

Chargers DB Cam Hart Draft Availability

Saturday, April 27, 2024 ⚡ Hoag Performance Center ⚡ Costa Mesa, Calif.

On what excites him about being drafted by the Chargers:

"I think everything about it. It's always been my dream to play in the NFL since I was eight years old. Being able to reconnect with [T] Joe Alt, [Defensive Line] Coach [Mike] Elston and, obviously, [Safeties Coach] Chris O'Leary — he and I have a really great relationship. He's one of the best coaches that I've ever had in my life and is one of the smartest coaches. It's pretty cool to be able to link back up with him and be able to learn more from him and just get better."

On if current Chargers Safeties Coach Chris O'Leary was his position coach at Notre Dame:

"No, I wasn't [specifically in his room]. At Notre Dame, we did split rooms. Coach O'Leary was the safeties coach and [Notre Dame Defensive Backs Coach/Defensive Pass Game Coordinator] Coach [Mike] Mickens was the cornerbacks coach. [O'Leary] didn't coach me, specifically, but obviously, we would collaborate on certain things. When the corners and the safeties were meeting together, Coach O'Leary would have things to say. Obviously, my freshman year, I switched from receiver to cornerback. Coach O'Leary played a big part in me learning defense. Just learning defense in-and-out and learning the position."

On switching from receiver to defensive back:

"I've always played defensive back my entire life. I think I have a pretty good understanding of the position, but like anything else in life, you always try to get better. You always try to learn new things. I'm the type of person that's always curious about new things and wanting to learn new things. I'm always trying to be a sponge."

On the background of his transition to defensive back:

"I came in as a wide receiver. Like I said, I've played defensive back my entire life. In high school, I played safety and cornerback and wide receiver. My offers were kind of split. Some were for defensive back, some were for wide receiver. I wanted to go to Notre Dame, regardless. I went there as a wide receiver. Then, they went through some injuries at the defensive back position. [Former Notre Dame Head] Coach [Brian] Kelly and [former Notre Dame Defensive Coordinator] Coach [Chuck] Lea came to me and were like, 'Hey, we have some injuries. Would you like to play defensive back?' Obviously, Coach Lea had already recruited me. The relationship was already there. They gave me the option to go back to wide receiver if I wanted to."

On the decision to switch to defense:

"I honestly wanted to play DB, but they had filled up pretty fast in my class at DB, so I just went there as a wide receiver. I feel like I was solid at both, but I think I was going to have a long career at DB. I like the autonomy of the position. It worked out."

On whether his athleticism contributed to playing offense and defense:

"I don't think it has anything to do with my athletic ability. I think it's more so mental. Being able to play both positions, you can recognize certain things, certain stems, you can see a set. Offensive set, you can narrow down the choices of what they're going to do. In college, it's a little bit different because guys do everything, but I think at the NFL level you can pick up certain things that you just know from being on that side of the ball. I don't know if it's more physical as it is mental, if that makes sense."

On having a degree in political science:

"I always wanted to go to law school. My agent is a close family friend of mine my entire life. I kind of wanted to follow in his footsteps. He went to law school at the University of Wisconsin. My aunt is an immigration lawyer here in Baltimore. I always watched what they did and always thought it was inspiring. Again, I kind of still want to do that [after playing]. I don't know if I want to go a law route or MBA route, but I want to do something. Maybe agency. I don't know, I want to stay around the game as long as possible, though."

On his ability to play special teams:

"I think it will be really valuable. I think that's where you'll initially get your opportunity. I'm excited about that. I've always embraced special teams. I had a great relationship with my special teams coordinators at Notre Dame. I've played special teams since freshman year. I've never shied away from it. I've never disliked it. I've never been a guy to say that I'm too good to play special teams or I'm too old to play special teams. I think I'm going to have that same attitude as I go into the NFL. I was a gunner and then on punt return I was the corner back. I played the safety position on kickoff. I spent some time on kickoff return. I pretty much played all phases."

On how his length impacts his play on defense:

"I think it makes it a lot easier for me. A shorter guy may feel like they have to catch up a little bit or if they're a yard or two away that they can't get their eyes back or things like that. I feel like with my length that I can do that. I can be physical at the line of scrimmage. I can win there. I can guard everybody. I can guard tight ends. I can guard 6-5 receivers. Even the short receivers I can guard. I can use that to my advantage as well, getting my hands on those guys at the line of scrimmage."