



# TITANS DRAFT TRANSCRIPT

April 27-29, 2023



## TE JOSH WHYLE (ROUND 5, 147<sup>th</sup> OVERALL) APRIL 29, 2023

### PRESS CONFERENCE WITH LOCAL MEDIA

#### TE JOSH WHYLE

***Q. Would you describe yourself as a better pass catcher or blocker at tight end?***

I think naturally pass catcher just because I grew up a wide receiver. I transitioned to wide receiver halfway through high school. Especially this last year of college, I think I really improved inside the box blocking, technique and foot work. So, if that answers your question, definitely pass blocking, but I have improved a lot.

***Q. What is your official size and how much does that help you as a tight end?***

I am about 6'6 ½, and right now I am hanging between 245 and 250. It helps a lot man. I came into UC at like 230 and really they wanted me light because they expected to spread me out a little bit more, but as we got into my fourth or fifth year, they asked me to put on some weight. In the box it just makes just a huge difference, even five to 10 pounds. Whether it's confidence or whatever.

***Q. How quickly did someone get you that Titans cap?***

We had them ready to go. We had them all lined up right when I got off the phone with Coach Vrabel (Mike Vrabel).

***Q. What was the call with Coach Vrabel like?***

It was pretty cool. Me and Vrabel (Mike Vrabel) have talked in the past. Obviously, him and Coach Fick (Luke Fickell) were roommates at Ohio State. He's been down to UC a couple of times. It was just a good conversation. We are both just excited for me to get down there and contribute any way I can to the team.

***Q. Is your versatility one of the things the Titans focused on when they were talking to you?***

Yeah, they liked the idea that I could do a little bit of both. You know, kind of be an in-line blocker and spread me out to catch a ball. Not only that, I think I have good special teams value.

***Q. What made you choose Cincinnati instead of a Power 5 program?***

I knew I wanted to stay relatively close to home. It was most places like O-State, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee and obviously UC. Once I took my visit to Cincinnati and Coach Fick (Luke Fickell) and Coach (Mike)

Denbrock at the time, I just felt like it was the right fit for me. I really like what Coach Fick had to preach and just kind of bought in.

***Q. You played some fullback during your career at UC?***

Yes sir, Power I.

***Q. Did you work well in that position?***

Yes sir, I felt really comfortable it that. And that was something we kind of did that was kind of new this past year, but anything that the coaches ask, I'm going to try to do.

***Q. Why did you switch from wide receiver to tight end in high school?***

That wasn't really my decision. Our coaches just came up to me and said, 'We think you'd be one of the best tight ends in the country. We think it'd be really good for us.' And they asked me to put on a little bit weight, spent some time in the box and you know, here we are.

***Q. Where did you think you would go in the draft and what was the wait like?***

I heard anything three through five, but truthfully I just kind of let it come as it came. I didn't put too much pressure on myself. All I've heard throughout this process is just to have fun with it. That it only happens once and to enjoy it. When that call came from Coach Vrabel (Mike Vrabel), I don't even know if he could understand what I was saying. My heart was pounding. It was a pretty cool moment. I got probably about 100 family members and friends here, so it was pretty cool to share that with them as well.

***Q. You think there's kind of some more untapped potential there just in terms of catching the ball?***

Yeah, I think I mean, I expect a lot of myself. I hold myself to a high standard, but at Cincinnati, you know, I just try to do what they ask me to do. You know, I'm a strong believer in that the most important stat on the sheet is a W at the end of the day, whatever that takes for the team to get the win, I'm all about that. So I try not to think about that too much, just kind of be in the right places at the right times and the ball will find me when it does.

***Q. The Titans offense uses a lot of 12 or 13 personnel. How much do you think that prepared you to be able to transition to that type of offense here?***

Fortunately for me, like I had to know, when it was more the in-box guy. We called it Y or H or F in the NFL, and so I kind of had to know both. And at times it can be, maybe a lot when you're first learning the playbook, but it was really cool too. I felt like I really understood the playbook conceptually. I got to know what everybody was doing, so honestly I think it'll be a pretty smooth transition these next couple of months, but we'll see how it goes.

***Q. What was the fastest you've ever run the 40?***

I might have got a 4.65, but 4.69 is really where I am at. Right around that. What I did at the Combine.

***Q. Did you know you're on Bruce Feldman's Freak list?***

Yeah, I didn't know that. Yeah.

***Q. What do you have to do to get on the freak list? You think you deserve to be on there?***

I'm not really sure the requirements to be a part of that, but I think it's just kind of a like, for example, Troy Tucker and Tyler Scott were on it as well. And those two guys, I mean, they're animals. You know, Troy Tucker, he's 5'9, but can squat a house. I'm 6'6 ½ and 250 and I think I can move really well, and so I think that's kind of probably why I'm part of it.

***Q. Is there a tight end in the league that you've been a fan of? And probably my guess is Travis Kelce is maybe one of them?***

Yes, sir. That's always been, I guess, my role model in a way. I mean, the guy I try to look to when Sunday comes around, but it's just obviously because he's a Cincy guy, he gets the ball in his hands a lot. And if you're not looking at the best tight end you know, he's one of the best ever do it. I don't know what I'm trying to say, but you always should be looking towards the best. You know, that should always be your goal.

***Q. How long does your relationship with Coach Vrabel go back and what are your impressions of him?***

The first time I met Vrabel (Mike Vrabel) was the pro day last year. When Dez (Desmond Ridder) and all those guys are going through it and he's just a really good dude. I remember he was talking to our team after practice during spring ball and he really emphasized the importance of effort and fundamentals. He said they travel with you wherever you go and you know, that's a lot of the same thing we believe at Cincinnati with Coach Fick (Luke Fickell). It was just really cool to hear the things that we practice and we believe in at Cincinnati. It's the same thing at the NFL, so I think it'll be a smooth transition for me.

***Q. Did you get to know anyone else on the Titans' staff yet?***

I've had a couple meetings. I just got off phone with Coach (Tony) Dews, tight end coach and he's pretty cool. I like him, good personality, a really personable guy. I'm excited to get started with him.

***Q. He coached Derrick Henry and he's not a bad guy to be coached by?***

Yeah, absolutely. He probably expects the best out of people, so I'm really excited about that.

***Q. Where did you watch the Draft?***

I'm like two minutes away from my parent's house. This place called Knights of Columbus, just here in Cincinnati. My dad is one of nine, so there's a bunch of family in there right now. It's just the quietest place I could find around.

***Q. How did you end up a football player and did you play some basketball, too, growing up?***

I played every sport you could imagine. My parents started me out in gymnastics when I was a young, but I played basketball and football through high school. And football is just something, one, I've always been good at and it's just something I've always found fun, which I think is really important. I mean, if you're going to play this game and make it make a career out of it, you got to have fun with it.

*Q. How quickly did you grow out of that gymnastics body?*

Pretty quick. I think I only did that for a year or two, but a lot of sports growing up for sure. Baseball, basketball, track, volleyball, tennis, golf. Anything you can imagine. So, yeah.