



TITANS DRAFT TRANSCRIPT

April 28-30, 2022



QUARTERBACK MALIK WILLIS APRIL 29, 2022

PRESS CONFERENCE WITH LOCAL MEDIA

QUARTERBACK MALIK WILLIS

(on what the last 24 hours have been like and how he feels about his landing spot in Tennessee)

I'm just blessed to have somewhere to go, somewhere to call home. I'm appreciative of the opportunity to play at the next level. I'm just ready to go in and work hard and just try to be the best teammate I can be.

(on pre-draft interactions with the Titans that made him feel like this may be the spot for him)

I think all the times that I've met with the team it's been really good. I feel like we have been really cohesive and we got to know each other a little better. I know it's kind of hard to do that during the draft process. There is just a short amount of time, but I really think we clicked at the Combine and after my pro day and every time we got a chance to meet. I'm definitely grateful.

(on what he knows about quarterback Ryan Tannehill and what he imagines it will be like getting to know him)

Like I said, I want to be the best teammate I can be. I want to come in and try to learn as much as I can from them, learn the offense, and just keep getting better every day and just help the team in any way that they ask me to.

(on what he feels like his strengths are as a quarterback and what he hopes to improve upon in the NFL)

I feel like I have lots of strengths and I have some weaknesses as well, and I just want to continue to improve and get better so I can just play to my highest levels.

(on if he has heard from any of his new teammates)

Not as of yet, but I haven't gotten a chance to look at my phone. It's a little hectic right now. I'm appreciative if they reach out and I'll be glad. I met Treyton (Burks) at the Combine, so I guess I'll get in touch with him.

(on if Head Coach Mike Vrabel discussed quarterback mobility with him)

We didn't get to talk much about that as of yet. We have just been talking about me being a Titan and me just being super grateful and super blessed to be in this position.

(on if he stayed in Las Vegas and his patience level with not being picked until the third round)

I have faith. I have faith that God is going to put me wherever he needs me to go. I just have to understand that I don't run things down here and he does. So he has a plan for me. I'm just appreciative that he put me somewhere where I feel like I can go and just get better.

(on what he thinks will allow him to be able to absorb an NFL playbook and do the things that he will be asked to do as a quarterback)

Like just being taught. I mean, I learned a college playbook before I got to college, well, when I got to college, so I feel like I can learn an NFL playbook whenever I get to the NFL. It's just about me putting in the time and effort more than anything.

(on what he feels like he brings to an NFL team)

You're getting somebody that loves the game and loves his teammates. I just want to be the best guy I can be, helping everybody get better as well as myself. I just want everybody to be the best they can be. I feel like when you care about your teammates, that makes it a lot easier.

(on if it will be difficult to be patient in getting a chance to be on the field)

I mean, understanding that it comes with it. Ryan Tannehill is a great player and he's a great leader for this organization. I just want to come in and just do all I can in order to get better at my craft. Whenever that time comes for me to get on the field, then that time will come. But until then, I'm just going to try to learn and be the best teammate that I can be.

(on where he is and what the celebration was like when he was picked by the Titans)

I'm in Las Vegas right now at a bowling alley. We had rented out this bowling alley so we didn't have to go back to the green room because I didn't have another suit.

(on the number of people in his party)

It's like a hundred people.

(on what it was like when he got the call from the Titans)

Definitely surreal. I'm just appreciative that somebody took a shot on me so I can just be grateful and thankful and just want to keep getting better at what I'm doing and learn as much as I can.

(on how difficult the last 24 hours have been)

It hasn't really been difficult because at the end of the day, when you don't have control over something, it's not something you can really get mad at, or it can't really be hard on you if you don't have control. All I can control is answering the phone whenever somebody says they have an opportunity for me. I'm just grateful to be here and I'm grateful to be a Tennessee Titan.

(on if dropping in the Draft lower than he was projected will cause him to have a chip on his shoulder)

I always have a chip on my shoulder. I don't think that the Draft can put any more of a chip on my shoulder. It's cool. It is what it is and God put me here for a reason. I'm not going to question it and I'm not going to try to be mad at anybody else for being where I am because a lot of people wish they could be where I am. I'm just grateful for the opportunity.

(on what he did today to kill time before the Draft started)

I really just laid around with my parents and went to the mall and we came bowling. That's what we were trying to do. We were just trying to keep our mind off of it. You don't have any control so I just try to keep my ringer on nice and loud.

(on if he bowled a few rounds)

Not yet. I'm about to now. I said I wasn't going to bowl until I got drafted and that took a while. But it happened and I'm grateful for it.

(on if he thinks there are any limitations to what he can do system-wise)

All it takes is somebody being able to teach me and I have to go learn the playbook just like anybody else. There's no way that I don't feel comfortable learning it from what they taught me during the pre-Draft process, and I feel like I retain information pretty well. I had an understanding of it. It's just me going and putting in work every day.

(on if he met with anyone else on the Titans coaching staff)

I talked with a few of them after pro day and I talked with Coach (Mike) Vrabel when they called me and the GM (Jon Robinson) and the owners.

(on his uncle James Anderson playing 11 seasons in the NFL and if he picked his brain on what it was like to be a pro)

He was here and he just let me know that it doesn't matter where you get picked. It's about the work you put in. It's about what you do every day and how good of a teammate you are and how many people want to follow behind you. He just left for the airport. He's got to go home. He definitely instilled some nuggets that I need in order to go to this next level.

(on if there are any guys in the league that he modeled his game after as he was learning to play the position)

I try to learn some from everybody. There's a lot of great players all over the place, and I'm just appreciative to being the one where I get to go try to be more like those guys. It's just taking little pieces, like Russell Wilson's deep ball and Tom Brady's anticipation and check downs. Lamar Jackson, his elusiveness, is just understanding what they add and how you can add that to your game.