor in him. Something else I really like about him is his passion for the game. It just seems like he's a football guy, and as many more of those guys like that I can get in my room, I'll take them. A football guy that's going to live, sleep, and breathe football.

Did you guys look at his virtual pro day, and if not, how did you figure out the athletic testing and measurements on a player you really like?

That kind of thing you want to look at. There's tons of videos that I get in my email during this whole process and he was another video that showed up in my process of him working out, and you could just see the athletic ability in him moving around and how it transfers to the field. A lot of these guys you'll see go out and run a good 40 time, but that's not going to transfer to the field. When you watch his tape, you can tell this guy's athletic. This guy does all the stuff that we need him to do.

**Sixth Round
198th Overall**



**Antoine Brooks Jr. – S
Maryland**

Pittsburgh Steelers
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Antoine Brooks Jr.
Safety
Maryland
5-11, 210
Lanham, Maryland
DuVal High School
6th Round – 198th Overall

CAREER

2019 All-Big Ten Second Team (Coaches) ... 2019 All-Big Ten Third Team (Media) ... 2019 Team Most Valuable Player ... 2019 Phil Steele All-Big Ten Second Team ... 2019 Bednarik Award Watch List ... 2019 Bronko Nagurski Trophy Watch List ... 2019 Preseason Phil Steele All-Big Ten Second Team ... 2019 Preseason Athlon Sports All-Big Ten Second Team ... 2018 All-Big Ten Second Team (Coaches) ... 2018 All-Big Ten Honorable Mention (Media) ... 2018 Phil Steele All-Big Ten Third Team ... Big Ten Co-Defensive Player of the Week (September 3, 2018) ... 2018 Preseason Athlon Sports All-Big Ten ... 2017 All-Big Ten Honorable Mention (Media) ... Big Ten Co-Special Teams Player of the Week (September 4, 2017).

2019 SEASON

All-Big Ten Second Team (Coaches), All-Big Ten Third Team (Media) ... led Big Ten and ranked ninth in the country, averaging 5.8 solo tackles per game ... finished the season with a team-high 87 tackles and 69 solo stops, ranked second on the team with 8.5 TFLs and tied for team lead with 5 pass breakups ... recorded 11 tackles (4 solo) and half a tackle for loss in final game as a Terp at Michigan State (11/30) ... tallied 9 tackles on senior day vs. Nebraska (11/23) including 6 solo and 1.0 for loss ... topped team with 10 tackles (7 solo) at #1 Ohio State (11/9) ... tied career-best with 2.0 TFLs vs. #14 Michigan (11/2) while tallying 5 more solo tackles ... picked off Indiana (10/19) in the end zone during the second quarter for first interception of the season, while tallying career-high 2.0 TFLs ... recorded third TFL of year for 6 yards at Rutgers (10/5) ... tallied 6 tackles to lead team including tying a career-best with 2.0 TFLs vs. #12 Penn State (9/27) ... tallied a career-best, game-high 13 tackles and recorded first career fumble recovery at Temple (9/14) ... led the team with 9 tackles, tallying a career-high 8 solo tackles in win vs. #21 Syracuse (9/7).

2018 SEASON

All-Big Ten Second Team (Coaches) ... led Maryland with 9.5 TFLs ... started all 12 games, ranking third on the team with 68 tackles (46 solo) ... tallied 2.5 sacks, 1 interception and 3 pass breakups ... 6 tackles in each of the last two games of the season against Penn State (11/24) and Ohio State (11/17) ... posted 5 tackles, including a sack at Indiana (11/10) ... led team with 7 tackles and tied a career-best with 2.0 TFLs against Illinois (10/27) ... had 4 tackles, including 1.0 TFL, vs. Rutgers (10/13) ... had 6 tackles, including 1.0 TFL, and 1.0 PBU at #15 Michigan (10/6) ... notched 6 tackles and 1.0 sack vs. Minnesota (9/22) ... posted 5 tackles, including 1.0 TFL, vs. Temple (9/15) ... Had 4 tackles, including 1.5 TFLs, at Bowling Green (9/8) ... led team with 11 tackles, including 1.0 TFL, and made the game-sealing interception late in the fourth quarter against #23 Texas (9/1).

2017 SEASON

Had a breakout season, appearing in 12 games and making 11 starts primarily at nickelback ... led Big Ten Conference in TFLs (9.5) by a defensive back ... led the team in solo tackles (53), while ranking second in total tackles (77) and tied for second in interceptions (2) ... totaled 6 tackles, including first career sack, vs. #12 Penn State (11/25) ... posted 7 tackles at #22 Michigan State (11/18) ... Had 7 tackles, including 1.0 TFL, vs. #21 Michigan (11/11) ... posted 4 tackles and had an interception at Rutgers (11/4) ... totaled 7 tackles against Indiana (10/28) ... tied for team lead with 10 tackles, including career-high 2.0 TFL, at #5 Wisconsin (10/21) ... led team with 9 tackles, including 1.0 TFL, vs. Northwestern (10/14) ... had a career-high 13 tackles, including 1.0 TFL, at #10 Ohio State (10/7) ... Totaled 3 tackles, including 1.0 TFL, and had a forced fumble at Minnesota (9/30) ... Had 5 tackles against UCF (9/23), including 1.0 TFL ... first career INT and totaled 2 tackles vs. Towson (9/9) ... first career start at #23 Texas (9/2), making 4 tackles and returned a blocked field goal 71 yards for a TD.

2016 SEASON

Appeared in 6 games, primarily on special teams ... made collegiate debut vs. Howard (9/3), registering two tackles.

BROOKS' CAREER STATS

YR.	G-GS	UT	AT	TOT	TFL-YDS	PD	FF	FR	INT	SACKS
2016	7-0	4	1	5	0.0-0	0	0	0	0-0	0.0-0
2017	12-11	53	24	77	9.5-28	3	1	0	2-0	1.0-10
2018	12-12	46	22	68	9.5-35	3	0	0	1-0	2.5-19
2019	12-12	69	18	87	8.5-22	5	0	1	1-0	0.0-0
Totals	42-34	172	65	237	27.5-85	11	1	1	4-0	2.5-29

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Antoine Brooks Jr. Teleconference Transcript

How close did you come to quitting football in high school and how glad are you that you didn't?

It was pretty close. I think I was in the hospital for a week. I was sitting there thinking every day, every step of the way what I should do. My outcome was to keep playing. After that day, I found out that I didn't want to be the person that almost made it or be the person that could have made it and just didn't go because of injuries. I didn't want that to be the outcome and now I'm proud because now I'm here where I'm at now.

Why would you say the ball wasn't able to find you more in the secondary?

I was a good predictor. Sometimes it was a little awkward, the way my body was, but there's no excuses. I shouldn't have dropped two of them. I could've made more plays, but football goes how it goes. It was a lot running away from me. That last pick was taken away from me. Offenses try to go away from 25 when they play against you. There were a lot of games and schemes so that's why we did a lot of moving around in defense.

Why have you been such a good solo tackler in your career?

I take tackling very seriously. I think that's the impact of football. I think football is tackling. Running with the football and tackling. That's football. That's how you have fun in football. Yes, I'm a solo tackler because I work on getting my feet squared together, making sure I get that lead step, follow step, just making sure I put my inner step, that near step closer, making sure I get my head across, and making sure that continues every day. So, I can't ever lose the one-on-one battles, that's a one-on-one battle I can't lose, and I won't be terribly upset if I do lose that battle. I'm passionate, especially with tackling, and getting the ball back.

Would you have been a quarterback somewhere if you hadn't got hurt in high school?

That's an honest question, and I think yes. I'd probably be like an underdog quarterback. Some schools were offering me to play quarterback, probably like one or two FCS schools offering me at quarterback. After getting hurt like that, you don't want to play quarterback like that. That's like the second time, third time you got hurt playing quarterback. I was just weighing out the possibilities continuing to play the sport with as much love as I've got for the sport. I just don't want to lose the love because of injuries.

Were you mainly a box safety at Maryland and are the Steelers looking at you as a hybrid linebacker here?

Yeah, I'm guessing so. Honestly, they can put me anywhere. I don't care. I just want to play football to the best of my ability, but I played nickel, I played in the slot, I played in the box. The box sees an awful lot for a player. I played in the box because I'm aggressive. That's just my nature. I'm an aggressive tackler. I'm an aggressive player. I like to be in the play. Other than that, I did a lot of blitzing. I did a lot of moving around when I was at Maryland.

Did you do a lot of special teams there and do you see that as a route of opening some eyes and getting time on defense here?

I did a lot. I always worked out on special teams. I started on punt and I did kickoff whenever coach wanted me to. Kickoff was good for the young kids to show what we got. Punting was more for the

older seniors, punt return maybe. My freshman year of college I did kickoff. I did it all. I played punter my freshman year. I'm just willing to contribute and just make anything happen.

How excited are you to have Anthony McFarland Jr. join the team as well and did you see/interact with Mike Tomlin around Maryland?

Honestly, Mike Tomlin has never interacted with me when I was at Maryland. He probably watched me play football and he talked to his son about it. Since McFarland got here, I've always had his back, he's always had mine, and me and him are going to ball out until we can't anymore. We're always going to have each other's backs. Me and him being in the same locker room is like reunited. We're just on the next level now.

What were those injuries in your high school junior, senior season?

I had a compound fracture on my right ankle. That was the first thing that happened. It stuck in the ground on my way down. As I went down getting tackled, I broke my leg at the same time. At that point, it was just crazy.

How does it feel to be joining an organization like the Steelers?

It feels amazing. There's a lot of great people. Steelers were actually my second favorite team growing up. I was raised by the Redskins and the Steelers. My uncle is going crazy right now. It's a good feeling thinking I can go in and try to put in the effort to be as good as Troy Polamalu. Certain guys that were good and had that personality for the Steelers too.

Who in the NFL do you compare your play after?

If I would compare myself to anybody it would be Jamal Adams, but I'm more of a Derwin James type of guy. Jamal Adams is 6'3" or something like that, but my gameplay is physical, real fast, blitz, playing the zone, playing the run game, playing the pass when the ball is in the air. So, it would be Derwin James or Jamal Adams.

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Teryl Austin on Antoine Brooks Jr.

Hey guys, how is everyone doing? Glad we got Antoine. Really good, physical player. Plays a little bit of everywhere. You will see him play down in the box, out on the slot, you will see him back some. I think the biggest thing I liked about him is he was around the ball. He is going to be there, wherever that ball is, he is going to show up. He is very, very physical. I like that about him. I also think when you watch, he has a really good feel for the game in terms of instincts and making quick decisions and not being afraid to make a decision. I think that is what you are looking for when you want a guy back there. He is going to diagnose and key and trust what he sees and then goes. I like that about him. That is the stuff that showed up on film and that is why we liked him and that is why we got him.

Did you get a chance to interact with him during this offseason at all?

No, just at the Combine. Obviously, being down on the floor, you get a chance to interact with the guys. He was one of the guys who was there out front. I distinctly remember him and talking to him. He has a really good energy about him. When I was down on the floor, he was embracing all that was about. Some guys get there, and they think they are too big for it. Some guys get there, and they are a little worried about it. I didn't sense any of that from him. I think he was embracing the moment and had a great energy about him. That was something that stood out. He is one of the few guys that I remember in that way down there.

Is he more of a hybrid linebacker or someone you can float around in the secondary?

I think that remains to be seen. With my opening remarks, I mentioned the fact that he does and can do a lot of things. We will just see how that plays out over the course of the year. But I know this, we don't have a guy that if he doesn't fit in one position, we are done. I think he can do a lot of different things. I am excited about that. We just have to see where he can do it on our level, but I am comfortable with him. We will be able to do multiple things with him.

How much do you anticipate Antoine being a factor in special teams?

I think any time you bring a young defensive back in; you want to make sure he can play special teams and he will do a good job on special teams. The way I look at him with his build and his weight, he can be an every special-teams player in addition to playing different things for us. I think he should be a factor in all those areas right off the bat.

How quickly do you see Antoine learning a new role with the Steelers from what he did at Maryland?

I think it all depends on how much he processes information and how much he learns when he gets to that. And that is something we won't know until we get him in the classroom. Right now, we anticipate he will be able to do it. All the research by the scouts and everybody, we anticipate that he will be able to do it, but until he gets here, we won't know. We are planning on him being able to learn. And how fast he gets out there will be a product of how fast he learns and absorbs everything.

With a player like Antoine, do you see a hybrid player needing to put on weight to be in the box or do you wait and see what he can do?

I think for today's game, he has plenty of weight. He is a 220-pounder. We don't want him to put on weight to get slow. We want him to be that fast guy that can run in stride and cover and do those

things. It is important that you let him be him. If he needs to be stronger in the weight room or do anything like that, that will be something once he gets here. But I think right now, I would not anticipate me telling him to gain or lose or anything. I want him to be what got him where he is now and when he gets here, we will decide. But I think he is fine right now.

What kind of growth do you want to see from him once you get him in the classroom?

I think the growth you need to see from a lot of these young players is the fact that we'll be playing some different coverages. We'll be playing split safety coverages where he's going to have to play back a little more than maybe he's used to and have to have a few more reads than he's used to. That's really the growth and development you want to see from young guys and how fast they do it because the passing game in the NFL is much more precise than it is in college. So we have to be really precise in terms of how we handle our coverages and how we make the adjustments, and those are usually the biggest obstacles that young guys have, and the faster he learns that, the faster that growth that I want to see, and that will help him get on the field as well.

He's bigger than Terrell Edmunds. Are you planning on moving Edmunds down to play dime backer this year?

I don't know what we'll do. We'll get him in, shake him up, and we'll see where they fit best for us moving forward, but if he's better back, we know TE [Edmunds] can play down in the box and he can cover tight ends. If this guy does that better, then we'll do him down there and let TE stay back or move around. We'll have to figure all that out once we get everybody together, and I think that's our job as coaches that we get the best player we can. We know the guy's a good football player, and then we figure out what positions they'll help us win games.

**Seventh Round
232nd Overall**



**Carlos Davis – DT
Nebraska**

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Carlos Davis
Defensive Tackle
Nebraska
6-2, 320
Blue Springs, Missouri
Blue Springs High School
7th Round – 232nd Overall

CAREER

Honorable-Mention All-Big Ten (2018) ... Honorable-Mention BTN All-Freshman Team (2016) ... Nebraska Most Improved Player (2016) ... Two-Time Nebraska Scholar-Athlete Honor Roll ... Brook Berringer Citizenship Team (2016, 2017, 2018) ... Tom Osborne Citizenship Team (2016, 2017, 2018) ... NCAA Track & Field Second-Team All-American (2019, Discus) ... NCAA Track & Field Honorable-Mention All-American (2018, Discus).

2019 SEASON

Started 11 of 12 games at defensive end as a senior, missing the Wisconsin game due to injury ... totaled 32 tackles, which ranked second among Nebraska's defensive linemen, behind his twin brother Khalil ... ranked second on the team behind his twin brother with 4.0 sacks ... had 4 tackles and a fumble recovery in the season opener against South Alabama and a 12-yard sack the next week at Colorado ... against Northern Illinois, tied his career high with 6 tackles and 2.0 TFLs, while setting a career high with 1.5 sacks as Nebraska kept the Huskies out of the end zone ... had a TFL for the third consecutive week at Illinois as part of a 4-tackle effort ... added 4 tackles each against Ohio State, Northwestern and Minnesota, while forcing the first fumble of his career against the Gophers ... recorded 2 tackles against Indiana before splitting a sack with his brother at Purdue ... missed the Wisconsin game, but returned for the game at Maryland and had a 4-yard sack ... in his final game, Davis recorded 1 tackle against Iowa ... eight-time letterwinner at Nebraska (four in both football and track) ... along with twin brother, Khalil, first Huskers in more than 50 years to be eight-time letterwinners and just the ninth and 10th eight-time letterwinners in the history of Nebraska Athletics.

2018 SEASON

Played in all 12 games and registered 27 tackles in 2018, including 3.0 TFLs and 1.0 sack ... broke up 5 passes, the most pass breakups by a Nebraska defensive lineman since Ndamukong Suh had 10 breakups in 2009 ... honorable-mention All-Big Ten choice by the league's coaches ... 2 tackles, including a TFL, in the season opener against Colorado, helping the Huskers limit the Buffaloes to 44 rushing yards ... at No. 19 Michigan, Davis recorded a pair of tackles ... after appearing off the bench at defensive end in each of the first three games, earned the start at nose guard against Purdue ... responded with 3 tackles, including 1.0 TFL ... started again at nose guard at No. 16 Wisconsin and made a season-high 4 tackles ... had 1 tackle against Minnesota, Bethune-Cookman and Ohio State ... made 3 tackles in the Huskers' win over Illinois ... had a season-high 5 tackles in Nebraska's win over Michigan State ... broke up a pass against the Spartans ... wrapped up his junior season with a season-high 3 solo tackles as part of a 4-tackle effort at Iowa.

2017 SEASON

Helped anchor the defensive line by starting all 12 games at defensive end ... recorded 42 tackles, more than double the total from his redshirt freshman season ... posted a career-high 2.5 sacks, totaled 4.0 TFLs and had a team-high 6 quarterback hurries ... totaled multiple tackles in all 12 games ... combined for 12 tackles in Nebraska's three non-conference games, including back-to-back games with 5 tackles against Oregon and Northern Illinois ... added a half sack against the Huskies ... had at least 3 tackles in seven of Nebraska's nine Big Ten Conference games ... had 3 tackles, 2.0 TFLs and 1.0 sack at Illinois, marking his first career game with multiple tackles for loss ... added his third 5-tackle game of the season at Purdue and recorded his final sack of the season at No. 13 Penn State ... in the finale against Iowa, Davis tied his career high with 6 tackles.

2016 SEASON

Played in all 13 games and made 4 starts at defensive tackle ... made 24 tackles, including 11 solo stops, while registering 5 TFLs and 2.0 sacks for 24 yards ... had 3 quarterback hurries ... had 5 tackles in his first career start against Wyoming ... recorded his first career sack for 17 yards against Purdue and added a 7-yard sack a week later at Wisconsin ... had 2 tackles against Ohio State and Minnesota and also had 1.0 TFL against the Gophers ... had a season-high 6 tackles at Iowa, including 4 solo stops, and posted 2 tackles and 1.0 TFL against Tennessee.

2015 SEASON

Redshirted and worked on the scout team in his first season.

DAVIS' CAREER STATS

YEAR	G/S	UT	AT	TT	TFL	SACKS	FF-FR	BK	PBU	INT	QBH
2016	13/4	11	13	24	5-25	2.0-24	0-0	0	0	0	3
2017	12/12	17	25	42	4-19	2.5-18	0-0	0	0	0	6
2018	12/9	13	14	27	3-13	1.0-8	0-1	0	5	0	1
2019	11/11	17	15	32	6-36	4.0-34	1-1	0	3	0	1
TOTAL	48/36	58	67	125	18-93	9.5-84	1-2	0	8	0	11

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Head Coach Mike Tomlin and General Manager Kevin Colbert Draft Wrap-Up

Kevin Colbert: Good evening, everybody. Seems like it's been a long process going through this draft. It's been a different process. We knew it would be. We knew it would be challenging, but in the end, we feel very good about the results, as we do every year after we draft these young men. We talked about Chase [Claypool] yesterday. Really nothing to add there with Chase and Alex [Highsmith] unless you had specific questions.

But moving into today, with Anthony McFarland Jr., we were able to add a running back that gives us a little change-up characteristic different than the guys we have. He has really good vision, one-step cut quickness, and very good finish speed. He's had a lot of big runs just finding that crease or finding a bounce to the outside where he could finish.

Kevin Dotson, Kevin was not invited to the Combine. We thought he should be. We voted for him to be there. He was unfortunate, didn't get to the Combine. He did play in the East-West Game, and again, we had nice grades on him in the fall. We got to see him at the East-West Game, we followed up with him, and he did a nice job. He posted a workout. Again, that's the best that we can do, the workout situation we watched. We felt comfortable. We did a video interview with Kevin, and he really impressed us as a no-nonsense football guy with a unique body type and size and strength and plays with a nice tenacity, so we're excited about him.

Antoine Brooks Jr. is somebody we've been following really for two years. Antoine talked about coming out early, decided to stay, and he played in a unique situation at the University of Maryland that's really relevant to today's NFL and college football. He's half a linebacker, he's half a safety. He will be a safety in our defense with the ability to play in packages because that's what he's done, and he's done well. He's very versatile. He should be able to be a special-teams contributor as we move along.

Carlos Davis, kind of a unique story. He and his brother, twin brother, they both played together at Nebraska. His twin brother was drafted a round earlier. We did video interviews with those two young men during this setup, and it was entertaining to say the least. Very smart young men. Their football is still on the rise. He went to the combine and he ran a 4.79 and a 300-plus. So we'll look for him as a definite upside, and we hope to continue to see how he develops.

We're in the process of moving through free agents. We won't be signing as many, as many know. We signed a bunch of XFL guys, and we will be signing less college free agents. It's a little bit of an unknown market, but we'll see how that works out, and we'll have those results most likely at some point this evening. Coach?

Mike Tomlin: You know, nothing really to add regarding the guys. I'll obviously be available for questions, but I would just like to compliment Kevin and the scouting department on a job well done amidst some unusual circumstances, unusual for all globally, but I was really comfortable throughout this weekend, and I think that's how you judge your preparedness, your level of comfort in terms of your ability to execute throughout the draft, and it was a good weekend for us. We're excited about the young men that we were able to acquire, and now it's our job as a coaching staff

to get these guys assimilated into the program, and not only them but all of our guys as we get into the virtual off-season starting on Monday, and we're excited about that.

How do you do that with your new draft picks? How do you get them assimilated with everything that's going on?

Mike Tomlin: You know, it's going to be challenging, but you know my mentality; it's going to be challenging for everyone globally, so from that standpoint it's fair. It's our job to be innovative and forward in our thinking in terms of utilizing all the tools and technology at our resources to get to know them so that they get to know us so that we can begin the giving and the receiving of information that's associated with them getting started. We're excited about it.

Kevin had mentioned that Brooks is kind of like half safety, half linebacker, which is perfect for today's NFL. Is he capable of assuming that role that Mark Barron played alongside Devin?

Mike Tomlin: I think there's a lot of guys in today's game that fit that bill, and it becomes easier and easier to forecast those capabilities because you see them do it on the college field, and as Kevin mentioned, you saw a lot of those things on his Big Ten tape, and so it made it easy to potentially forecast his abilities to do those things. We're excited about him as a safety. We're excited about him as a sub-package player. We're excited about maybe what he could bring to us as a special teamer, as well. That 220-pound body is a very useful body in today's game for the reasons that we've been talking about.

You were talking about Claypool's physicality. Your receivers are so physical, Juju, your tight ends, James Conner coming out of the backfield. Was this your intention to make the offense this physical in a new kind of way?

Mike Tomlin: You know, it's just a trait that we value organizationally. I think it's a trait -- physicality is a brand of ball that we want to play regardless of position. We believe it's an asset to victory for us, and so when you can get some wideouts that display that trait, that's exciting, and Claypool, whether he was contributing on special teams or doing things with the ball in his hand or as a blocker displayed those traits at ND.

You guys seem to have gotten some players that maybe had a little bit more inside information on this year than maybe previous years from Notre Dame or guys at Maryland that you might have had a little bit more off-the-field knowledge of. Was that by choice, or was that just something that happened along the process?

Kevin Colbert: You know what, what's a little bit odd about this class for myself and Coach, as I did a count here, I think we have five seniors and one underclassman, which is unique because we've been heavy on the underclass draft. So, a lot of these players we've been watching for several years. Claypool was someone, you thought about he might come out last year, he decided to stay. Alex Smith, Alex just ascended this year, like I mentioned yesterday, Mike Butler and Dan Rooney went in there during the fall and liked him, and then I got to see him at the East-West, we liked him there, he shows up at the combine, he runs 4.66, gets us excited. So, we kept the evaluation going on him. Anthony McFarland was a redshirt sophomore when our scouts went in there when he was not eligible for the draft. They said, this one is going to be one coming up, and unfortunately, he had an ankle injury this year, and it slowed him down. Kevin Dotson, again, a self-made senior, worked hard, played next to a great player in Robert Hunt. The two of them together were very interesting, and like I mentioned Brooks, we've been watching for a couple years. And Carlos was kind of like Alex Smith. He crept on to the scene late when he ran the 4.79 and a 300 plus, we doubled back and made sure we liked what we saw, and the more we talked to him and the more we evaluated him, we liked him. I can't say this was just onetime insider kind of information because the majority of these guys we've known about and have been watching them for a couple years.

Do you think Dotson will have a chance to maybe compete right away for any playing time, and do you envision Feiler moving into left guard to compete or is he going to stay at right tackle?

Mike Tomlin: You know, his ability to compete for playing time will be etched out as we get to know him and so forth. We like his pedigree. We think he has the type of talent that will allow him to do so, but he'll write that story with how he performs, and obviously we're very comfortable with Matt's position flexibility, and those are some things that are going to be determined maybe not by what he brings to the table but maybe by what others around him bring to the table in terms of guard depth or tackle depth. He provides us that type of flexibility. We've got complete confidence in him, and we're excited about taking a look at what the young guard has.

Similar train of thought on Carlos Davis; Kevin mentioned upside. I've heard there's a lot to like developmental-wise with him. Is he developed far enough that he might end up at nose?

Mike Tomlin: You know, we'll see. He played nose for them. He's a strong kid. He's a talented athlete. He's a two-sport player there, played through on the track and field team, as well. But those things will be determined on the field as they should. We can spend a lot of time in these type settings speculating.

I'm just curious with your familiarity with Maryland and having Matt Canada on staff, how much did he weigh into scouting a guy like McFarland, and how much did you see your two Maryland guys when you were watching your son at all?

Mike Tomlin: You know, we have inside information on a lot of our picks in most years. You can draw the parallels because of the relationships and make a story out of these two, but the reality is we work our tails off to gather intel on everyone that we select, and this one is just probably more obvious from an outside standpoint, Matt's experience with those guys in that program obviously was an asset to us, but we have a lot of information come to us in a lot of ways in most selections that we make that add to our comfort.

Mike just spoke a little bit about Davis at nose tackle from Nebraska. I'm wondering if you could speak to how you were approaching this draft when it comes to the nose tackles, and in general what you guys are looking for now out of that position with Hargrave gone and how you might want to parse out the snaps with what you have on the roster or what you were trying to fill at that position before you got to the seventh round.

Kevin Colbert: Yeah, I mean, a traditional 3-4 nose tackle, again, I don't want to say it's dying, but it's less and less of base defense. When you're in a defense 75 percent of the time, different sub packages, I don't know if anyone really has a base defense even though you do say you're a 3-4. So, Carlos at 300 -- again, 3 plus, he's 305, 308, could he play inside at nose, sure. He doesn't have the great length that we had had in that schematic, but also, he can play as a rush defensive tackle like Javon did on the inside. Base defense, I'm sure he will line up at the nose, and then in the sub packages he'll be an inside rusher. Again, when you're running 4.79 at that size and Coach mentioned he threw the shot and discus at Nebraska. They're very athletic. Again, I'm mentioning he and his brother. But they -- I don't know if we've seen the best of those guys yet.

Kevin, you mentioned having more seniors maybe four-year players than usual. Is that just a coincidence, or was there something about this class and maybe the circumstances surrounding the draft that led you guys to get players that had maybe a little bit more maturity, at least in terms of experience?

Kevin Colbert: No, in fact, after we took Dotson, I said, Coach, we're going against the grain here, three seniors, three out of the first four picks, and it really wasn't any intention. It's just the way it broke for us this year. You know, we're very comfortable with that. We always like to try to catch them younger because they're a little fresher, but when you get the senior, he usually comes in at a different maturity level because he's either finished school or he's closer to finishing school. He's played that extra year at the college level, which always, we think, benefits these players. But we had no plan to do that. A kid like Kevin Dotson, who was a non-combine guy, we never did a physical on him, we never timed him or worked him out. We were just real comfortable with his ability to play football, and that was our intention. Going into this, knowing that we would have some players like this that we had to make decisions on, and when the bottom line came out, it was always going to be how does he play the game, and in Dotson's case, we valued that.

You drafted Dotson to add to the offensive line, but he was pretty much purely a guard at Louisiana. Do Zach Banner and Chuks Okorafor give you the confidence of confidence that you needed to not pursue more of a tackle lineman in this draft?

Mike Tomlin: Yes.

Kevin Colbert: Yeah, I think we've watched Chuks and Zach grow over the last couple years, and I think there is a comfort level that both of those guys are NFL tackles. At what level, we'll see, because they've been backups and spot starters and package players, but we're comfortable with where they are. Dotson is a guard. He hasn't played any other position, and that's fine, because he'll be a guard with us. And as we mentioned the other day, too, with the change in the rule this year, being able to dress the extra offensive lineman, sometimes the single position guys are going to have more value going forward.

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ROUND 1

START OF ROUND: 8:16PM

	1-1.	CINCINNATI	Burrow, Joe	QB	Louisiana State
#	2-2.	WASHINGTON	Young, Chase	DE	Ohio State
#	3-3.	DETROIT	Okudah, Jeff	DB	Ohio State
#	4-4.	NEW YORK GIANTS	Thomas, Andrew	T	Georgia
#	5-5.	MIAMI	Tagovailoa, Tua	QB	Alabama
	6-6.	LOS ANGELES CHARGERS	Herbert, Justin	QB	Oregon
	7-7.	CAROLINA	Brown, Derrick	DT	Auburn
	8-8.	ARIZONA	Simmons, Isaiah	LB	Clemson
#	9-9.	JACKSONVILLE	Henderson, C.J.	DB	Florida
#	10-10.	CLEVELAND	Wills, Jedrick	T	Alabama
#	11-11.	NEW YORK JETS	Becton, Mekhi	T	Louisville
#	12-12.	LAS VEGAS	Ruggs, Henry	WR	Alabama
#	13-13.	TAMPA BAY	Wirfs, Tristan	T	Iowa
		from INDIANAPOLIS through SAN FRANCISCO			
	14-14.	SAN FRANCISCO	Kinlaw, Javon	DT	South Carolina
		from TAMPA BAY			
#	15-15.	DENVER	Jeudy, Jerry	WR	Alabama
#	16-16.	ATLANTA	Terrell, A.J.	DB	Clemson
#	17-17.	DALLAS	Lamb, CeeDee	WR	Oklahoma
#	18-18.	MIAMI	Jackson, Austin	T	Southern California
		from PITTSBURGH			
	19-19.	LAS VEGAS	Arnette, Damon	DB	Ohio State
		from CHICAGO			
#	20-20.	JACKSONVILLE	Chaisson, K'Lavon	LB	Louisiana State
		from LOS ANGELES RAMS			
#	21-21.	PHILADELPHIA	Reagor, Jalen	WR	Texas Christian
#	22-22.	MINNESOTA	Jefferson, Justin	WR	Louisiana State
		from BUFFALO			
	23-23.	LOS ANGELES CHARGERS	Murray, Kenneth	LB	Oklahoma
		from NEW ENGLAND			
#	24-24.	NEW ORLEANS	Ruiz, Cesar	C	Michigan
	25-25.	SAN FRANCISCO	Aiyuk, Brandon	WR	Arizona State
		from MINNESOTA			
	26-26.	GREEN BAY	Love, Jordan	QB	Utah State
		from HOUSTON through MIAMI			

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	27-27.	SEATTLE	Brooks, Jordyn	LB	Texas Tech
#	28-28.	BALTIMORE	Queen, Patrick	LB	Louisiana State
#	29-29.	TENNESSEE	Wilson, Isaiah	T	Georgia
#	30-30.	MIAMI	Igbino ghene, Noah	DB	Auburn
		from GREEN BAY			
	31-31.	MINNESOTA	Gladney, Jeff	DB	Texas Christian
		from SAN FRANCISCO			
#	32-32.	KANSAS CITY	Edwards-Helaire, Clyde	RB	Louisiana State

END OF ROUND:	12:10AM
TIME OF ROUND:	3 HOURS, 54 MINUTES
TOTAL TIME	3 HOURS, 54 MINUTES

Underclassman

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ROUND 2

START OF ROUND: 7:09PM

#	1-33.	CINCINNATI	Higgins, Tee	WR	Clemson
	2-34.	INDIANAPOLIS	Pittman, Michael	WR	Southern California
		from WASHINGTON			
#	3-35.	DETROIT	Swift, D'Andre	RB	Georgia
#	4-36.	NEW YORK GIANTS	McKinney, Xavier	DB	Alabama
	5-37.	NEW ENGLAND	Dugger, Kyle	DB	Lenoir-Rhyne
		from LOS ANGELES CHARGERS			
#	6-38.	CAROLINA	Gross-Matos, Yetur	DE	Penn State
	7-39.	MIAMI	Hunt, Robert	T	Louisiana-Lafayette
#	8-40.	HOUSTON	Blacklock, Ross	DT	Texas Christian
		from ARIZONA			
#	9-41.	INDIANAPOLIS	Taylor, Jonathan	RB	Wisconsin
		from CLEVELAND			
#	10-42.	JACKSONVILLE	Shenault, Laviska	WR	Colorado
#	11-43.	CHICAGO	Kmet, Cole	TE	Notre Dame
		from LAS VEGAS			
#	12-44.	CLEVELAND	Delpit, Grant	DB	Louisiana State
		from INDIANAPOLIS			
#	13-45.	TAMPA BAY	Winfield, Antoine	DB	Minnesota
#	14-46.	DENVER	Hamler, K.J.	WR	Penn State
	15-47.	ATLANTA	Davidson, Marlon	DT	Auburn
	16-48.	SEATTLE	Taylor, Darrell	DE	Tennessee
		from NEW YORK JETS			
	17-49.	PITTSBURGH	Claypool, Chase	WR	Notre Dame
	18-50.	CHICAGO	Johnson, Jaylon	DB	Utah
	19-51.	DALLAS	Diggs, Trevon	DB	Alabama
#	20-52.	LOS ANGELES RAMS	Akers, Cam	RB	Florida State
	21-53.	PHILADELPHIA	Hurts, Jalen	QB	Oklahoma
#	22-54.	BUFFALO	Epenesa, A.J.	DE	Iowa
#	23-55.	BALTIMORE	Dobbins, J.K.	RB	Ohio State
		from NEW ENGLAND through ATLANTA			
	24-56.	MIAMI	Davis, Raekwon	DT	Alabama
		from NEW ORLEANS			
	25-57.	LOS ANGELES RAMS	Jefferson, Van	WR	Florida
		from HOUSTON			

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#	26-58. MINNESOTA	Cleveland, Ezra	T	Boise State
	27-59. NEW YORK JETS	Mims, Denzel	WR	Baylor
	from SEATTLE			
	28-60. NEW ENGLAND	Uche, Josh	LB	Michigan
	from BALTIMORE			
	29-61. TENNESSEE	Fulton, Kristian	DB	Louisiana State
#	30-62. GREEN BAY	Dillon, A.J.	RB	Boston College
#	31-63. KANSAS CITY	Gay, Willie	LB	Mississippi State
	from SAN FRANCISCO			
	32-64. CAROLINA	Chinn, Jeremy	DB	Southern Illinois
	from KANSAS CITY through SEATTLE			

END OF ROUND:	9:28PM
TIME OF ROUND:	2 HOURS, 19 MINUTES
TOTAL TIME	6 HOURS, 13 MINUTES

Underclassman

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ROUND 3

START OF ROUND: 9:28PM

	1-65.	CINCINNATI	Wilson, Logan	LB	Wyoming
	2-66.	WASHINGTON	Gibson, Antonio	RB	Memphis
	3-67.	DETROIT	Okwara, Julian	LB	Notre Dame
	4-68.	NEW YORK JETS	Davis, Ashtyn	DB	California
		from NEW YORK GIANTS			
	5-69.	SEATTLE	Lewis, Damien	G	Louisiana State
		from CAROLINA			
	6-70.	MIAMI	Jones, Brandon	DB	Texas
#	7-71.	BALTIMORE	Madubuike, Justin	DT	Texas A&M
		from LOS ANGELES CHARGERS through NEW ENGLAND			
	8-72.	ARIZONA	Jones, Josh	T	Houston
	9-73.	JACKSONVILLE	Hamilton, Davon	NT	Ohio State
	10-74.	NEW ORLEANS	Baun, Zack	LB	Wisconsin
		from CLEVELAND			
	11-75.	DETROIT	Jackson, Jonah	G	Ohio State
		from INDIANAPOLIS			
	12-76.	TAMPA BAY	Vaughn, Ke'Shawn	RB	Vanderbilt
	13-77.	DENVER	Ojemudia, Michael	DB	Iowa
	14-78.	ATLANTA	Hennessy, Matt	C	Temple
	15-79.	NEW YORK JETS	Zuniga, Jabari	DE	Florida
#	16-80.	LAS VEGAS	Bowden, Lynn	RB	Kentucky
	17-81.	LAS VEGAS	Edwards, Bryan	WR	South Carolina
		from CHICAGO			
	18-82.	DALLAS	Gallimore, Neville	DT	Oklahoma
	19-83.	DENVER	Cushenberry, Lloyd	C	Louisiana State
		from PITTSBURGH			
	20-84.	LOS ANGELES RAMS	Lewis, Terrell	LB	Alabama
	21-85.	INDIANAPOLIS	Blackmon, Julian	DB	Utah
		from PHILADELPHIA through DETROIT			
	22-86.	BUFFALO	Moss, Zack	RB	Utah
	23-87.	NEW ENGLAND	Jennings, Anfernee	LB	Alabama
#	24-88.	CLEVELAND	Elliott, Jordan	DT	Missouri
		from NEW ORLEANS			
#	25-89.	MINNESOTA	Dantzler, Cameron	DB	Mississippi State
	26-90.	HOUSTON	Greenard, Jonathan	LB	Florida

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	#	27-91. NEW ENGLAND	Asiasi, Devin	TE	UCLA
		from SEATTLE through HOUSTON and LAS VEGAS			
		28-92. BALTIMORE	Duvernay, Devin	WR	Texas
	#	29-93. TENNESSEE	Evans, Darrynton	RB	Appalachian State
		30-94. GREEN BAY	Deguara, Josiah	TE	Cincinnati
		31-95. DENVER	Agim, McTelvin	DT	Arkansas
		from SAN FRANCISCO			
		32-96. KANSAS CITY	Niang, Lucas	T	Texas Christian
+	#	33-97. CLEVELAND	Phillips, Jacob	LB	Louisiana State
		from HOUSTON			
+		34-98. BALTIMORE	Harrison, Malik	LB	Ohio State
		from NEW ENGLAND			
+		35-99. NEW YORK GIANTS	Peart, Matt	T	Connecticut
+		36-100. LAS VEGAS	Muse, Tanner	LB	Clemson
		from NEW ENGLAND			
+	#	37-101. NEW ENGLAND	Keene, Dalton	TE	Virginia Tech
		from SEATTLE through NEW YORK JETS			
+		38-102. PITTSBURGH	Highsmith, Alex	LB	North Carolina-Charlotte
+		39-103. PHILADELPHIA	Taylor, Davion	LB	Colorado
+		40-104. LOS ANGELES RAMS	Burgess, Terrell	DB	Utah
+		41-105. NEW ORLEANS	Trautman, Adam	TE	Dayton
		from MINNESOTA			
+		42-106. BALTIMORE	Phillips, Tyre	G	Mississippi State

END OF ROUND: 11:58PM
TIME OF ROUND: 2 HOURS, 30 MINUTES
TOTAL TIME 8 HOURS, 43 MINUTES

+ **Compensatory Pick**
 # **Underclassman**

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ROUND 4

START OF ROUND: 12:06PM

	1-107. CINCINNATI	Davis-Gaither, Akeem	LB	Appalachian State
#	2-108. WASHINGTON	Charles, Saahdiq	T	Louisiana State
	3-109. LAS VEGAS	Simpson, John	G	Clemson
	from DETROIT			
	4-110. NEW YORK GIANTS	Holmes, Darnay	DB	UCLA
#	5-111. MIAMI	Kindley, Solomon	G	Georgia
	from MIAMI through HOUSTON			
	6-112. LOS ANGELES CHARGERS	Kelley, Joshua	RB	UCLA
	7-113. CAROLINA	Pride, Troy	DB	Notre Dame
	8-114. ARIZONA	Fotu, Leki	NT	Utah
	9-115. CLEVELAND	Bryant, Harrison	TE	Florida Atlantic
	10-116. JACKSONVILLE	Bartch, Ben	T	St. John's, Minn.
	11-117. MINNESOTA	Wonnum, D.J.	DE	South Carolina
	from TAMPA BAY through SAN FRANCISCO			
#	12-118. DENVER	Okwuegbunam, Albert	TE	Missouri
	13-119. ATLANTA	Walker, Mykal	LB	Fresno State
	14-120. NEW YORK JETS	Perine, La'Mical	RB	Florida
	15-121. DETROIT	Stenberg, Logan	G	Kentucky
	from LAS VEGAS			
#	16-122. INDIANAPOLIS	Eason, Jacob	QB	Washington
	17-123. DALLAS	Robinson, Reggie	DB	Tulsa
#	18-124. PITTSBURGH	McFarland, Anthony	RB	Maryland
	19-125. NEW YORK JETS	Morgan, James	QB	Florida International
	from CHICAGO through NEW ENGLAND			
	20-126. HOUSTON	Heck, Charlie	T	North Carolina
	from LOS ANGELES RAMS			
	21-127. PHILADELPHIA	Wallace, K'Von	DB	Clemson
#	22-128. BUFFALO	Davis, Gabriel	WR	Central Florida
	23-129. NEW YORK JETS	Clark, Cameron	T	North Carolina-Charlotte
	from NEW ENGLAND through BALTIMORE and NEW ENGLAND			
#	24-130. MINNESOTA	Lynch, James	DT	Baylor
	from NEW ORLEANS			
	25-131. ARIZONA	Lawrence, Rashard	NT	Louisiana State
	from HOUSTON			
	26-132. MINNESOTA	Dye, Troy	LB	Oregon

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	#	27-133. SEATTLE	Parkinson, Colby	TE	Stanford
		28-134. ATLANTA	Hawkins, Jaylinn	DB	California
		from BALTIMORE			
		29-135. PITTSBURGH	Dotson, Kevin	G	Louisiana-Lafayette
		from TENNESSEE through MIAMI			
		30-136. LOS ANGELES RAMS	Hopkins, Brycen	TE	Purdue
		from GREENBAY through MIAMI and HOUSTON			
	#	31-137. JACKSONVILLE	Scott, Josiah	DB	Michigan State
		from SAN FRANCISCO through DENVER			
		32-138. KANSAS CITY	Sneed, L'Jarius	DB	Louisiana Tech
+	#	33-139. LAS VEGAS	Robertson, Amik	DB	Louisiana Tech
		from TAMPA BAY through NEW ENGLAND			
+		34-140. JACKSONVILLE	Quarterman, Shaquille	LB	Miami
		from CHICAGO			
+		35-141. HOUSTON	Reid, John	DB	Penn State
		from MIAMI			
+		36-142. WASHINGTON	Gandy-Golden, Antonio	WR	Liberty
+		37-143. BALTIMORE	Bredeson, Ben	G	Michigan
+	#	38-144. SEATTLE	Dallas, DeeJay	RB	Miami
+		39-145. PHILADELPHIA	Driscoll, Jack	T	Auburn
+	#	40-146. DALLAS	Biadasz, Tyler	C	Wisconsin
		from PHILADELPHIA			

END OF ROUND:

2:07PM

TIME OF ROUND:

2 HOURS, 1 MINUTE

TOTAL TIME

10 HOURS, 44 MINUTES

+ Compensatory Pick

Underclassman

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ROUND 5

START OF ROUND: 2:07PM

	1-147.	CINCINNATI	Kareem, Khalid	DE	Notre Dame
	2-148.	SEATTLE	Robinson, Alton	DE	Syracuse
		from WASHINGTON through CAROLINA			
	3-149.	INDIANAPOLIS	Pinter, Danny	G	Ball State
		from DETROIT			
	4-150.	NEW YORK GIANTS	Lemieux, Shane	G	Oregon
	5-151.	LOS ANGELES CHARGERS	Reed, Joe	WR	Virginia
#	6-152.	CAROLINA	Robinson, Kenny	DB	West Virginia
	7-153.	SAN FRANCISCO	McKivitz, Colton	T	West Virginia
		from MIAMI			
<hr/>					
	8.	ARIZONA	Choice Exercised in 2019 Supplemental Draft for Jalen Thompson, FS, Washington State		
<hr/>					
	9-154.	MIAMI	Strowbridge, Jason	DE	North Carolina
		from JACKSONVILLE through PITTSBURGH			
	10-155.	CHICAGO	Gipson, Trevis	LB	Tulsa
		from CLEVELAND through BUFFALO and MINNESOTA			
	11-156.	WASHINGTON	Ismael, Keith	C	San Diego State
		from DENVER through SAN FRANCISCO			
	12-157.	JACKSONVILLE	Thomas, Daniel	DB	Auburn
		from ATLANTA through BALTIMORE			
	13-158.	NEW YORK JETS	Hall, Bryce	DB	Virginia
	14-159.	NEW ENGLAND	Rohrwasser, Justin	K	Marshall
		from LAS VEGAS			
	15-160.	CLEVELAND	Harris, Nick	C	Washington
		from INDIANAPOLIS			
	16-161.	TAMPA BAY	Johnson, Tyler	WR	Minnesota
	17-162.	WASHINGTON	Hudson, Khaleke	LB	Michigan
		from PITTSBURGH through SEATTLE			
	18-163.	CHICAGO	Vildor, Kindle	DB	Georgia Southern
#	19-164.	MIAMI	Weaver, Curtis	DE	Boise State
		from DALLAS through PHILADELPHIA			
	20-165.	JACKSONVILLE	Johnson, Collin	WR	Texas
		from LOS ANGELES RAMS			
#	21-166.	DETROIT	Cephus, Quintez	WR	Wisconsin
		from PHILADELPHIA			

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#	22-167. BUFFALO	Fromm, Jake	QB	Georgia
	23-168. PHILADELPHIA	Hightower, John	WR	Boise State
	from NEW ENGLAND			
#	24-169. MINNESOTA	Hand, Harrison	DB	Temple
	from NEW ORLEANS			
	25-170. BALTIMORE	Washington, Broderick	DT	Texas Tech
	from MINNESOTA			
#	26-171. HOUSTON	Coulter, Isaiah	WR	Rhode Island
	27-172. DETROIT	Huntley, Jason	RB	New Mexico State
	from SEATTLE through DETROIT, NEW ENGLAND and LAS VEGAS			
	28-173. CHICAGO	Mooney, Darnell	WR	Tulane
	from BALTIMORE through LOS ANGELES RAMS, MIAMI and PHILADELPHIA			
	29-174. TENNESSEE	Murchison, Larrell	DT	North Carolina State
	30-175. GREEN BAY	Martin, Kamal	LB	Minnesota
	31-176. MINNESOTA	Osborn, K.J.	WR	Miami
	from SAN FRANCISCO			
	32-177. KANSAS CITY	Danna, Michael	DE	Michigan
+	33-178. DENVER	Strnad, Justin	LB	Wake Forest
+	34-179. DALLAS	Anae, Bradlee	DE	Utah

END OF ROUND:

3:39PM

TIME OF ROUND:

1 HOUR, 32 MINUTES

TOTAL TIME

12 HOURS, 16 MINUTES

+ Compensatory Pick

Underclassman

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ROUND 6

START OF ROUND: 3:39PM

	1-180.	CINCINNATI	Adeniji, Hakeem	T	Kansas
#	2-181.	DENVER	Muti, Netane	G	Fresno State
		from WASHINGTON			
	3-182.	NEW ENGLAND	Onwenu, Michael	G	Michigan
		from DETROIT through INDIANAPOLIS			
	4-183.	NEW YORK GIANTS	Brown, Cam	LB	Penn State
	5-184.	CAROLINA	Roy, Bravvion	DT	Baylor
	6-185.	MIAMI	Ferguson, Blake	LS	Louisiana State
	7-186.	LOS ANGELES CHARGERS	Gilman, Alohi	DB	Notre Dame
#	8-187.	CLEVELAND	Peoples-Jones, Donovan	WR	Michigan
		from ARIZONA			
	9-188.	BUFFALO	Bass, Tyler	K	Georgia Southern
		from CLEVELAND			
	10-189.	JACKSONVILLE	Luton, Jake	QB	Oregon State
	11-190.	SAN FRANCISCO	Woerner, Charlie	TE	Georgia
		from ATLANTA through PHILADELPHIA			
	12-191.	NEW YORK JETS	Mann, Braden	P	Texas A&M
	13-192.	GREEN BAY	Runyan, Jon	G	Michigan
		from LAS VEGAS			
	14-193.	INDIANAPOLIS	Windsor, Robert	DT	Penn State
	15-194.	TAMPA BAY	Davis, Khalil	DT	Nebraska
	16-195.	NEW ENGLAND	Herron, Justin	T	Wake Forest
		from DENVER			
	17-196.	PHILADELPHIA	Bradley, Shaun	LB	Temple
		from CHICAGO			
	18-197.	DETROIT	Penisini, John	DT	Utah
		from DALLAS through MIAMI and INDIANAPOLIS			
	19-198.	PITTSBURGH	Brooks, Antoine	DB	Maryland
	20-199.	LOS ANGELES RAMS	Fuller, Jordan	DB	Ohio State
#	21-200.	PHILADELPHIA	Watkins, Quez	WR	Southern Mississippi
		reacquired through CHICAGO			
	22-201.	BALTIMORE	Proche, James	WR	Southern Methodist
		from BUFFALO through MINNESOTA			
	23-202.	ARIZONA	Weaver, Evan	LB	California
		from NEW ENGLAND			

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
85th ANNUAL SELECTION MEETING
APRIL 23 - APRIL 25, 2020

	24-203. MINNESOTA	Brandel, Blake	T	Oregon State
	from NEW ORLEANS			
	25-204. NEW ENGLAND	Maluia, Cassh	LB	Wyoming
	from HOUSTON			
	26-205. MINNESOTA	Metellus, Josh	DB	Michigan
	27-206. JACKSONVILLE	Davis, Tyler	TE	Georgia Tech
	from SEATTLE			
#	28-207. BUFFALO	Hodgins, Isaiah	WR	Oregon State
	from BALTIMORE through NEW ENGLAND			
	29-208. GREEN BAY	Hanson, Jake	C	Oregon
	from TENNESSEE			
	30-209. GREEN BAY	Stepaniak, Simon	G	Indiana
	31-210. PHILADELPHIA	Wanogho, Prince Tega	T	Auburn
	from SAN FRANCISCO			
	32-211. INDIANAPOLIS	Rodgers, Isaiah	DB	Massachusetts
	from KANSAS CITY through New York Jets			
+	33-212. INDIANAPOLIS	Patmon, Dezmon	WR	Washington State
	from NEW ENGLAND			
+	34-213. INDIANAPOLIS	Glasgow, Jordan	LB	Michigan
	from NEW ENGLAND			
+	35-214. SEATTLE	Swain, Freddie	WR	Florida
	END OF ROUND:	5:19PM		
	TIME OF ROUND:	1 HOUR, 40 MINUTES		
	TOTAL TIME	13 HOURS, 56 MINUTES		
+	Compensatory Pick			
#	Underclassman			

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
85th ANNUAL SELECTION MEETING
APRIL 23 - APRIL 25, 2020

ROUND 7

START OF ROUND: 5:19PM

	1-215.	CINCINNATI	Bailey, Markus	LB	Purdue
#	2-216.	WASHINGTON	Curl, Kamren	DB	Arkansas
	3-217.	SAN FRANCISCO	Jennings, Jauan	WR	Tennessee
		from DETROIT			
	4-218.	NEW YORK GIANTS	Coughlin, Carter	LB	Minnesota
#	5-219.	BALTIMORE	Stone, Geno	DB	Iowa
		from MIAMI through MINNESOTA			
	6-220.	LOS ANGELES CHARGERS	Hill, K.J.	WR	Ohio State
	7-221.	CAROLINA	Thomas-Oliver, Stantley	DB	Florida International
	8-222.	ARIZONA	Benjamin, Eno	RB	Arizona State
	9-223.	JACKSONVILLE	Claybrooks, Chris	DB	Memphis
#	10-224.	TENNESSEE	McDonald, Cole	QB	Hawaii
		from CLEVELAND			
	11-225.	MINNESOTA	Willekes, Kenny	DE	Michigan State
		from NEW YORK JETS through BALTIMORE			
	12-226.	CHICAGO	Hambricht, Arlington	G	Colorado
		from LAS VEGAS			
	13-227.	CHICAGO	Simmons, Lachavious	G	Tennessee State
		from INDIANAPOLIS through MIAMI and PHILADELPHIA			
	14-228.	ATLANTA	Hofrichter, Sterling	P	Syracuse
		from TAMPA BAY through PHILADELPHIA			
	15-229.	WASHINGTON	Smith-Williams, James	DE	North Carolina State
		from DENVER			
	16-230.	NEW ENGLAND	Woodard, Dustin	C	Memphis
		from ATLANTA			
	17-231.	DALLAS	DiNucci, Ben	QB	James Madison
	18-232.	PITTSBURGH	Davis, Carlos	DT	Nebraska
	19-233.	PHILADELPHIA	Toohill, Casey	DE	Stanford
		from CHICAGO			
	20-234.	LOS ANGELES RAMS	Johnston, Clay	LB	Baylor
	21-235.	DETROIT	Cornell, Jashon	DE	Ohio State
		from PHILADELPHIA through NEW ENGLAND			
	22-236.	GREEN BAY	Scott, Vernon	DB	Texas Christian
		from BUFFALO through CLEVELAND			
	23-237.	KANSAS CITY	Keyes, Thakarius	DB	Tulane

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

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APRIL 23 - APRIL 25, 2020

from NEW ENGLAND through DENVER and TENNESSEE

24-238. NEW YORK GIANTS Brunson, T.J. LB South Carolina

from NEW ORLEANS

25-239. BUFFALO Jackson, Dane DB Pittsburgh

from MINNESOTA

26-240. NEW ORLEANS Stevens, Tommy QB Mississippi State

from HOUSTON

27-241. TAMPA BAY Russell, Chapelle LB Temple

from SEATTLE through NEW ENGLAND

28-242. GREEN BAY Garvin, Jonathan DE Miami

from BALTIMORE

29-243. TENNESSEE Jackson, Chris DB Marshall

30-244. MINNESOTA Stanley, Nate QB Iowa

from GREEN BAY through CLEVELAND and NEW ORLEANS

31-245. TAMPA BAY Calais, Raymond RB Louisiana-Lafayette

from SAN FRANCISCO

32-246. MIAMI Perry, Malcolm RB Navy

from KANSAS CITY

+ 33-247. NEW YORK GIANTS Williamson, Chris DB Minnesota

+ 34-248. LOS ANGELES RAMS Sloman, Sam K Miami, O.

from HOUSTON

+ 35-249. MINNESOTA Cole, Brian DB Mississippi State

+ 36-250. LOS ANGELES RAMS Anchrum, Tremayne G Clemson

from HOUSTON

+ 37-251. SEATTLE Sullivan, Stephen WR Louisiana State

from MIAMI

+ 38-252. DENVER Cleveland, Tyrie WR Florida

+ 39-253. MINNESOTA Hinton, Kyle G Washburn

+ 40-254. DENVER Tuszka, Derrek LB North Dakota State

+ 41-255. NEW YORK GIANTS Crowder, Tae LB Georgia

END OF ROUND:

6:53PM

TIME OF ROUND:

1 HOUR, 34 MINUTES

TOTAL TIME

15 HOURS, 30 MINUTES

+ **Compensatory Pick**

Underclassman