



CINCINNATI BENGALS

APRIL 29, 2023

NFL DRAFT — ROUND 1

ZAC TAYLOR

Head coach

Initial comments ...

"We've got Myles here today. We're really excited about him. His family is here, they came up from Georgia (along with) his girlfriend. Like we said yesterday, we're really excited to get Myles here. He fits everything that we want character-wise, player-wise. We know that he's got the talent, ability and work ethic to help us do all the things that we want to do. Icing on the cake (is that he is) a great fit in the locker room. He went to a place that, when you sign up to go play at Clemson, you know you're competing for championships and the standard is going to be very high, and that's our standard here as well. We want to compete for championships and we have a very high standard, and we want players that understand that and have been through it before. We know that Myles has done that. I've really enjoyed getting to know his family a little bit this morning and have already gotten to know Myles, but he's a great fit for what we want to do."

MYLES MURPHY

Defensive end; Clemson

What have been your first impressions of Cincinnati?

"First impressions, like (Zac Taylor) said, coming from a winning organization to a winning organization, knowing it takes a certain mentality to be a winning organization. Knowing that I'm going to go to a team that has that mentality, knows what it takes to consistently win — that's a very uplifting, positive feeling. Then, just being another weapon to an already loaded team, already loaded defense. That's great, honestly."

How do you feel about playing in Lou Anarumo's defense?

"I feel great about it. It fits my play style perfectly. Really, for the D-linemen, letting loose almost freestyle, just get after the quarterback. Especially for the edge guys, watching (Trey) Hendrickson, (Sam) Hubbard — really watching them two fly off the edge, letting them let loose. Day one when I get in, I'm eager to learn from them, learn the mentality of day in and day out, their work ethic and all that. I'm excited to get to work."

What made you pick number 99?

"I wanted 98. DJ Reader is not going to give that up. Ninety-nine still looks good."

Have you heard from DJ Reader?

"Yeah, it was really just excitement. Just excited that I'm joining the team and can't wait to get to work together."

How cool is it to have so many Clemson-Bengals connections?

"It is very cool. It's very unique. Honestly, the culture and mentality at Clemson is extremely similar, if not the same in Cincinnati. Going from one place to another, but the mentality is the same, the culture is the same — that's great."

How much do you embrace setting the edge in the run game?

"I enjoy it a lot. It's my job. The defense is only as strong as the weakest link, so everyone needs to do their job. If I set the edge, both ends set the edge, both D-tackles penetrate the backfield and are able to open up gaps for the linebackers — everything kind of just falls into place and the link is strong together right there. Doing my job, that's exciting within itself."

How often did you rush from a defensive tackle position?

"If I had to give a percentage, maybe 25-30 percent of the time. We just had it in our defensive scheme at Clemson, we would do literally every type of front — 4-3, 3-4, odd where I'd be in a three. I remember my sophomore year against Louisville, we called it a 'LeBron' front — I'd be in a zero. I was all over the place, really from a zero all the way out to a nine, so really just rushing all those gaps."

Did you ever drop into coverage?

"I've dropped in coverage a lot."

How comfortable do you feel dropping into coverage?

"I feel very comfortable doing that. I know I'm not a lockdown corner, but I think it's pretty evident I have the speed to keep up with the running backs coming out of the backfield."

How exciting is it that the Bengals have emphasized building their defense during this draft?

"It's very exciting. It's a high-powered offense, so just doing whatever I can do to put the ball back in our offense's hands as much as possible and knowing if my offense has the ball more than they do, we're probably going to get more points on the board — simple math."

Have you had contact with fellow draftees DJ Turner II and Jordan Battle?

"I never met them in person, but texted them last night."

You have family here. Who do you have here and what's your family meant to you?

"With me I have my brother Maxwell, mom Breyone, dad Willard, girlfriend Lauren — that's who I brought with me. If they would've given me a charter plane, I would've brought all 175 people that were at the draft party. Family, it's meant a lot. They've been with me throughout the entire journey, so honestly I took bits and pieces from each one of them, whether it be mannerisms, learning opportunities, experiences, just taking those things and growing upon them. Honestly, they've kind of shaped me into the man that I am right now."

Why did you decide to have so many people there on one of the most important nights of your life?

"Honestly because if it would've been a small party of just 20 people, it would've been tough to pick out 20 people. One hundred and seventy-five sounds like a lot, but it's bits and pieces that people have implemented into my life that has impacted me in a way. I felt like they all deserved to be there in that moment."

Do you get the sense how close this organization is to a Super Bowl and how great the desire is to get over the top?

"Of course. The past few years it's evident. It's not a secret the Bengals are a Super Bowl contender. That is what it is. I just want to do what I can do, get in where I fit in, and be that extra push over the hill."

How many of your new teammates have you heard from?

"It was a good bit of them. Joe Burrow, most of the D-line, linebackers, (Chidobe) Awuzie. A good bit of the team already hit me up, so I'm going to, of course, in the next few days I should have most of the team, so it'll be a good journey."

What's one of the biggest things you learned at Clemson either on or off the field that will assist you in your transition into the NFL?

"Biggest thing, especially now, is just finding that routine, because I'm big on a routine, big on schedule. I like to know what's coming up next within my schedule. I don't want too much free time because I feel like I'm not being productive if I have too much free time. Really just finding that routine of working out, recovery, getting in the playbook, and then when it comes time to just chill, find that time to chill."