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COLE BISHOP

AGE: 21 (October 24, 2002) | HT: 6-2 | WT: 206

COLLEGE: Utah

NFL EXP: Rookie

HOMETOWN: Peachtree City, GA

ACQUIRED: Draft (2024, R2)

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FIRST-AND-10

COLE BISHOP was selected by the Bills in the second round in 2024. Bishop played in 35 games and was a 2023 Jim Thorpe Award Semifinalist. He joins TE Dalton Kincaid as the second Ute drafted by the Bills in as many years.

SHOUTOUTS

- Made his NFL debut at MIA (9/13/24). Finished with 1 tackle and a pass breakup.
- Played in 35 career games (29 starts). Collected 197 total tackles, 21.5 TFLs, 7.5 sacks, three INTS and 14 passes defended. Three-time Pac-12 All-Conference (2023 Second Team; 2021 and 2022 Honorable Mention).
- Played in 11 regular season games, starting 10 in 2023. Led the Utah secondary with 60 tackles (6.5 TFL, 3.0 sacks). His 9.5 third-down stops were tied for most on the team. Also defended five passes (2 INT, 3 PBU), forced one fumble and made a team-leading two recoveries.
- Appeared in all 14 games with 13 starts at safety in 2022. Led the team in tackles (83) and had the most TFLs (6.0) in the secondary. Also defended four passes (one INT, three PBU) and made 1.5 sacks.
- Averaged 5.6 tackles in the last five games of the 2022 season, including the Pac-12 Championship (9) and Rose Bowl Game (6).
- In 2021, played in 10 games on the season, starting the final six contests. Led all true freshmen on the team with 54 tackles (9.0 TFL, 3.0 sacks) to go with five PBUs.
- Recorded a career-high eight tackles twice vs. Oregon (12/3/21), Pac-12 Championship; vs. Ohio State (1/1/22), also adding a fumble recovery in the Rose Bowl.
- Blocked a 36-yard field goal and had seven tackles (1.0 TFL)

PERSONAL

Son of Richard and Vicki Bishop. Has one brother, Jake. Was born in Massachusetts. Attended Starr's Mills HS (GA) and also played lacrosse. Majored in communications at Utah.

IF YOU HAVEN'T HERD

21ST CENTURY RECRUITING

In Exhibit A of 21st century recruiting, [Morgan] Scalley – Utah's defensive coordinator and safeties coach – reached out to Bishop on Twitter.

There isn't exactly a Georgia-to-Utah pipeline for the Utes' program – last season, Bishop and receiver Munir McClain were the only Georgia natives on the roster and McClain was a transfer from former Pac-12 rival USC.

Utah recruiting assistants, who spend hours grinding on high school video to unearth players from outside their main focus area, presented Scalley with Bishop's highlights.

"They know who I'm looking for – tough, smart guys who are a little bit underrecruited but have the skill set and mindset to play in our program," Scalley said. "You could tell footwork-wise and technique-wise, there was (work to be done), but when he drove and broke on the football, he showed a lot of lateral quickness and physicality. I just loved him as a football player."

Scalley messaged Bishop on Twitter.

"Any other year than Covid (2020), that's not normal because you can go out and see a player in-person," Scalley said. "With Cole, you have to go off what you saw on film and that can be tough sometimes because you then see them in-person and you're like, 'Oh, they're not as athletic as they looked on film.' Everyone was going through that and it's taking a leap of faith and trusting the (high school) coach that they're giving you the correct height and weight." (The Buffalo News, Ryan O'Halloran, May 5, 2024)

THE STAMPEDE

Favorite player growing up: Eric Weddle

Dream vacation spot: Aruba

Favorite musician: Luke Combs

Favorite conspiracy theory: Birds aren't real

Bucket list item: Play Augusta