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Chargers OLB Tuli Tuipulotu Introductory Media Availability

Saturday, April 29, 2023 ⚡ Hoag Performance Center ⚡ Costa Mesa, Calif.

On being selected by the Chargers and remaining in his hometown:

"Thank you to the Spanos Family, [General Manager] Tom Telesco, [Head] Coach [Brandon] Staley for believing in me and blessing me with this opportunity. I'm excited to be here. It feels weird to stay here just because I was expecting to leave, go somewhere on the East Coast. My agent was telling me, like, 'Get ready to move, Tuli.' I'm like, 'Alright, whatever.' [Laughter] I'm going to be home, so I'm good to go."

On if East Coast teams expressed interest in him:

"It was just something that my agent told me, but then a lot of them did pick edges early on, so that's when we knew that that was at the door."

On participating in the Chargers' local pro day:

"I actually didn't do the workout. I just came here, we had a team meeting, talked to Coach Staley a little bit, talked to [Outside Linebackers] Coach [Giff] Smith a lot, really that whole time. It was a good experience, just picking their brain about the game and how the players here approach it. That's how it went."

On his new teammate, LB Daiyan Henley:

"The first time I talked to him was at the Combine. He was at Nevada and we wanted him to come to S.C., but he chose some other school [laughter]."

On if he and Henley ever played against each other growing up:

"No."

On playing high school football, college football and in the NFL in Los Angeles:

"I'm just excited to stay home. It doesn't feel weird or anything like that. I'm just excited to be here."

On if he had a favorite NFL team growing up:

"I actually was a fan of the Rams when they first moved back to LA, but then I stopped liking them [laughter]. When I started playing at S.C., probably after my sophomore year, I didn't have a team."

On if he is a Lakers fan and Kobe Bryant fan:

"Oh yeah. Have to represent. 100%."

On if he has spoken to any of his new teammates yet:

"Not yet."

On Chargers OLBs Joey Bosa and Khalil Mack:

"What's not to know? [*Laughter*] They are two of the greatest in the game. I'm just excited to learn for them, be right behind them, keep learning and picking their brain about the game, and, hopefully, get to that level. That's what I'm excited about, for sure."

On if he met with Staley today:

"No, not today."

On his health status:

"We're good to go. I'm ready for camp and all of that."

On what he did last night after receiving the call:

"I was having trouble eating before, like I was too nervous to eat [*laughter*]. So, I started grubbing after [*laughter*]. Then, we threw on the Lakers game. We were chilling the whole time."

On what they were eating:

"I was eating pizza. Keep it simple. We had some Korean barbecue stuff around there. We had a bunch of Tongan food, Buffalo Wild Wings sent some wings over. We were just grubbing, having a good time."

On if there is 'one game that solidified his All-America status':

"When I dropped three sacks against Washington State [*laughter*]. No, I'm just playing. I don't think that there was a specific game. I think that my whole season said what I accomplished after the season. I think that the whole season showcased what I earned at the end of season."

On his performance against Colorado last year:

"It was just some sacks. Sacks are good, but I pride myself in doing everything; stopping the run, running to the ball. I'd say the whole season, for sure."