



TITANS DRAFT TRANSCRIPT

April 27-29, 2023



WR COLTON DOWELL (ROUND 7, 228th OVERALL)

APRIL 29, 2023

PRESS CONFERENCE WITH LOCAL MEDIA

WR COLTON DOWELL

Q. Did you have any idea the Titans were interested in you?

Yes ma'am. I got a couple of coaches that coached at UT Martin that are now with the Titans. I knew they had interest, but being drafted by them is a dream come true. I did not know that that was going to happen.

Q. Were you in Nashville for a local pro day and what was that like?

Yes sir, I did have a local day and it was cool to see the practice facility from the inside. Me and my dad, we always try to get up there in the summer when they are going through training camp. It was really cool to see the inside and I definitely, while I was there, envisioned myself playing there and putting on that two-toned blue.

Q. How much of an impression do you feel like you put on in the game against the University of Tennessee?

I feel like I just showed that I am a good player. Even though I came from a small school, I can compete with the top dogs, whoever they put in front of me. I am a competitor, I work hard and just prove myself time after time against good talent.

Q. What did the Titans tell you about your opportunity here?

They just said that I could come in there and carve my rôle in their offense with hard work and I am buying into that. I am a hard-working guy. That's basically what they said. It is up to me how far I go.

Q. You were here for training camp with you dad?

Yes sir.

Q. How old were you?

I had a couple of teammates come to the Titans in college and so I would say probably around 2018, 2017 and I was probably about 19 years old. We have always watched the Titans in my house.

Q. Would you describe yourself as a Titans fan?

I would describe myself as a Titans fan, especially seeing what Coach (Mike) Vrabel has done these past years of running the team. I definitely consider myself a Titans fan and I've been to a couple games.

Q. What does this mean for you coming from a smaller school and Lebanon?

It means everything, You know, it proves, it shows to me and I hope it shows to a lot of other kids around my area, that hard work and perseverance, you know, they outshine going to a small school. UT Martin, I love it, but going to a small school, it doesn't define you. Your hard work defines you.

Q. What would you say is your style of play as a receiver. Are you a guy who goes up and wins 50/50 balls or are you more of a burner and route runner? How would you describe your game?

I would say I'm a deep threat and I get out and stretch the field. I make those contested catches. I'm a big-body guy, so I like to use my body to maneuver myself around the DB and just make those tough-contested catches.

Q. What was the best for 40-yard time for you?

It was a 4.41, 4.40.

Q. Were you watching the draft today or were you doing something else? What were you doing when you got the call?

I've had the draft on since 11:00. It's been in my ear that I might go, you know, later on, sixth or seventh round. I've just been watching the whole time, being anxious and ready to see where I'm going to land.

Q. What have you been doing to kill the time between now and ultimately getting drafted?

Just walking around. I've done a lot of walking on my dad's property. I just, if I needed a break, I'd take a walk and clear my brain and let the nerves calm down. I've mainly, I've been watching the draft, you know.

Q. I know you went to Wilson Central High School. Have you been here since you were a kid?

Yes, sir. Born and raised. I was actually born in Lebanon and I never left. So yeah, all 24 years.

Q. I know you've got to do the work, but to have a chance to play for your hometown team, your high school buddies, people you grew up with having the chance to watch you, I can only imagine that's probably what you dreamed about your whole life.

It's awesome. It's awesome. I can't explain the feeling because I've never felt this before, but it's awesome. It's awesome.

Q. What have the texts been like? Who have you heard from?

Oh, man. My phone's been buzzing in my pocket the whole time after they announced that pick. It's been buzzing in my pocket. And I've talked to all the coaches and a couple of teammates, high school teammates, just everybody. They've been hitting me up, so it's a blessing.

Q. Is it true that your dad is the fire chief in Lebanon?

Yes, sir. He was the fire chief for about 12 years, I think. He's recently retired. He's been retired for about two years now.

Q. What were your other options coming out of high school in terms of college football?

Coming out of high school, I had Chattanooga, Richmond, Mercer, Furman, a lot of smaller FCS schools.

Q. When did you first believe that this sort of thing was possible for your career?

I always believed it, honestly. I've always been the type of guy that, you know, works for what he gets. I've had to work as hard as I could just to get anything, you know. I know that hard work reaps results. And, through that belief, I knew that I could make it if I just wanted it and worked for it hard enough.

Q. For a guy who wasn't at the Combine, who played at a smaller school, what did you do to stand out during this pre-draft process?

I try to build my body and build my arms, build my speed, and then just show up in the flashy areas. I've always been a strong guy, so getting 23 on bench, that kind of gave me a little spotlight and then the vertical and the 40. I just put a lot of emphasis into making myself as athletic and as strong as I could for the draft.

Q. Did you visit any other NFL teams or did any show interest in you?

Yes, sir. I had multiple Zoom calls with teams like Arizona and the Patriots, the Broncos, the Chargers. And I actually went on a 30 visit to Chicago. So, yeah, definitely.

Q. What kind of stuff did you do growing up in Lebanon? Did you play Pop Warner as a kid here in this area?

As a kid, I'm more in the county area, so me and my brother, we will build forts and everything and we'd use all my dad's tools in the woods and chopping down trees. But I played Pop Warner baseball and I played a little basketball growing up.

Q. Any odd jobs in Lebanon?

I was actually an usher at a movie theater. And then from that, I would chop wood with my dad and sell firewood with him.

Q. How much do you know about the Titans? You said you're a fan of the team and some guys on the team and now you are going to be their teammates.

Definitely, you know. Derrick Henry is a big one, right? He's just an awesome guy. He's a bruiser on the field. and what he does with how big he is, it's just amazing. It's fun to watch and guys like (Ryan) Tannehill, he's a fun, fun guy to watch on the field and I love how he's kind of revamped his career through the Titans. I love (Jeffery) Simmons on the D-line. He's a freakin' beast. It's fun watching them play. I follow the team pretty, pretty good.

Q. How about the receiver coach Rob Moore? Was he kind of like the primary touch point for you as far as communication with the team?

As far as communication with the team it was Clinton McMillan. He was my guy that I was in his ear and as well as Coach (Matt) Jones, both of them guys came from Martin and that was kind of like my point of contact with the team. But I love Coach (Rob) Moore. We had a good conversation on the local day. I can tell that he wants to develop players, and he really cares about this game. I'm looking forward to working with him.