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## Chargers General Manager Tom Telesco Draft Availability

Friday, April 28, 2023 ⚡ Hoag Performance Center ⚡ Costa Mesa, Calif.

### On selecting OLB Tuli Tuipulotu in the second round:

"It's a player that we had seen a lot of, obviously. I guess one of the big things that we really like about him is his versatility between playing some edge and then even how [Southern California Defensive Coordinator] Alex Grinch used him at USC sometimes as an inside, interior pass rusher. He's really quick, great hand use. Just has a great ability to get off blocks one way or another, whether it's instincts, slipperiness, hand use, power. He just is an active, active player. He has big size, is powerful. He can play on the outside. We'll probably use him a lot of different ways."

### On if Tuipulotu could play on the interior defensive line:

"They used him inside a little bit, but we see him as an edge player. Certainly on passing downs and a little bit here, little bit there, you could probably use him down there."

### On selecting LB Dayian Henley in the third round:

"Interesting story — I'm sure you guys kind of know. His journey has been pretty interesting from high school to Washington State. He's really instinctive. He's extremely fast. He's a violent hitter when he gets there. He's played a lot of special teams snaps in his career. That really was a big part of the equation, too. Adding depth, adding special teams players. He still played a lot of special teams even this past year at Washington State. We got an increase of depth there at linebacker, but potentially a really good special teams player, as well."

### On if Henley could see time at safety like in his college career:

"He's a linebacker. I think he literally played everything in high school at Crenshaw — offense, defense at all different positions. Then, receiver initially at Nevada. Then, safety and then linebacker. He's a really athletic, instinctive and physical player. He's really fun to watch."

### On if the team exercised the fifth-year option on QB Justin Herbert:

"Yes."

### On if the team also exercised the fifth-year option on LB Kenneth Murray Jr.:

"No, just Justin."

### On how drafting Henley affected Murray's fifth-year option:

"Those are kind of two completely separate things. Kenny is doing a great job for us."

**On not exercising the fifth-year option on Murray:**

"Probably more salary cap-related down the road. We'll talk when the season is over."

**On exercising the fifth-year option on Herbert before the draft ended:**

"It has to be in by Monday or Tuesday, so we just figured we would do it today. Nothing changed."

**On Tuipulotu's health:**

"We'll see when he gets in."

**On if the team was able to work out Tuipulotu before the draft:**

"He did some things, but not everything."

**On Henley's personality:**

"We had him here for the local day, so our coaches spent a good amount of time with him. What you see is what you get. He has a lot of enthusiasm."

**On Henley's coverage ability:**

"Pretty good because he's instinctive and fast."

**On Tuipulotu's style of play:**

"It's interesting, just how he plays. I think what I said before, he has an innate ability to get off a block and do it all different ways. That showed up at USC pretty consistently. He's just a really active, productive football player. He played a high level, obviously, in the Pac-12."

**On the growth potential for Tuipulotu:**

"He's only 20 years old. It's a huge positive. You're talking about a 20-year-old player that's going to walk into a room with [OLBs] Joey Bosa and Khalil Mack. That's pretty good, and [OLB] Chris Rumph [II]. I like those four guys. There will be a lot of career growth coming with Tuli, just with where he is age-wise and what he's going to learn when he gets here."

**On Tuipulotu trying to improve his 'get-off':**

"With get-off, there is a little bit [of projection] there. Actually, he's humble because he has a pretty good get-off as it is. That is something that you can work on and time it. There are some tricks to the trade that they'll work with him on."

**On Tuipulotu's sack and tackle for loss production:**

"It was a mix [of inside and outside]. I mean, they used him a lot of different ways. When he was inside, it was a lot of slanting. On the edge, a more prototypical edge. I thought their defensive coordinator did a great job with him. A really outstanding job."

**On if both Tuipulotu and Henley were at the team's local pro day:**

"Yes, they were."

**On the talent at the local pro day:**

"I'm telling you. Los Angeles, are you kidding me? It's great.

"I mean, it's a feather in the cap for high school football in this area to have two kids — one from Crenshaw, one from Lawndale High School. Two really good programs. These kids are going to be NFL players."

**On if the defensive coaches on staff were pleased with the selections:**

"Yeah, they're good."

**On the long-term view factoring into draft picks:**

"It's funny because when we talk about these players in the draft room and meetings, we're talking long-term with all of them. Then, I come in here and everybody wants to know where they're going to play opening day. It's always long-term with these players when we're drafting them, from the first round to the sixth or seventh round. Obviously, there will be a short-term outlook on how they may fit a role early, but after that, as you know, where do we project them three or four years down the road? That's a big part of it."

**On the backstory of Henley:**

"We knew the whole story. We have scouts that do this 365 days a year. We have a lot of information. Sometimes, too much information."