



TITANS DRAFT TRANSCRIPT

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CORNERBACK ELIJAH MOLDEN

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PRESS CONFERENCE WITH LOCAL MEDIA

CORNERBACK ELIJAH MOLDEN

(on what he knows about the Titans and how he thinks he will fit in)

I guess I know a decent amount about the Titans. There was a handful of teams, really, only, I don't know, I can count on one hand, the teams I had interest in going into the draft. So, I did a little breakdown of their defense over the past year. Funny enough, they are a team that, even from the jump, I told my parents and fiancée that I would end up a Titan and sure enough.

(on if he was an inside or outside corner at Washington)

I was more inside and I also played safety. I would switch back and forth. I would be nickel on sub-personnel. Whenever we would go base, I would slide back to safety.

(on what intrigued him about Tennessee and how much his father influenced him)

The first part about Tennessee, I think it was more I guess the personality of the team. Just from the outside looking in, they were always a team that did it the right way. They are a gritty, hard-nosed team in front office. They play tough-nosed football, and obviously too, Tennessee is not a bad place to live. That's the first part. The second part, ever since I can remember I felt like called to play this game. That is mostly because of my dad. My first memories are of him getting interceptions and me going in the locker room with his teammates and all of that stuff. So, it's finally here and it was a moment where all along I knew I would get here. It was just a matter of when and what obstacles I had to overcome. Now I'm super grateful to be a part of this organization and to get to work.

(on what makes him a solid option in the nickel and outside)

I think, first and foremost, it's just the way that I approach the game from an effort standpoint and from a film standpoint. Beyond that I think is my change of direction and my ability to read offenses and read patterns. That makes me a solid player in nickel and also at safety. I'm not sure where I'm going to play. All I know is I'm going to, wherever they need me, give it 110 percent.

(on if he comes in with a chip on his shoulder with questions about his speed)

Yeah, a little bit. I wouldn't say – if you had asked me this a couple months ago, I'm not really the player to have a chip on my shoulder. I more play for the love of the game. The last couple months have been challenging for me. I've had some of my own obstacles. I think I will channel some of that, some of those emotions, towards how I approach the game.

(on scouting reports of him being a top tackler and what he thinks his top skills are)

I take pride in my tackling. Really, I feel like (Washington Head Coach) Coach Lakes and my coaches said tackling is 80 percent tackling and 20 percent technique. I never worried too much about the repercussions of tackling and hitting bigger bodies. I've been healthy doing it. With that being said, it's nice to not have to tackle Derrick Henry in the league. In terms of what else I do I feel like I'm just a football player, and in this league you need to be able to have a very good change of direction and good speed. I think I have both of those too, along with the skills of defensive back.

(on the challenges of creating a cohesive group since three of the top four corners are new to the team)

That's a good question. I think first and foremost we have to know what we are doing as a defense. We also have to know what the offense is going to drop against us. I think the two biggest things are communication and trust. If you look at the best secondaries in the NFL, they are talking nonstop. I also think that we are going to get that going.

(on how valuable of a resource his father was through the draft process)

Very valuable. He's someone, he knows what I'm thinking before I even say it. He is always there to give me little nuggets of wisdom and words of encouragement. We have a special bond, especially when it comes to football. Like I said, he was my coach in high school and youth and then he passed me off to (Washington Head Football Coach) Coach Lakes. Throughout my own journey of football, he has always been that person in my ear giving me feedback and keeping me going.

(on having a feeling he would end up with the Titans and his impression of the Titans' defense)

I got that initial feeling just off of an interview that I had with them a month and a half ago. It seems like our personalities fit well together. In terms of defense, they are always going to mix it up. I think in the league you have to mix it up from week to week and attack the offense where they are weak at. With that being said, I'm just ready to learn the playbook completely and make an impact wherever that is.

(on how much it has helped to know what an NFL life is like and how much he emulates his father)

Yeah, tremendously. With him, and especially with other people I have been in contact with throughout my life, it's just like the work ethic and the approach to the game and really to everything in life. I take pride in every day, going about my day with intent and passion. That's easy to do when you love a game or when you love something like that the way I love football. I think if a player loves the game and approaches it the right way, then everything else will fall into place.

(on how many other teams were interested in him)

It was tricky just because my versatility, playing inside, playing safety and also the ability to play outside, my agent told me like 15, 20 teams. Whereas, maybe as a quarterback, you have four or five teams. I went in open-minded but definitely in the back of my head I was hoping I would be a Titan. I mean that sincerely. It's crazy it worked out the way it did. I know God has a plan for me and I'm looking forward to being in Tennessee.

(on what it is about Washington Head Coach Jimmy Lake's system that prepares defensive backs so well for the NFL and what he learned from the older players while in college)

Really, they set the standard for the DB room at Washington. I knew going into that DB room that nothing but my best was going to be acceptable. I also knew that I needed to get better every day and every year as well. It

was Coach Lakes. I think the reason he has had success putting DBs out in the league, I'm still waiting for one of my old teammates, (Washington DB) Keith Taylor to get drafted here soon, but I think it's just because he teaches a position not just as a corner or safety. He teaches it as one part to a bigger piece of the puzzle. We learn the whole defense and we know the whole defense. That is when people are able to communicate effectively and make plays.