

## Chargers OLB Tuli Tuipulotu Draft Availability

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

### On his reaction to being selected by the Chargers:

"It's kind of funny. I wasn't even really watching the draft. I was outside with the family, we were all chilling outside. My mom was yelling at me to come to her because she wanted me to go grab my grandma from the car at the front, so she called me, I walked to the front and I got a call and I walked away [*laughter*]. It was a blessing, for sure. I'm excited to get to work."

### On why he was not watching the Draft:

"To be honest with you, I didn't really care what round I went because I just knew that wherever I went, I would have to prove myself no matter what, whether it was the first, second or third [round], I would have to prove myself. I was just chilling with the family. We were playing cards, eating. Then, I just got the call."

### On his reaction to remaining in Los Angeles:

"I'm happy, for sure. I haven't left LA for most of my life. I was kind of preparing myself to like go somewhere far, like all the way to the East Coast or something, but I'm happy to stay home and be close to family."

### On his conversations with the Chargers during the Draft process:

"The first scout that called me was from the Chargers. That was a long time ago, like back in January or February. I hadn't talked to him all the way up until the local pro day, that's why I wasn't expecting it at all. I talked to him at the local pro day, then I had a Zoom meeting a couple of weeks after that. There wasn't that much contact with them, but I'm happy that they called me."

### On 'excelling' in Southern California Defensive Coordinator Alex Grinch's scheme last season:

"I would say that my coach, [Southern California Defensive Line Coach] Shaun Nua, he prepared me very well throughout that season. There was a big jump from my sophomore year to my junior year, and a big a big reason for that was because of Coach Nua. I'd also give a lot of props to my defense. I know a lot of people don't say that much good stuff about our defense this past season, but I wouldn't have been able to make a lot of the plays that I did without them, so big props to them."

### On if he has ever visited SoFi Stadium"

"Yeah, I have actually came to watch a game during the season. I watched the Seahawks-Chargers game. It was good. The Chargers didn't end up winning, but we're going to change that this coming season, for sure."

**On having the opportunity to learn from Chargers OLBs Joey Bosa and Khalil Mack:**

"I'm blessed. Coming into the league, that's what I wanted. I wanted the best to learn from, and, man, Joey Bosa and Khalil [Mack]? That's crazy. I'm excited for opportunity. I'm a sponge, so I am going to just absorb all of the info that they give me and just try to get better and make an impact on the team."

**On players that he 'molds his game after':**

"I watched a lot of [49ers DE] Nick Bosa — how he takes his steps and all of that. I just had problems with my get-off, it wasn't all that fast or anything like that. I focus a lot on my footwork and how I got to where I needed to get to. A lot of that had to do with watching a lot of Nick Bosa and how he gets to where he gets to by using his steps. If you watch him, you would see how wide his steps are. Hopefully, I get a chance to just pick his brain about how he goes about that."

**On studying former NFL defensive end Michael Bennett:**

"I watched him a while ago. He's not in the league anymore. I actually got to meet him at the Polynesian Bowl, the Hall of Fame ceremony that we had. It was cool to meet him there."

**On his heritage:**

"It means everything to me. Too bad I wasn't on TV, my jacket that I wore today says Tongans. My parents are from Tonga, that is what I represent. My celebration, I'm always throwing up the T and that's what it stands for. Hopefully, at next level, I get to make some plays and be able to showcase the Ts."

**On his play-style:**

"I wouldn't say anything too crazy. I really like to set up my moves. I try to make everything look exactly the same. I work everything off of power. I have to add more to arsenal, learn more. I'm excited."

**On the type of player that he is:**

"A true team player. I'll do anything for his team, whatever they need me to do, as long as I get to contribute to the team, whether that's being on special teams, coming off of the bench and just helping out. I'll just do whatever I can help the team."

**On special teams experience:**

"I don't have that much experience on special teams, but that doesn't mean that I wouldn't go in there and learn it. I'm excited to contribute in any way possible."

**On how far he lives from SoFi Stadium:**

"Probably like 20 minutes [*laughter*]."