



TITANS DRAFT TRANSCRIPT

April 29-May 1, 2021



**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT/GENERAL MANAGER JON ROBINSON
AND HEAD COACH MIKE VRABEL
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PRESS CONFERENCE WITH LOCAL MEDIA

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT/GENERAL MANAGER JON ROBINSON

(on getting answers on Caleb Farley's injury history before drafting him)

Absolutely. We had a lot of meetings with Caleb (Farley) via Zoom. Our doctors and trainers spent a lot of time analyzing the stuff and talking with Caleb over the phone, and we're super stoked to have him as a part of our football team.

(on Caleb Farley's ability and competitiveness)

Yeah, I mean, he was a fun guy to evaluate on film. Extremely competitive, excellent size and speed for the position that he played. I talked to several of his coaches there at Virginia Tech, who raved about him as a person and his ability to learn and go out on the field and make plays for that defense there and he really just checked every box for us.

(on the confidence that Caleb Farley can perform as he did before his injury)

Yeah, again, I'm no doctor, but our medical staff they've dealt with a lot of injuries in the National Football League, and they feel confident in it. We spoke to him several times and said he was feeling great after having the latest procedure, and I have the utmost confidence he's going to attack the process to get himself ready as soon as possible.

(on if he feels the Titans got increased value drafting Caleb Farley in the second half of the first round)

Yeah, I don't know where the rankings are, but we certainly thought he was a premium player on our board. We had a lot of good grades from our scouts, from our coaches. We watched a lot of film on him, and just a guy with a really, really, really cool, really explosive skill set that's going to help our football team.

(on if Titans doctors were able to spend time with Caleb Farley or if they had to rely on outside reports)

No, we spent time with him and got the medicals on him and had follow-up phone calls. We talked to trainers over at Virginia Tech that he's worked with and really got a detailed breakdown of what he's been doing and how he attacks everything, and everybody spoke glowingly of that. And, I've had follow-up conversations with our medical team several times about Caleb (Farley) because we had such an affinity for him, and again, just excited that he was there and we were able to pick him.

(on the Titans doctors speaking with Caleb Farley at the NFL Combine)

Well, I think there were certain players that our doctors, we had certainly earmarked for them to try to get to and talk to, and they did a great job of hustling around there at Indy and talking to the guys we kind of had starred.

(on if Caleb Farley is a good match of best player available and a Titans need)

Yeah, we'll see how it goes. I think we're trying to add this weekend, guys that we think can come in and help our football team. You can never have enough cover guys and you can never have enough good football players, and I think that he certainly fits both of those. We were excited when he was still there and we were on the clock.

(on if the Titans received any calls about trading the 22nd pick)

We did; we had a little bit going on there. We had a couple chances, but the value to move back, we didn't feel like was worth risking losing the player.

(on if there is concern that Caleb Farley has not played in 17 months)

No, we felt confident in his ability. There were a lot of guys that opted out (of the 2020 season) in this draft and we didn't take their cards off the draft board just because they didn't play this year. Everybody had their own reasons for not playing and we evaluated those guys and stacked those guys up based on the film that we had and the games that they played in.

(on how the reports on Caleb Farley's back impacted the Titans evaluation of him)

I'd say we stayed pretty much the same with him the whole way. Anytime a player has a medical condition, it's up to the doctors and those guys to investigate that and provide us with information. My hat goes off to those guys. They did an outstanding job of vetting out all the information and clearing him for us. The skillset that you see on tape and the person that we got to know and the recommendations that all the coaches and staff that I talked to about Caleb (Farley), all that stayed the same.

(on how many positions were in play for the Titans with the 22nd pick)

There were a couple. Yeah, there were a couple guys we were looking at, but we just felt Caleb (Farley) was far and away at the top of the heap.

(on if he expects Caleb Farley to be ready for training camp and to contribute in Week 1)

Yeah, we don't put timetables or expectations on that. I know that when I talked to him, he said 'when can I get the playbook? I'm ready to come in and get to know my teammates and work hard.' That's our expectation for him and he knows what that is. His work ethic was outstanding at Virginia Tech and we expect the same thing when he comes in here.

(on whether Caleb Farley will need additional medical procedures on his back)

Yeah, I don't think so. I'm not going to get into the medical files on him. I think whatever's been disclosed out there is what it is and he said he's feeling good. When we talked to the training staff over at Virginia Tech, they said he's working hard over there with those guys and feeling good. So, he's excited to get in here and work with our guys.

(on Caleb Farley's character)

Yeah, I mean this guy's...I've talked to several position coaches that just raved about his work ethic and his desire to come in and meet extra when he switched positions and learn the cornerback position. He was a guy that wanted to know the entire defense, not just his job because he wanted to know how he fit into that puzzle, if you will. So, a guy that's totally all in when it comes to football.

(on what Caleb Farley will learn as he becomes more experienced playing cornerback)

Yeah, I think he'll come in and learn the techniques that we teach for corner play and learn our terminology, learn our scheme, work hard at getting that down and be a good teammate. I mean, I think that's the one thing he told me on the phone tonight; he's like 'When can I get the playbook, and when can I come? I want to meet my teammates?' So, that's kind of where his mindset is right now, and I can't wait to get him here.

(on if just one team doctor was allowed at the NFL Combine)

I think that's correct. I don't have the medical rules in front of me Paul (Kuharsky). Sorry.

(on his thought process heading into Rounds 2 and 3 of the NFL Draft)

Yeah, we'll see kind of how the guys come off the rest of the night here and then we've got to weather some picks tomorrow and we'll see kind of as we inch closer down there to where we're at who's available and if we get any action to move around. We're still open to that and just see how it goes. Continue to add players that we know are going to come in and help the team.

HEAD COACH MIKE VRABEL

(on getting answers on Caleb Farley's injury history before drafting him)

I think Jon (Robinson) said everything. We were comfortable, I think, with where the issues were and enjoyed our numerous meetings with him, interactions with him. It's just something that we'll have to work through here.

(on Caleb Farley's ability and competitiveness)

I think the thing that stood out to me was the athleticism. I think you see a former receiver who has learned how to play corner and will continue to, hopefully like a lot of us, continue to improve. But there is a certain level of athleticism, smoothness, a lot of fluidity. So, that was really what stood out there was just the athleticism.

(on the Titans plan for Caleb Farley to get on the field)

The plan is to get him here as soon as he's able to be here to begin working with Todd (Toriscelli) and continue to evaluate where he's at. Get him into minicamp and begin to meet with him, get him acclimated to what we're doing, get him acclimated to this football team, but neither his agent nor anybody else knows when he's going to be ready. We've been down this road before. I'm not going to compare him with what Jeffrey Simmons might have went through; different injuries, different players. So, we're confident and comfortable, and that's why we took him. We're extremely excited, but we're not going to sit here and try to give everybody a timeline of when that might happen.

(on how Caleb Farley fits into the Titans secondary)

He's long and I think that's something they did a lot at Virginia Tech. Those guys were manned up outside; not a whole lot of help and that's what they did. So, he's coming from a very aggressive scheme that puts a lot of pressure on those guys on the outside. That's what they've always done there and they've been successful. So, I think it's Cat coverage. I got this cat, you got that cat, and that's what he's used to. So, we'll get him to learn what we're doing and see where he fits in.

(on how Virginia Tech has historically developed cornerbacks)

Well, I think what the draw is, and there are a lot of great coaches that prepare players for the next level, and certainly that program is one of them. Bud (Foster) has done that throughout the years. They've had some really, really good defensive players. He's also a former receiver, so I think that development is going to continue to happen. They don't play every coverage and I think that's something that he'll learn quickly is to try to have probably a larger playbook, expand what they asked him to do in the past as opposed to what we would ask him to do.

(on Caleb Farley's ability to improve)

Well, I think (the learning curve) will probably be pretty high. I mean, I think that when you're talented and you're willing...this is a guy we love to talk football with. We've talked a lot of ball and had some really good conversations between Jon (Robinson) and I, position coaches and scouts. These were easy communications, they were easy conversations. So, talented players that are willing to play hard and willing to be coached; they have a pretty high ceiling.

(on the versatility that Caleb Farley brings to the Titans cornerback room)

I think we'll kind of see how a lot of those things play out as he continues to work his way onto this football team. That's a long way away, but we're excited about adding a talented player at a position that is a premium position in this league and can make a huge impact. But, to try to figure out where all those pieces are going to fit right now is not something that we're going to do. We're going to try to work with him and try to improve him and try to get him acclimated to this football team.

(on Caleb Farley as a person)

I saw a very genuine, dedicated player who appeared to be a great teammate. In the conversations, he was well-spoken. You know, I would say the conversations I have with players are probably private in nature, and so, again I enjoyed it. I thought the time went quickly. It wasn't something that, when we asked them to ask us questions, he was quick to ask questions. You know, sometimes Jon (Robinson) and I get tired of being the ones asking questions and so we really like to see what these players want to learn from us and what they want to ask us. So, again, those conversations were very easy.