



TITANS DRAFT TRANSCRIPT

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TIGHT END CHIG OKONKWO APRIL 30, 2022

PRESS CONFERENCE WITH LOCAL MEDIA

TIGHT END CHIG OKONKWO

(on how it feels to get drafted and land with the Titans)

I love it. Tennessee, they were talking to me a lot in the pre-draft process. So that's definitely one of the things that I knew was a possibility. And I just love being able to be so close to home in Atlanta man, so my family out here (can) watch the games.

(on the interactions with the Titans leading up to being selected)

We interacted a lot with the OC (Todd Downing). He came and worked me out at Pro Day, so definitely had a good, familiar sense with them.

(on developing myocarditis in 2020 and his health status now)

I fully recovered from it and I'm completely recovered now, and there's no future complications that should come up from it.

(on comparing himself to former Titans tight end Jonnu Smith during the Combine)

Yeah, Jonnu (Smith) was one of the guys I like to watch throughout college, just because he's a 6'2" guy just like me. So he's one of the guys I like to pattern my game after.

(on if he shares other similarities with Jonnu Smith besides height)

Oh yeah, his play style too is very, very physical. I feel like it's very good with the ball in his hands. I feel like I'm the same way. I'm very physical. I'm not afraid to stick my head in there. And then he's very strong after the catch. So that's definitely some of the similarities that people see between him and me.

(on what he wants to be known for in the NFL)

I want to be known as a complete player. A complete tight end.

(on being familiar with former Titan and Maryland Terrapin tight end Frank Wycheck)

Yeah, I am. Yeah. I see his name every day in my meeting room. He's on our tight end all-time great wall.

(on if he knew that Frank Wycheck played for the Tennessee Titans)

I do.

(on versatility being a strength)

I actually think versatility is my number one asset just because I can line up outside, I can line up in the backfield, I can line up in the wing or I can play with my hand in the dirt. I can run routes, I can block from any position. So I feel like versatility is definitely my number one thing.

(on the biggest thing he thinks he need to work on)

Honestly, everything. Coming into this league, it's the next step. So I need to polish everything from blocking, from catching, from route running. I need to polish everything to get better.

(on how familiar he is with the Titans personnel at tight end)

I'm not very familiar with who they have right now, but I'm very familiar with what they do.

(on his knowledge about the history of the Titans)

I don't know too much about the history of the Titans. I don't have a great historical background.

(on what other teams were looking to draft him)

I'm not sure. I don't know. I would just leave it up to this. I feel like I got drafted in the in the right spot, though. This is around the spot I felt like I was going to get drafted in. But in terms of who, I definitely couldn't tell you.

(on his fastest 40 time and how much he thinks speed makes him a threat)

The fastest time I ran was when I was in Florida. I ran a 4.44 and that I feel like that makes me a very dangerous vertical threat down the field, just being able to beat guys with my speed. So that's a big piece of my game is my speed.

(on when he ran a 4.44)

I ran the 4.44 before the Combine when I was training.

(on what he knows about tight end Austin Hooper)

I don't know too much about him, but just from the days when I watched him back, he was in Cleveland, right? Those days watching him with David Njoku paired with him, I feel like we will definitely complement each other very well. The way that he plays and the way that I play.

(on how the evolution of the tight end position matches his skillset)

I feel like it's perfect because as you know, like we're kind of moving away in our league from just the big blocking tight ends. You need a tight end to be a mismatch just because the way the game is evolving, there's so much speed involved in the game now. So you want a tight end who can who can win those matchups, and I feel like I'm that person who can win those matchups and beat people with speed and just make plays for us.

(on stepping up when wide receivers were injured while at Maryland)

Yeah, man. We had really great receivers at our school and when they went down, I was really the next man up to get all those touches. And for me, I just wanted to showcase my ability with the ball in my hands and I'm just very happy I got to do that. Got to get more reps, got to get more touches and to show my ability. So for sure, when those guys went down, I had to step up.

(on fitting in with the Titans' culture)

Oh, I feel like this is going to be like hitting the ground running from day one. Like you said, I'm a very outgoing personality. I mean, everybody I've ever been around, like they seem to enjoy my presence. So I feel like I'm going to be a great addition to that locker room. I can't wait to get in with those guys who have a similar mindset to me.