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## Chargers Head Coach Brandon Staley Draft Availability

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

### On the selection of QB Max Duggan:

"Max [Duggan] is a winner. He had a fantastic season for TCU, leading that football team to the best season in school history. A ton of production. Just love his intangibles. We think that he has the right makeup, a lot of characteristics to work with. He creates some depth in the quarterback room. It's a position that, I think, you need to continue to invest in, especially when you have a franchise quarterback like ours, just continue to try and increase depth in the position room. We'll see where it goes."

### On the 'common thread' of drafting three players from TCU:

"Yes, that they have a really outstanding team. It's the same as the University of Georgia or the University of Alabama, one of the top college programs. You saw how many players were drafted from their football team and it's no surprise why. [TCU Head Coach] Sonny [Dykes] did a great job with that team. Obviously, [former TCU Head Coach] Gary Patterson recruited a lot of those players. A lot of pro players on that team, that's why they made it so far. Really excited about all three of these guys."

### On WR Darius Davis' skillset as a returner:

"The fact that he can return in both phases, punt and kickoff return/ He was the fastest guy at the combine, a 4.3 [40-yard-dash] guy, real juice. Five returns for touchdowns. Proven production in both phases. Then, gives you that fifth receiver element, too. He was an outstanding offensive weapon for that team, as well, factoring in your offensive football team. Really liked the makeup of the player, and then, just the production in both phases, special teams and offense."

### On if they are 'comfortable' with Davis at returner:

"Definitely comfortable with him. We drafted him in the fourth round because we really feel like he was one of the top returners in the country. Then, looking at the landscape of both pro and college football, we really felt like this guy is special with the ball in his hands."

### On the selection of DL Scott Matlock:

"He's a war daddy. That term applies to him, how he plays and the type of leadership that he had at Boise State, that type of mantle that he earned as a captain there. I think you'll see that in our draft, we joined up with a lot of players with production, but also the leadership intangibles that we really value. We were able to spend a lot of time with him. It reminded me a lot, in the process, of [DB] Ja'Sir Taylor the year before, where he came on a 30 visit later in the process. He was outstanding in the all-star games, in the workouts, and we were able to spend some time with him. I know [Defensive Run Game Coordinator/Defensive Line Coach] Jay Rodgers, [Assistant Defensive Line Coach] John Timu, [Defensive Coordinator] Derrick Ansley, just really high regard for the player. [Director of Player Personnel] JoJo Wooden, [Director of College Scouting] Kevin Kelly, the college scouts, they really painted this player well. We're really fired up about this guy. He fits the type of D-lineman that we believe in playing with."

**On the selection of OL Jordan McFadden:**

"ACC Offensive Lineman of the Year. A three-year starter at Clemson. He played on both sides of the line, left and right tackle. He also played guard has center flexibility. [Clemson Head Coach] Dabo Swinney could not speak more highly of this player, both just the production of the player and the intangibles of the player. Really long arms. He's not a tall guy, but really long and just has a lot of position flex for the line. We're going to continue to invest in O-line. We've done that every year since I've been the coach. Really proud of our scouts. I thought they did a really good job painting the middle of the draft in the O-line room. [Offensive Line Coach] Brendan Nugent, [Assistant Offensive Line Coach] Shaun Sarrett, those guys did a great job evaluating the player, as well. We feel really good about this guy.:

**On if the team views McFadden 'in a similar mold' as OL Jamaree Salyer:**

"More like Jamaree [Salyer]. He started at tackle, and he's done that — and he played at a very high level in the ACC, outstanding competition — but probably fits best inside. Gives you length inside and still the athleticism. We felt like he has the anchor to play anywhere on the line and the athleticism to play anywhere on the line. He also did some center stuff, as well. He has that in his toolbox. Any time you can have that, it's a winning edge. The makeup of this guy, captain at Clemson, and then just the production at tackle, made him really attractive."

**On 'if there were any position groups that the team was unable to address':**

"No, what I liked about this draft is I felt like, going into the draft, that we have a really good team. I thought we were able to just draft players that we felt like fit what we're trying to join up with, create depth and competition at other positions. We didn't take any projections, these guys that we drafted, all seven of them, have proven college production. The production was there, the intangibles were there. I think, from a culture standpoint, they all have toughness, I think that these guys are all football players. It's going to create a lot within our locker room that, I think, is going to be really healthy, in terms of competition and fitting into a team that's already really good."

**On the potential of adding free agents now that the Draft has passed:**

"After today, take a deep breath, and then you're going to evaluate the landscape of pro football. As you know, last year, this was a productive period for us. There are going to be a lot of players like that that are available, we just need to make sure that it's the right fit for us. Again, there's a long time between now and our first game. There's going to be a window here now, but then, training camp and before we play, there's a big window, too. That's going to be part of the process of filling out our team."

**On the depth of the tight end class and not selecting a tight end based on the board:**

"I think that it's fair to say that it was definitely a deep tight end class. The way the board fell, the timing wasn't right for us. Where we were picking in the rounds, it just didn't quite match up with the value that we had at certain players, where I think that a lot were picked ahead of us in all of the rounds and stuff like that. You can't get everything that you want. I thought what we were able to do with our seven picks was take quality players that, I think, our personnel department and coaches really had conviction on. They really fit, I think, what we were looking for. I can't say it enough, I think the production and the intangibles, really, all seven of these picks, we're just super excited. We'll announce an undrafted free agent class here that we're really excited about, too."

**On his level of confidence with the tight end group:**

"I think that with [TE] Gerald Everett, we know that what we're getting. That guy was a weapon for us. That was a tremendous signing for us last year. As you saw in the playoff game, that guy may have been one of the best players on the field. I thought that he had his best season as a pro for us last year. Donald Parham [Jr.], who, people that have covered for the team know what a weapon he is, he didn't get a chance to show himself last year, but we think that that guy's a weapon. I think, in 2021, one of the reasons why we were such a prolific offense was because of the role that he had in it. We're excited to get him back. Then, Tre' McKitty was a huge factor in our success in 2021 in the second half of this season. We have to get him back rolling, but we have confidence in him. Stone Smartt is a guy that got to get in there last year. He's very athletic, has a lot of pass-catching traits that are exciting. He's also a four-core special teamer. Where we are now, that might not be where we are starting out for the first game. We like those guys. We've played a lot of winning football with that group. We'll be excited to keep adding to it as we get closer to the to the season."

**On depth at the slot-corner position:**

"The Star is a very important position. We've invested heavily in the secondary our first two seasons here. I think that no one should lose sight of that, all the investment in prior seasons. Just because we didn't draft a DB in this class doesn't mean that that group isn't healthy, because we think that our DB group right now is a very healthy group, corner and safety. We have to get [CB] J.C. [Jackson] back, coming off an injury. We feel like we have a lot of proven players that have played in the NFL, both at the corner position and at the safety position. Then, we have guys on our team who have played those sub[-package] roles, Star and Money. We like our DB group a lot. As you just said, like last year, joining up with [CB] Bryce [Callahan], there could be guys out there that we think are good fits, that are veterans that we feel like could really increase the overall depth and productivity of the group, and we'll see how that takes shape. I want to say, we really like where we're at in the secondary because we think we have a lot of young players that are ascending. Maybe the fans don't know about them yet, but we feel like they're coming."

**On if the roster currently can help the team 'get further' than last season:**

"I really think, going into this draft, I know that we had a really good football team. Going into this draft, I felt that it was a little bit different than our first two drafts where you felt like there are still some starting positions that are up for grabs or there may be some things that we need to address, where I really feel good about our starting 22. There's probably a little bit more than that when you count sub roles. We have a lot of people coming back that are really, really good. Now, what we can do is just add to the depth of the team, keep taking good players. I felt like this is the draft where you can start getting into rhythm of just picking the best players on the board that fit your team and your culture. I can't say it enough because, whether it's this coming free agency window or what happens during the preseason, there's a lot of time to build your team. We'll take advantage of it. I know that, standing here today, compared to last year, compared to the year before, I really believe in our team."

**On if QB Justin Herbert 'shared anything' regarding players selected this year in the Draft:**

"All of our players, with the way that social media is now, you have a lot of access to these players, in terms of who they are and where they're from and where they train. I know that [S] Derwin James [Jr.] and [LB] Daiyan Henley have the same agent and they've worked out together a bunch. I think these guys know that when we draft somebody — they have access to if these guys can play or not. I think the text messages you receive from your players, your whole team, is exciting. I tell the team all the time, when we bring in players, you're going to know why they're here. Regardless of their role, I think it's important that when you bring people into your team, they know why you chose them. I think this was a really quality draft for the Chargers. I'm excited for this group to get in here and fit in with the guys because the draft is just the beginning for these guys. Their life is going to change in two weeks when they have to start going against some of the best players in the world. But I know that these seven guys, and then these undrafted free agents, they're going to be up for it."

**On if he received 'any notable text' from Herbert today:**

"Justin [Herbert] is as simple as it gets. As he always says, he trusts us. He's more focused on doing his job well. I think he knows that if we choose someone, that we know that it's best for not only him, but for all of his teammates. That's something that is special about Justin, he's about as low maintenance of a superstar as you can find."

**On Herbert 'being hopeful' that he will be able to participate in OTAs:**

"Whatever, Justin [Herbert] told you guys, I just echo that. I think that the timetable on his shoulder and how that works, there's so much to be decided on that and to be determined, but he's working hard. I know that he's made a lot of progress. We'll just let you know as more becomes available."

**On if 'any more focus' is now placed on 'getting a contract done' with Herbert now that the Draft is concluded 'so that it is wrapped up' and 'not hanging over everybody's heads':**

"I don't think anything will be hanging over anybody's head. Everybody knows where we are headed. Everybody knows how we feel about them. The quarterback market has taken shape and it'll be what it'll be. I know that Justin will be wearing Powder Blue come the fall and that's what matters to us."