



# TITANS DRAFT TRANSCRIPT

April 27-29, 2023



**RB TYJAE SPEARS (ROUND 3, 81<sup>ST</sup> OVERALL)**

**APRIL 29, 2023**

**PRESS CONFERENCE WITH LOCAL MEDIA**

## **RB TYJAE SPEARS**

***Q. What have the last 24 hours been like for you?***

It's been amazing to hear my name get picked and also spend time joining and celebrating with my family. It's been amazing.

***Q. Where are you right now? Are you driving through New Orleans?***

Yes, sir. I'm actually going to pick up some Titans jerseys. We got one more party today. I'm going to pick up some Titans jerseys. I have to rep my team.

***Q. What was the celebration like last night and how much sleep did you get last night?***

It was great. It was great just seeing everybody around from start to finish and their smiling faces. Everybody had pure energy. They came in to support no matter what the turnout was going to be. I got a good four to five hours. I was excited. I couldn't sleep that much.

***Q. One of your strengths is yards after contact. I wonder if that is something you take particular pride in, and kind of getting some extra yardage after hits?***

Yeah, you have got to be able to make that one guy miss and also you have to be able to break tackles. I feel like that is why I separate myself. I'm still willing to elevate even more.

***Q. Who are some of your favorite running backs or anybody that you maybe particularly modeled your game after?***

Starting off, I modeled it after Reggie Bush. Reggie Bush is my favorite for a while. I like Alvin Kamara and guys like Aaron Jones too. It's going to be great to learn from Derrick Henry too.

***Q. Knowing your knee injury history, do you ever look at guys like maybe Frank Gore, Willis McGahee and how they were able to overcome that and have long careers?***

I've actually reached out to Frank Gore. I'm going to ask him for some pointers and tips on how to stay healthy. I do a good job of it because I take pride in everything that I do, that I do greatness-wise. Off the field stuff is going to keep me on the field.

***Q. And knowing that history, you're able to carry the ball 230 times last year. What was the key in being able to make it through that and be so productive?***

I knew my significance on the team. I knew my role on the team, so I had to do it. It starts with mindset first, just understanding my significance on the team, just day in. I work hard. I work hard to put myself in positions like that.

***Q. Do you find yourself having to do any extra maintenance or anything to be able to work through that?***

You have to understand that whenever you get surgery on something you're going to have to work that area out anyway. It's not nothing out of the ordinary for a regular person, I mean, from what a regular player does. Football is a very physical game, so I'm not doing nothing out of the way. I'm doing the same thing these other guys are doing, just taking care of my body.

***Q. What is it like for a running back to get drafted by a team with Derrick Henry?***

It's amazing. My key word is going to be amazing, man. It's all about opportunity because at the end of the day it's not about Derrick Henry. I guess he is a great guy. He's a great player, but I'm trying to fulfill my opportunity while I got it.

***Q. Are you going to talk to him about getting number 22?***

I was playing with somebody over there. I was like maybe he will let me get it, but they was like naw, that ain't going to happen. Hopefully he will want to go back to number 2 like he had at Alabama.

***Q. What do you think about him as a back and kind of being a 1-2 punch with him?***

They don't call him King Henry for no reason. They don't call him King Henry for no reason. You have to be a special type of player to keep on running for 2,000 yards. I think he did that on every level that he played in. You have to be a special type of player because it takes a lot to get to 1,000. And another 1,000 on top of that? You got it.

***Q. What kind of pass catcher are you? Can you talk us through your game as a target?***

I see any way in which I can put myself in a position to make plays when it is coming out of the backfield like I'm doing. I'm very versatile and I got some great hands, too.

***Q. How much face time did you get with the Titans in the pre-draft process and just kind of how did those meetings go? Who did you meet and all that?***

I interacted with them at the Senior Bowl. You know Charles London. Charles, he came on as the OC with the American team, my team at the Senior Bowl, so had a great impression of him. I saw him, interacted with him at my pro day. I just did a 30-visit with him last week. So, yeah, I had a good amount of interaction and every time I interacted with them it went well.

***Q. I think there's a stat that you scored a touchdown last year, I think maybe like every 14 carries. You kind of have a nose for the end zone as they say.***

You got to get in there, you got to find a way to separate yourself. I didn't know that, though. I got to see if I can cut that number down a little bit.

***Q. What's kind of your motivation and have you kind of been able to work through adversity with the injuries just to keep on plugging and get to where you are today?***

Where I come from, I try, because I'm not trying to go back to where I come from. Everybody is going to face a lot of adversity, no matter what you're going through, what your facing, just how you're going to respond to it. I always try to respond the best way I know how, just keep working. Like a rainy day, the sun comes soon.

***Q. You talk about where you came from. Did you have some tough times growing up that you had to fight through to get to where you are?***

I had to, I had to fight through a lot of adversity. A lot of rejections and all that. So, it was a long time coming. I mean, that's why I say I'm so appreciative of saying I'm so blessed to be in this position.

***Q. You brought up Reggie Bush and Alvin Kamara, were you a big Saints fan growing up?***

I was, I was.