



# TITANS DRAFT TRANSCRIPT

April 28-30, 2022



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

### *(opening statement)*

JON ROBINSON: Obviously, the decision we made today was a tough one. Really appreciate what A.J. (Brown) has done here for our football team on the field, in the community, and we had discussions back and forth, and really realized we got to a spot where it was going to be hard to kind of get a deal done. The trade thing kind of manifested itself from them and really started working on that probably in the last 18, 20 hours, and came together pretty quickly this afternoon. Wish him nothing but the best moving forward, and excited for Treyton (Burks) and what he can add to our football team, and then the ability to slide back from 26 there, and we get what we felt is really good value over the next couple rounds was good for us.

### *(on if he considered retaining wide receiver A.J. Brown for the duration of his rookie contract)*

JR: Yeah, we talked about a lot of things. There were a lot of different scenarios that we went through. These are the decisions that I'm faced with. They're hard decisions and there's a lot of discussion that goes into them, a lot of thought that goes into them. At the end of the day we have to make – I have to make the hard decisions. There's a lot of things that impact those decisions. Certainly the finances impact the decisions, and trying to get value when we can. That's the decision we made today.

### *(on how to make the team better when a talented player is traded to another team)*

JR: Yeah, those are the decisions that we make. We're excited about Treyton (Burks). He's been an exciting player in the SEC, big yards per catch, he's a big target. He's fast. He's competitive. He's a player that we spent time with. He came here on a 30 visit, got to know him, and excited to get him here in the offense and watch him work.

### *(on how the trade of A.J. Brown went from his viewpoint)*

MIKE VRABEL: The same exact way it went with Jon (Robinson). Our offices, we share a wall, so really comfortable with how everything went down. We've been in lockstep throughout this whole process and then we move forward and were able to get picks that we both agreed on at that time. Feel real good about it.

### *(on saying in the past he wants A.J. Brown to be on this team and how that changed)*

MV: I think Jon (Robinson) just covered it. I appreciate you reading my words back to me. I know you guys never coached a bunch of grown men that you put a lot of time into it. I love all our players. I love A.J. (Brown) personally. I know how Jon feels about him. But very comfortable with how this went down and how Jon and I were able to navigate, try to support him and make decisions, and unfortunately we understand that if we're going to be here a while, we're not going to be able to keep every single player that we draft and develop. This is where we're at, and we're excited to be able to be picking players tomorrow.

### *(on the contract discussions with A.J. Brown's representation)*

JR: You know, when dealing on the contract stuff, I dealt with the representatives there, and went back and forth really over the last two to three weeks and just realized that the gap was really too far for us to bridge. In doing that, that's where those hard decisions and those tough discussions come in. It's not easy, trust me. But at the end of the day that's what Amy (Adams Strunk) has charged me to do, is make those tough decisions and

hard decisions, and like I said, wish A.J. (Brown) nothing but the best. Appreciate everything he did here, and excited to -- really excited to work with Treylon (Burks).

***(on why the draft was the opportunity selected to make a decision on A.J. Brown)***

JR: Yeah, I think it's really the draft capital that's involved. You get return on the trade with the ability to pick players in this draft. That's really kind of what dictated the timing of everything.

***(on the message to players about working toward a second contract)***

JR: Keep working hard. Again, every decision is different. There's a lot of thought that goes into that, and every situation is really unique.

***(on if there is an expectation for wide receiver Treylon Burks to step into a predetermined role)***

JR: I don't think we're really content with anything. We want guys to come in here and work hard and learn what to do and be good teammates, and earn the right to go out there and play. We've seen some guys where it takes longer for that to happen, and some guys catch on pretty quick.

***(on if there are similarities between the play styles of Treylon Burks and A.J. Brown)***

JR: Each individual player is different. They have kind of their own unique way of how they play the game. The more we spent time with Treylon (Burks) and watched the film and dug into it, we felt like that he did a lot of things physically that we like and for that position.

***(on the trade of A.J. Brown potentially sending a message to the team that he didn't anticipate)***

MV: Well, there's a lot of things that we can't anticipate. I just feel confident that we went to the extreme to try to keep A.J. (Brown) here. I mean, I was involved with the process through the entire time. We're going to continue to coach our guys, develop them, try to make it about the team, and this is just another example of making tough decisions that hopefully in the long run it's going to make our team better. I know that it probably doesn't get received by that publicly, but this was a difficult process to get through, and I know what the gap that we had to bridge was. This wasn't easy.

***(on if drafting Treylon Burks and his ability provided comfort in trading A.J. Brown to a different team)***

MV: We've liked him since when A.J. (Brown) was on our roster. He was a player that we were targeting just because of the skillset that we mentioned. The big, the physical, did a great job coming in here, knew that -- there were some things he probably had to overcome for that first introduction in Indianapolis. He was very self-aware and had a great visit with everybody, the installation, the visit with Jon (Robinson) and I, and everybody else. He was a player that we really liked, whether A.J. (Brown) was on our roster or wasn't.

***(on if it was apparent that Philadelphia would be the team he brokered a deal with for A.J. Brown)***

JR: Yeah, that's kind of where it ended up. There were a couple teams that called, and I would say they showed the most interest, and it kind of -- I'd say it accelerated this morning, and spent most of the afternoon kind of working through things. At the end of the day just glad we were able to kind of come to an agreement and make the decision we made.

***(on if there was a lot of thought about staying at pick 26 or if it was difficult to make the choice to trade out)***

JR: Yeah, we did. There were still some players obviously that we like, and we just felt the value of the trade for us, it was kind of -- it was too good to pass up because we feel like it allowed us to get some more cracks at players over the next couple nights and the extra pick on Saturday.

***(on why the decision was made to not continue negotiations with A.J. Brown's representation)***

JR: Yeah, again, there was just a lot of circumstances that went into it, a lot of thought, a lot of different things that we had to work through. And you're right, we have compensated players that are on our team, guys in free

agency. We have done that. Again, I just come back to the gap that we were going to have to bridge there, and it just seemed really too far for us to really make any progress, and the return currently for this draft, what we were able to acquire was good value for us.

***(on if he got a sense that A.J. Brown wanted to leave the organization)***

JR: I think A.J. (Brown) loved it here, but I think -- that would be a better question for A.J. I think that he and Mike (Vrabel) had a great relationship. I had a great relationship with him. Those are just things that we have to work through, and at the end of the day make the tough decisions. Certainly for short-term but also long-term.

***(on if the skyrocketing market for wide receivers played a role in negotiations with A.J. Brown)***

JR: I think it did. I think when these guys started to come in contractually, there was kind of a new bar. The bar had kind of been raised on that position. We were trying to work through that and find some common ground. But in the end just felt like it was at a spot we weren't going to be able to get to.

***(on if the franchise tag would have been a possibility for A.J. Brown)***

JR: Yeah, we didn't get into that. All options were on the table. In the end when the scenario presented itself to get value pick-wise now, that was the decision that we felt was best.

***(on increasing the number of draft picks the team has through trades)***

JR: Yeah, that's a great point. I think being at the top of two, you never know until you get closer to your pick if you're going to get action on that pick. We had a couple sniffs on 26 from other teams, but then the Jets came in there late and really gave us one that we didn't feel like we could turn down. But it does -- taking one-on-one, which we were able to get tonight and move it up to the top of the third round, where we're at the top of two, top of three, picked up an extra fifth-round pick, so we've got a two, two threes, two fours, two fives and two sixes, so we've got quite a bit of picks that we think we can move around and give us a little bit of flexibility. If we need to slide back into the bottom of the second if somebody is there, now we've got some ammunition to do that.

***(on his comfort level as a coach with the pieces that surround quarterback Ryan Tannehill)***

MV: Yeah, that was going to be the plan. Obviously we start over every year. We're going to get those guys back. Robert (Woods) is not going to be able to work, but we'll get Treyton (Burks) in here in a few weeks and then we'll get those guys working. We're excited to start Phase Two and build that process of the trust and understanding and working through some of the new stuff that we're going to be doing.

***(on if Ryan Tannehill is in the building)***

MV: Our players are off until Monday. The voluntary program starts on Monday. I'll let you guys know on Monday who's here if I talk.

***(on if it is important for Ryan Tannehill to begin working with Treyton Burks)***

MV: Well, Treyton (Burks) will be here after rookie mini camp, which will be on the 13th, I believe.