



TITANS DRAFT TRANSCRIPT

April 27-29, 2023



QB WILL LEVIS (ROUND 2, 33rd Overall) APRIL 28, 2023

PRESS CONFERENCE WITH LOCAL MEDIA

QB WILL LEVIS

Q. You sat all night last night in Kansas City and you didn't hear your name. With the Titans coming up to get you, does that maybe help ease the sting of that incredibly long wait last night?

Yeah, I mean, last night was tough. But, I mean, I just stay positive. And I knew that what was meant to be was going to happen. And then, when I saw that they traded up for me, I mean that alone was telling that they wanted me. They wanted this to happen. So I'm just really, really excited and thankful for the opportunity.

Q. What was the conversation with them like once you got the call?

It was great. I heard from Mr. (Ran) Carthon and Coach (Mike Vrabel) and I knew I was going to cry and the tears came immediately and I didn't really know how the conversation was going to go. It's one of those things where you feel like you're going to handle yourself and be composed, but the water works started flowing and just emotions overwhelmed me.

Q. You had a really good meeting with them? Can you take us back? Did you feel like it was good and what made it so?

It definitely was. It definitely was. I feel like every single visit that I went on, I made sure that I put my best foot forward, and I did the best that I could to show them just who I was as a person and as a player. Actually, literally every single person that I met with on their staff, top to bottom, I connected with on a really high level. I told myself I wouldn't fall in love with anybody throughout this process, because I knew I didn't really have a say in the matter, but, I mean, if there was one team I did, it was definitely Tennessee.

Q. You were one of the guys projected to go in the first round. You obviously didn't. How much does that put a chip on your shoulder? And how are you able to use that for motivation?

I think, regardless of where I got picked, I feel like it's not going to change my work ethic, regardless if I went first overall or 33rd. You can't let the circumstances dictate your preparation and the level of intensity you bring to your everyday practice. Definitely, a little bit of a chip, but I just know that I was going to work hard regardless of where I got picked.

Q. I think you said the day before the draft that your attitude would be the same whether you went first overall or in the second round, and you end up going in the second round. How much does that shape your mindset moving forward and following through with that?

I mean, like I said, not much. I can't let the circumstances dictate my work ethic. Your work ethic is your work ethic and an extra little motivation doesn't help, but I ended up where I was meant to be and I'm just looking forward to competing and getting started.

Q. How is your health? How is the toe in particular, and how much of that impacted this past season for you?

It feels great. It feels good. It was tough. It was a pain in the butt or a pain in the foot. The second half of the season, that definitely affected my play style. My athleticism and my feet are something that I feel like is one of my strengths in my game and to not have that was, you know, it sucks. But, I mean, that's the nature of this game. This is a game where most people aren't playing at 100 percent week in and week out. I think I've learned a lot from that. I think I learned just mentally and physically, just how to persevere through difficulties, and it helped me for my future, I believe.

Q. Do you need any kind of follow-up procedures on that?

No, from what I've heard, I've talked to some of the best foot doctors in the country and everyone that has looked at it, they said that it looks good and the progress that I made since it happened has been great. I think probably since late January, early February, I've been feeling 100 percent. I'm looking forward to getting back and being able to play at full force.

Q. What did you feel, Will, that they liked a lot about you, and maybe vice versa, too? What do you like about the organization and coach and so forth?

I think they just like my mentality. I think they think that I'm a guy that's going to go in and compete and just work my ass off and I got what it takes to play quarterback at the next level. I think I have the mental capacity to understand and execute a game plan at a high level. I'm just looking forward to learning from Ryan (Tannehill), from Malik (Willis), from all the coaches. It's just bettering myself throughout this whole process and I just really liked how they believed in me, one, and then two, just their mentality with how they, I guess, try to get the right guys on the team and get the right people in the right positions in the program, in the franchise, to create a culture that Coach (Mike) Vrabel has been working on throughout his entire career. I think I fit into that culture really, really well and that's why they like me.

Q. Two guys you were in the draft with, Texans QB CJ Stroud and Colts QB Anthony Richardson, will be right here in the division. Are you looking forward to competing against them over the next few years and kind of seeing where it goes?

For sure. Those are my guys. I wish them the best. I was extremely happy to see them go where they did and, as long as they're not playing me, I wish them the best. Definitely, it's gonna be cool to have a lot of young quarterbacks in that division and kind of see how it pans out in the near future.

Q. You mentioned Ryan Tannehill and Malik Willis. How familiar are you with those guys? You've only been with the team for 30 minutes, but what's the thought process as you enter a competition to try to get on the field as fast as you can?

I just want to learn from them. They've been in the NFL a lot longer than I have even though Malik's only been a year. They already have a lot more experience and are going to be able to teach me a lot of things. I just want

to be a great teammate to them and a great teammate to everybody else on the team while competing at the same time, and just feeling that out and just making sure I can do whatever I can to help the team win.

Q. How would you describe differences between 2021 and 2022 for you and what variables went into that?

A lot. I think we touched on the injury that I sustained and that was only one of a couple that I had dealt with. But, like I said, I feel like that just overall made me a better player in the long run. New personnel, new coaches, there's just not a lot of carryover. That's always tough. We should have been a better team than we were, but I feel like throughout all the adversity that we faced, I was able to just improve and learn from it.

Q. How do you feel about your accuracy and your decision making at this stage coming in?

Confident in it. Confident in it. I definitely have room to improve, but accuracy and decision making, I feel like, are a couple of my strengths and especially at this next level I know that they have to be taken to the next level if I want to be successful. Again, just looking forward to learning from the staff and the other players to just develop me to be the best quarterback that I can be.

Q. Where did you end up watching the draft? What went into that after all that happened last night. What was tonight like?

It was crazy. We had a big family gathering planned tomorrow morning. Obviously, I was thinking there was a good shot that I would go yesterday, so really the only reason I didn't stay is because I couldn't get back home in time if I were to have left tomorrow. So I ended up coming back today. The flight was supposed to be at 9. It did not take off until about 12. Traffic on the way home from Newark, I live in Connecticut, I literally walked through the door as my name got called. All my bags, all of our luggage. There will probably be some videos at some point that my parents took of me when I got the call when I was a crying mess. It was so funny. We are all in our airport clothes and a very different atmosphere compared to, you know, everyone getting dressed up with the nice suits and dresses last night. This is what was meant to be and I was ecstatic to get the call.

Q. So it was just you and your mom and dad?

No. We have some extended family here as well, so we are going to have a nice family gathering tomorrow morning. Some of them got here this afternoon. They were waiting at the house for me. It was so funny. I was starving. I got home, put the bags down, went to get some food, and as I was stuffing my face, I got the call and it just all happened bang, bang, bang! It was pretty funny.

Q. What was the eruption like in the house when that happened?

It was insane. Tears were flowing. The emotions were high and just a lot of excitement.

Q. Do you think there are any similarities in the system that you ran there in Kentucky and what you might be seeing with the with the Titans?

Yeah. I think, I mean, that's another thing that I think that they saw in me that they believe is going to help me at this next level. When we were going through their formations, their concepts, their protection rules, it's a lot of carry over, a lot of similarities as to what I've been exposed to these last couple of years. I feel like my experience there is going to help me going forward.

Q. How much did playing in pro-style offenses prepare you to be able to take the next step quickly?

I think it helped me a lot. I think it helped me a lot. I have the reps of I guess what's going to be expected of me at the next level already. I think that it's going to be, take that next step. There might be a little bit more intricacies involved with the NFL offense. I do believe that's one of the strengths I have going into this process.

Q. Have you spent much time in Nashville? You know many people here or know anything about the team?

Yeah, I have only been a couple of times, I mean being that Lexington is only a few hours away I was actually surprised I didn't make it any more weekend trip that I did. I never really had...we were there for the bowl game and I mean my family was there for New Year's eve this past year, it was funny actually. We were all in our airport clothes, as I had mentioned, today. My sister, as we came through the door as I got the call, realized she was wearing her Jason Aldean's bar shirt, as I got that call from that Nashville zone number, so it felt like it was meant to be, you know.

Q: What's the plan now? Did they tell you to come here, I guess, for the rookie camp coming up, or you got a trip here before that?

Yeah, I won't be there until rookie mini camp. So, just looking forward to getting started then.

Q. Well, now that this whole process is played out for you, how do you sum up all this? What has the last few months been like for you and right down to last night, and now have this happen?

It's a test. I mean it tests your physical, obviously, capacity, you know, leading up to the Combine and your pro day, and you know, tip-top shape for those things, but mentally more so, you know, with all the meetings, the top 30 visits, the Combine visits obviously, and a lot of uncertainty as we saw yesterday. I mean, I didn't know how yesterday was going to go. Obviously, I thought that was going to go a little different. But hey, I am going to attack this this opportunity with the most intensity that I have, and just take advantage of what's such a great opportunity.

Q. What was it like? I mean, you got so much air time on television. Your parents were there, your sisters, girlfriend. What were they telling you through that whole process and maybe what have you told them after this has been finalized now?

Just stay positive, it's all going to work out. Stay positive. I was very proud of my family, and how we composed ourselves last night, and you know the cameras beaming down on us the whole time. I feel like we did a great job of, you know, just taking it in stride and trust in that, regardless of what happens that it was going to happen for a reason, and it was all going work out.

Q: For you, do you have any connections with any of the Titans. You have any connections just from college with any of these guys, you know any of these guys just from the game?

Oh, yeah, I mean, you guys just signed Justin Rigg, my tight end from last year at Kentucky, and it's funny that his first day in the building was my top 30 visit, so he was in there working out, and he was excited to get started with the team, and I was texting him leading up to this whole kind of process coming to an end. And I was like there's good chance that we will be teammates again, and I know he's excited. I'm looking forward to reaching out to him and talking to him. Top of my head, there might be a couple more guys, but I'm not thinking of anyone right now.

Q. So you know, you didn't know what to expect out of the first round, but you know I am sure there were thoughts that possibly another AFC South team could take you like the Colts. Now that you're with the Titans, you're in this AFC South Division that could have all brand new starting quarterbacks at one point. Does that kind of continue that, I don't want to say, chip on your shoulder, but just now the will to want to be a winner even more with the Titans going against some of these teams that may have passed you over?

Yeah, I mean, I want to win against everybody, regardless of who the opponent is, but I mean it's cool. It's a really cool dynamic if you think about it with all of the quarterbacks. I'm just going wait to earn the opportunity and just put my head down and work. I mean, I know I'm going in there as last on the depth chart, and I got to earn every rep that I can get. So I'm not even thinking about starting right away. I'm just thinking about the process and working hard every day, trying to earn that opportunity.

Q. Before we let you go. We've got to set the record straight on the mayonnaise. You put it in your coffee or no?

No, I mean it's a stupid thing, stupid thing. I did that, that I thought was funny. Don't actually do it. I'm a one cream, one sugar type of guy.

Q. Are you a banana peel eater?

No, again, just you know another little stupid thing. But I mean I'm a football player, and just I mean, looking forward to just focusing on ball here on out.