

Chargers Pre-Draft Media Availability

Thursday, April 18, 2024 ⚡ Hoag Performance Center ⚡ Costa Mesa, Calif.

Opening statement:

GENERAL MANAGER JOE HORTIZ: "First, I want to introduce [Assistant General Manager] Chad Alexander to those of you that have not met him yet. Obviously, I worked with Chad in Baltimore for 20 years. A great friend and a great resource for me. An outstanding evaluator. Someone that I know, inside and out, as a person, as man, as a leader. Fired up to get him here. He's been a big part of this process and a great resource to me. I just wanted to introduce him to you guys. We can open it up to questions."

On the signing of RB J.K. Dobbins and 'what made you want to get him here':

HORTIZ: "The kid, the player, the talent, the competitor. J.K. [Dobbins], I had a chance to be with him for four years. A special, special competitor. He wants to be here. He just signed his deal about two hours ago, so excited and fired up. You feel the energy right away for him, a guy you know. I think one of the benefits to free agency, when you get to sign someone, you know what type of player they are, what type of person they are, how they're going to be in this culture we're setting up here, how they're a fit — it's great when you have an opportunity to do something like that. Just really excited to get him here."

On Dobbins' previous injuries:

HORTIZ: "Bad luck. I was there for both injuries. It was a low tackle, and then an awkward tackle. Just bad luck. That's football, right? Injuries are going to happen. It's part of the game. But, he's in great shape now and recovering really well."

On if there is 'anything going forward that could alter anything physically':

HORTIZ: "I'm not a doctor, and there are probably limited things that I can say. But, obviously, we feel good about where he is physically — and, really, with all of the players that we've signed. It's the game of football, anyone can be hurt on any given day."

On if he 'expects' Dobbins to be 'ready for training camp':

HORTIZ: "He should be ready. We'll take our time with him, like we do with every single player that's recovering from a season-ending injury and surgery. Obviously, we're not playing until September, so we're not in a rush. I think we want to get guys healthy, at their best, before we crank them up and get them rolling."

On 'how much' Dobbins' signing 'changes the approach at running back in the draft':

HORTIZ: "I don't think it does. When you look at what the goal is [of the draft], it's to add depth and add great players at every position. But, you don't want to turn away from a good player because you signed someone. I think that if you look at the history that I've been a part of, we've done that. I think if you look back, we signed [Ravens S] Marcus Williams in Baltimore, and then we turned around and took [Ravens S] Kyle Hamilton in the same draft. I think it's important, if you get a chance to get great players, you take them. All you do is create great depth. I've mentioned it before, in the past here, that's a big issue and concern for us, is to really develop a deep, talented team at all positions across the board. You don't turn away from a great player who can help you, even if you may be a little bit deeper at that position."

On what has 'surprised him the most' in the pre-draft process thus far:

HORTIZ: "Probably the funniest thing is, once I got the job, other GMs would ask me, 'Hey, have you woken up at 3 a.m. just because yet?' Like, your mind is spinning and you just can't go back to sleep. I'm like, 'No, that hasn't happened yet.' Then, once we, probably, left the Combine, it just does — you don't sleep as much as you did in the past because something pops in your head and you start thinking, early in the morning, and you're rolling. That's one. I'd say the process itself has been great. I've enjoyed everyone's involvement; coaches, scouts. I think everyone's done a great job. It feels a lot like it's been in the past for me. I think everyone in the building, in the organization, has done a great job participating in it."

On his 'approach' to the draft, whether it's selecting 'best player available' or 'biggest positional need':

HORTIZ: "I think that it's the best player available. Like I said, we want to add depth. Certainly, there are some positions that we don't need — you know, quote-unquote need, in quotations — but, you're one play away from needing a position. If you look at it based on need, you're never just one player away, ever. I've learned that from my predecessors, [Ravens Executive Vice President] Ozzie Newsome and [Ravens Executive Vice President & General Manager] Eric DeCosta, and I believe that. When you get a chance to add a great player, you add them. That's how we're going to approach it."

On what was 'attractive about this opportunity':

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER CHAD ALEXANDER: "There's a lot. I was in Baltimore for 20 years, I worked with Joe [Hortiz] for 20 years. Obviously, developed a great relationship with him. It was tough for me to leave Baltimore, initially, and ended up with the Jets. It really took a special situation and special person like [Jets General Manager] Joe Douglas for me to leave the Ravens. I was extremely comfortable there, won a couple of championships. I had a lot of success and left a lot of great friends behind. I think the same situation applies itself here, just to come to a first-class organization like the Chargers, it's an amazing opportunity for myself. To come with a guy like Joe — extremely dedicated to what he does, he's great at what he does, he's a great evaluator, he's a great human being, and someone that's just easy to follow. It wasn't necessarily an easy decision, but I knew it was the right decision based on Joe and my relationship with him. Also, it was an opportunity to come to a great, iconic city like Los Angeles and be with a great coach like [Head Coach] Jim Harbaugh, and we have a quarterback. There are a lot of positives. Extremely excited to be here."

On what his emotions will be like on next Thursday night:

HORTIZ: "I think I'll be excited. I think there will be some anxiety. Pressure, I think there's pressure in every draft, and I've felt it before. But, if you have everything prepared, and that's everything — that's your lists, that's your trade scenarios, and you've talked through them, which we've been doing. Obviously, Chad [Alexander] and I, you guys don't know this, but we live together, along with [Director of Player Personnel Strategy] Corey Krawiec, who I brought over. We're talking about things at the office, at home. Get Jim [Harbaugh] involved, [President of Football Operations] John [Spanos], the scouts, [Executive Vice President of Football Administration/Player Finance] Ed [McGuire] — we're constantly talking through many different scenarios and situations. You kind of get the gameplan out, and then, I don't think the pressure should be there. I don't think I'll feel pressure because we'll have the plan set, what we're going to do if this happens, if that happens. If something happens that we don't anticipate, which I'd be surprised if it does, you adjust and you think quick and you move and you react and make the decision. I don't think I'll feel pressure. I think I'll feel excitement and anxiety because it's the first time."

On living together:

HORTIZ: "Yeah, that's a true story [*laughter*]. I rented a place in Huntington Beach. My family is still in Baltimore, [Alexander's] family is still in Jersey, and Corey [Krawiec] doesn't have a family, so I got a place big enough that can house my family, if they ever come out here — which hasn't been enough, if they're listening [*laughter*]. But, I told them that they can stay with me if my family is not here. We're down in Huntington. It's been great. We're never there, we're here all of the time [*laughter*]. It's good to have friends. We carpool. There was a time when I had the car, and they didn't have one, so they rode with me. Now, I don't have a car, so I'm riding with them. It's great. There are two cars in the house."

On 'who does the grocery shopping':

HORTIZ: "None of us [*laughter*]. We're not very good at that. We're getting off on a tangent here, but that's OK [*laughter*]. Corey [Krawiec] and I, we had a little Masters watch party for the personnel department. So, we go to the grocery store, and I've been in a grocery store, OK? [*Laughter*] My wife hates when I go to the grocery store because I take forever because I get lost in a grocery store. What I mean by lost is that I'm just curious about stuff [*laughter*]. I buy all the impulse buys and all that [*laughter*]. I take my kids, it's even worse. We come back with all the snacks and all that [*laughter*]. I'm in there with Corey and I'm looking and finding things, and he's like, 'Where'd you find that?' I'm like, 'You've never been in a grocery store [*laughter*].' We were looking for Old Bay [seasoning]. In Maryland, it's on every aisle. Here, you have to go right to the seafood area, so I went to the seafood area. He was like, 'Where'd you find that?' I was like, 'You haven't been in a grocery store very often, have you?' [*Laughter*] So, yeah, our grocery shopping is not great. Corey makes a really good crab dip."

ALEXANDER: "The [crab] dip was good."

HORTIZ: "Yeah, the dip was really good."

On other teams 'reaching out' regarding potential trade scenarios:

HORTIZ: "It will happen, and it has happened. I've had communication, conversations. Nothing is concrete right now. We have the fifth pick. If we had the first pick of the draft, there would probably be a lot of calls being made and people would be making offers already. But, we don't, we have the fifth pick. In terms of where we're sitting, we believe, and I think Coach [Harbaugh] mentioned, we actually have the first pick if there a run of quarterbacks go. People have called about interest in coming up to us. We've had conversations. I think we'll have conversations through this week. I've had them already this week. We'll have them through the weekend, through next week, and then on draft day, that's when it'll really pick up."

On if the conversations thus far have been 'preliminary':

HORTIZ: "Yeah, 'We would be interested if our guy is there.' That's the typical question. We've talked through it, but no offers, no picks."

On 'if the team trades down from five, what would be the reasoning, on a general level':

HORTIZ: "That we've gotten a nice result in picks and value. That's going to be the reason because there are really good players, great players, that we're going to be staring at. If we're going to trade away from great players, there has to be a reason, in terms of value, for us. Certainly, there are going to be more great players in the draft, but it has to make sense to you and it has to make sense to the team that is wanting to come up."

On 'if there is a specific benchmark, in terms of return, in order to pass on a top prospect':

HORTIZ: "Sure. There's certainly, 'It's too good of a deal,' because of what you're getting back. They have to make it attractive for us to move away from those players. The whole, 'It's a fair trade, it's a wash.' I don't think that's a trade that we're interested in."

On 'if there is a limit on how far the team would want to move back in the first round':

HORTIZ: "I would never cap us, and I don't think we should cap ourselves. But, you kind of create layers of, 'OK, this is about how far I'd want to go back.' That's part of the strategy. If this, then this. I wouldn't cap us. But, again, it has to make sense to us, too."

On the 'return' of potential trades and 'balancing the return of an offer based on if the offer involved this year's draft and upcoming drafts':

HORTIZ: "That's the valuation that you put on all of the picks. We value every pick in the draft, we create a value for each pick. You sit there and say, 'OK, is a future in X round worth more than one in this round?' Certainly, we want to create some more picks, as many picks as we can this year. But, yeah, you do look forward, too, and if you get a chance to get a high-round pick next year, sometimes that creates more value."

On valuing 'a fair trade' dependent upon team:

HORTIZ: "Everyone has charts. It's fair, meaning that it equals out to a fair trade. When you're trading away from the number one player in the draft, I don't know if it's necessarily always going to be a fair trade because you have a chance to pick the number one position player in the draft."

On 'when the final board is set':

HORTIZ: "I think you always look at the list and you're like, 'Do I like this player or this player?' And you may be looking at player 110 versus 111. Sometimes it's like, 'OK, they're two different positions, and which one has more value?' We've had great meetings with the coaches, like I mentioned. The board is pretty set. What we're doing now, as an organization — coaching staff, scouting staff, myself, Chad [Alexander], Jim [Harbaugh], John [Spanos] — we're looking at clumps. Let's sort these clumps. But, in terms of the levels, the boards are set, it's really kind of looking at these three guys, these four players, who do we see as the best option if we're picking at that spot and the players are available? And, a lot of times you sort that clump, and there's only one guy sitting there when you're picking. There's a little tweaking, but there's not vast movement in the lists and the boards right now."

On 'maximizing the number of picks this year' and if that is related to the salary cap:

HORTIZ: "Yeah, that, and it's just like baseball; the more at-bats you get, the more chances that you have hits. I'm a big baseball guy. If you hit .300, with 10 at-bats versus 20 at-bats, you get six more hits. If you hit .500, you get five more hits. The more at-bats you get, the better. We want to hit them all. But, we understand that it's the draft and there are times that you may not get the same value you anticipate you're drafting."

On 'at-bats in baseball being equal' and 'picking in the NFL Draft is different':

HORTIZ: "Sure. You're right. It's like going against an ace. But, you still have a shot. That's what you do the work for. That's why you pour into the resources, you pour into the interviews, the visits, you go to the Pro Days, you have coaches look at them, have additional people look at them, have the group look at them. You put the work in to try to get the 37th pick right, just as accurate as you get the fifth pick."

On 'how close in talent and skill-level are the top wide receivers in this year's class':

HORTIZ: "It's wide outs, and it's really all positions. I think that you get clusters of players throughout the draft. I think offensive line is a really deep draft, too, this year, but there's a drop — there are guys that are grouped together, and there's a drop, then there are more grouped together. I think that wide out is similar. Now, I think this league has proven that you can find talent at any level, at any round, at all positions. We stack them across the league, all 32 teams. We have our orders. Then, a guy goes in the fifth round and sets the rookie receiving record. But, I think you look at where the drop-offs are and you kind of anticipate where you think these players will go versus the next run on wide outs, on O-line, on corners, running backs, any position."

On 'the importance of wide receiver to team-building philosophy when building a championship roster':

HORTIZ: "I think it's important, I do. But, I don't place an increased importance on any position other than, obviously, the quarterback position, which we're in good shape here. I think wide outs are important. I think running backs are important. I think offensive line is important. Tight ends — in this offense, tight ends are important. Certainly, you have to get after the quarterback. How do you affect the quarterback? You get after him. That's why we have always fallen back, in Baltimore, to the best player available, and that's what we're going to do here in L.A. We're going to take the best player available because every position is important to help win."

On if his 'evaluation process has changed' based on 'Rams WR Puka Nacua and 49ers QB Brock Purdy':

HORTIZ: "I think you always look at that. What did we miss on this player? What do we not give him enough credit for? I think that happens every year. You're not doing your job collectively, as a group, as an individual scout, without saying, 'What did we miss on this player? What did we overlook?' Certainly, there are a lot of those stories throughout the history of the NFL. We've had a lot of success here with undrafted free agents who have been outstanding, All-Pro players, Pro Bowl players. The league, you overlook players for some specific reason, but what is it that sets them apart from their peers that may have had the same deficiencies? What is it that he has that helps him overcome those deficiencies? That's how you learn."

On if there is a 'common theme of those players':

HORTIZ: "It varies. I know this, competitors — guys that compete, guys that you can hang your hat on that they're going to come out and work every day and be out there and put it out there on the field — you look at the great success stories of late-round and undrafted free agents, they all probably have that competitive gene. I do know that."

On the depth of the wide receivers class and how wide receivers are compensated in the NFL:

HORTIZ: "To finish on your last question first, certainly the position has increased in pay. You have to take that into consideration when you're valuing players. In terms of depth, I said it before, I'll say it again and I'll say it next year and I'm going to say it five years from now — I can promise you, wide receiver is going to be a deep position in the draft every year. It's just the way the game evolved and changed. It's a passing game, or it's certainly increased throughout the past 20 years. Players are coming out more polished. If you think back — I'm 48 years old, 7-on-7 camps didn't exist. I don't know when they started, but those things are going everywhere now. These players in high school are going through all of these 7-on-7 camps and they're just developing their game. They're much more polished and ready to play at the NFL level when they have the skillset and get to this level."

On times he helped Baltimore select the 'top player available':

HORTIZ: "Yeah, I think [Ravens S] Kyle [Hamilton]. I mentioned it earlier. We signed [Ravens S] Marcus [Williams] in free agency that year and paid him. Then, we turned around and took Kyle when no one thought we would. We had [Jets S] Chuck Clark starting at the other safety. We had two starting safeties and we just took the best player on the board."

On the cornerbacks and who could play nickel for the Chargers:

HORTIZ: "Yeah, we'll sort that out. That will be up to the coaches to decide. That's kind of outside my realm. Certainly, all of the players we have, have flexibility, athleticism and toughness to go in there. [DB] Ja'Sir [Taylor] has played in there already. We have time to figure that out and sort it out. The guys are getting reps at multiple spots, I'm sure of that."

On S Derwin James Jr., factoring into nickel:

HORTIZ: "Derwin can play that big nickel. Again, defense is evolving. We have different packages. You have a big nickel, you have a true nickel. It depends on the package you're going against. Derwin has played that here already. He's a guy that can go down there. His versatility is outstanding and awesome to have. I think [Defensive Coordinator] Jesse [Minter] is a creative and great coach. He's going to put the best players out there for us to succeed."

On if James would potentially be in nickel as 'a rotational thing':

HORTIZ: "Derwin is a full-time football player. He's going to play where he helps us best."

On what the pre-draft process has taught him about Head Coach Jim Harbaugh:

HORTIZ: "Oh, just how passionate he is about the game and the whole process. He pours his heart and soul into everything and he loves the game. He loves the players. It's so much fun. If you could sit in there in our interviews at the combine and watch him connect with every single player — and not only in the moment, but to see the connection that he's already developed with these players. They all walked in the door and they knew him. I think we interviewed 45 players. I don't know if they all knew him. If they didn't, they certainly knew who he was, but then the connection is instantaneous. The love that he has for the game, the love he has for his team, his coaches and just the passion and the drive — it's been awesome."

On the biggest advantage of Harbaugh coaching in college last season when it comes to evaluating draft prospects:

HORTIZ: "It's both — he's watched other teams. He's played against the entire Big Ten plus he knows his whole team. He brings a wealth of knowledge about the players that are currently in college. He remembers when they were recruiting them. He knows what positions they played in high school when they recruited them, 'This guy was a defensive end that ended up being a tight end.' You do gain a lot of insight from, not only Jim [Harbaugh], but the rest of the coaches that came from the college ranks."

On if he's discussed with Harbaugh if the Chargers draft a Michigan rival:

HORTIZ: "Yeah, I don't think he'll hold that against [*laughter*]. He's on board with us taking the best player regardless of what helmet they wear."

On if he's 'invited' Harbaugh to his house while he's been living in his RV:

HORTIZ: "I think his family is in town, so the RV is behind him now. I would have given him mine, but he had the RV."

On evaluating Michigan players compared to other prospects:

HORTIZ: "Why wouldn't you [want them]? They're national champs for a reason. They had a bunch of great players on that team. Like I've said, we put them through the process and we rank them, stack them and the coaches evaluate them. You have to get them in the right spot, you know? Certainly, we know the players better than anyone. That's a major advantage for us."

On who makes the final call on draft selections:

HORTIZ: "I'm the one who picks the player. But, when I tell you it's a collaborative process, it's a collaborative process. I put the list together based on what we do as a group. That's scouting, that's coaching, that's talking to Jim [Harbaugh] and Jim's input and his evaluation on the players. I'm the one that ranks them and I'm, ultimately, the one that calls them. That's the way it was where I came from. That's the way it's been here in L.A. with [Owner and Chairman of the Board] Dean [A. Spanos] and [President of Football Operations] John [Spanos]. That's the way we're continuing to operate, but it is a collaborative process."

On selecting players on Day 3 of the draft:

HORTIZ: "It's probably a multitude of things, in all honesty. There's times where it's, 'Hey, let's take this big, fast, athletic player that we've seen do it', but may not have the consistency or could be a player — a defensive lineman that just knows how to two-gap and plays hard, and plays tough. He might not have sacks, but we know exactly what he's going to do. I think those players get ranked and stacked based on their traits versus their production. That's what you have to weigh. [Ravens Executive Vice President & General Manager] Eric DeCosta has always said — it's a little bit of heart and a little bit of science. That's the balance of it. You have to weigh those things. What you're valuing more in that moment, in that clump."

On the offensive line:

HORTIZ: "I'm excited about what they're going to do, I really am. I've watched this team from afar and then I've had a chance to see them now, in person. I've seen them out there working out there on the field outside my window. They're all here. They're all putting the time in. They're already getting bigger, stronger. They're committed and passionate. I'm excited about the group and the guys that we've added. Again, we have the draft coming up. We have post-draft. We're not done. We won't be done adding to this team until September. We're going to always continue to add at all positions, but at the o-line specifically, there's a lot of talent in there. I love the commitment, passion and enthusiasm they have. I believe in our coaching staff. I really do. I think they're great coaches. I've had the opportunity to work with a number of them on offense. I really think with our scheme, their coaching and the players themselves — I really expect them all to have a great year this year."

On 'how important' this draft is to 'set a tone':

HORTIZ: "I think in terms of importance, it falls into the high level of importance. Next year is going to be just as important, it really is. We're going to take players that we deem to be Chargers. That's the right mentality. That's the right work ethic, the toughness, the desire and love for the game. The play-making ability. All of those things that wrap in to it. I think this draft is important, but next year is going to be the most important draft for this team in my mind. The year after that is going to be the most important draft for this team."

On if the team still needs 'starting pieces' along the offensive line:

HORTIZ: "I think we can go out and play football today. I do believe that, 100 percent. Again, the best players, you just take them. What you do is you create great depth and you create great competition. Then, the best players play. If you have five starters and you draft someone or sign someone who's better than one of your five starters, you've just made your team a lot better because the offensive line — those guys get hurt, too. One goes down, you're in great standing."

On the adding to the interior defensive line:

HORTIZ: "I mean, I think we have some versatility currently on the roster with what we have on the interior. I think you can add either the two-gapper run-stuffer and then if you get the chance to add a pass rusher, a guy that's maybe more of that one-gap penetrator, that helps us, too. I don't think you pigeon-hole yourself into a specific type of player. You just say, 'Hey, does the guy fit what we want to do and do we like them?' I wouldn't sit here and tell you whether I want one or the other — that we want one or the other. We want both. We'll take either one. We just want players that can help us."

On if there are desirable traits for an interior defensive lineman:

HORTIZ: "Yeah. Big, strong, long, tough, physical. That's what you want. You do. I mean, the bigger the better, to a degree, but it doesn't have to be height. It can be length. It can be mass. It can be explosiveness. There's plenty of defensive linemen that play big and may not be big. It's really how they play more than the sheer measurables."

On if any trade proposal would need to be lucrative to move out of the No. 5 pick:

HORTIZ: "Yeah, I think that's a good way to look at it. We believe we have the first pick in the draft. I know there are going to be four picks that go before us, but we believe that. If four quarterbacks go, we believe, strongly, that we have the first pick in the draft. What are teams willing to give us? Obviously, we know it's the fifth pick and people are going to be trading on that scope. It's got to be good value for us. Does it have to 'blown away'? What is 'blown away'? I don't know the answer to that. You're going to weigh the options and the offers that we get. We'll take the best one if we do move back."

On if he's anticipating the first four picks of the draft to be quarterbacks:

HORTIZ: "I'm anticipating that, but I'm also anticipating three going and a position player going and us having a quarterback on the board. I think you have to anticipate all scenarios. There could be two quarterbacks and two quarterbacks fall. If you look at the history of the draft, [Jets QB] Aaron Rodgers was considered to be a top-10 pick. It was him or [former 49ers QB] Alex Smith at No. 1 and he was sitting there in the 20s. Positions fall. It doesn't matter quarterback or any position. I think you can look at it from different scenarios. Anticipation? I'm not anticipating, I probably mis-spoke, but you anticipate four going, you anticipate three going, you anticipate two going and so forth. The draft is the draft. You think you know what it's going to do, but you really don't until it actually happens. Certainly, the feel out there is that there are going to be a lot of quarterbacks that go early. For good reason. There's a lot of great quarterbacks in this draft."

On if there's a drop off in talent at certain selections in the draft:

HORTIZ: "I really don't look at that as a drop off. It's good players to be picked in this round. For example, whoever has the 32nd pick, they have 32 first-round players. They should. They may be sitting there and not be able to get out. They have to have 32 players to pick. When we start the first round, we're going to have 32 players to pick. There is a drop off in talent, but it's not significant. It's kind of a nice little curve down. Sometimes it flattens out and then steps down a little bit. I know this, there's 32 players that if I were picking at 32, that I'd feel comfortable about, personally. I think there's 32 players that we, as an organization, feel good about in the first round."

On the inside linebackers:

HORTIZ: "I think that's a position where we certainly need numbers. Again, every position we are short on, in terms of a 90-man roster. You want to create that competition for the 53-man roster. That's a position where there are players throughout Day 2 and Day 3. I don't know if there's a Day 1 inside linebacker. I don't know that. There's Day 2, Day 3, Day 4, Day 5 or Day 6, Day 7. You can just keep going. The moment the draft is over, what are we doing? We're looking at the guys on the street in free agency. We're going to sign the undrafted free agents. Then Day 5, after the draft, we're going to be looking at free agents where we can fill out the roster. Guys are out on the street right now. Day 92 or whatever day that is, we may be looking at a defensive tackle. We have a few more days until the season starts, is my point."

On the collaborative process:

ALEXANDER: "Just a lot of evaluating. Just taking a deep dive into the draft and evaluating the top prospects, looking at the top prospects in free agency, as well. Coming up with lists. Coordinating workouts and 30 visits. Coordinating for coaches to go to pro days. A lot of stuff. For those instances where Joe [Hortiz] can't be in the room and can't be in the meeting, really just trying to echo his voice and deliver the same message. It's a process that we're both really familiar with. I've been around it for a long time, my entire career. Just trying to deliver that process, get our scouts and everyone acclimated and up to speed. They've done an outstanding job. Also, just managing and trying to oversee and overlook the personnel department as a whole."

On value on 30 visits:

HORTIZ: "You get to know the player a little better. Sometimes it's personally. Sometimes it's in the classroom. Sometimes, it's medical. There's different reasons you bring a player in for a 30 visit. It's just to spend a little more time around them. Maybe a physical reason, maybe mental. There's many reasons."

On if OL Jordan McFadden can provide depth at center:

HORTIZ: "I think that gives us some depth there if Jordan can do it, and I believe he can. Then, we have [OL Brendan] Jaimes, who has played it in games here. I think we have good depth there right now. Again, if there's one available and he's the highest player on our board, we'll take him."

On his focus as general manager:

HORTIZ: "I think right now the focus has been on the draft, truthfully. You have a new coaching staff in here, a new general manager. What's important is kind of what's in front of us right now. That's building out the staff. Getting ready for free agency and the draft, you know, draft meetings. Then free agency. Now, here we are a week away. That's the focus right now. Then kind of take on the next stages of the season."