



TITANS DRAFT TRANSCRIPT

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TACKLE DILLON RADUNZ

(on getting drafted by the Titans and the offense having an identity in Tennessee)

I love it. I hope I can come in and contribute to the successful program they already have. I hope to be known. I know Taylor Lewan is the staple lineman there. I listen to his show all the time. I hope I can emulate what he brings to the Titans and that aggressive style of football to that offensive line. Again, I hope I can go there, fit in, super happy with this pick for me.

(on adjusting from the FCS to the NFL)

Obviously, there's faster, stronger guys, and I've been putting in the work this offseason, been putting in the work since my coaches thought I can go to the NFL. I've been making sure I've been going up against those opponents. I think I proved myself well at the Senior Bowl. I was able to perform well against those guys and continuing to get stronger, get faster against those high-level opponents is going to be huge. So, continuing to get better, not thinking that I made it at any point in my career, doing that and I think I'll be very successful.

(on training for and exceling at the Senior Bowl)

When I did training, like you said, I only had one game, so I flew out to California immediately after that game, went to train with Joe Staley, ex-49er, future Hall of Famer, so he was super good in my development. He was a huge testament to that, so shout out to him. I did that a lot with previous NFL players. I worked out with Paul Alexander, he was a previous NFL coach. I worked with a lot of NFL guys to get myself ready and, like I said, I performed pretty well. I think being able to bring that nastiness from the FCS, NDSU power-style football to the Senior Bowl was a huge benefit to me and I think it showed.

(on the Titans and other teams interest level)

There's a lot of teams that showed interest. I sparked a lot of good relationships. It was great to talk to a lot of GMs and coaches. I've met with GM (Jon Robinson) down at the Senior Bowl. We were talking about Taylor Lewan, talking about Derrick Henry's running style. I mean, built a good relationship down at the Senior Bowl, and through more of the offseason, I was able to get on a few Zoom calls with them and built a good relationship. Wasn't exactly expecting it to happen where it happened, but was definitely super excited that it did and Tennessee was always on my radar, and me and my agent always talked. They weren't exactly number one, but I'm happy to be here so it was a good pick for me, like I said.

(on the next steps of development as the transition to the NFL starts)

I think it's meeting teammates, getting around the offensive line, getting the playbook, getting around the offensive coordinator, getting to know the whole team, the organization. Then putting my nose to the grindstone and grinding it out and getting ready for this upcoming season because I'm definitely going to want to be one of those starting five. That's the competitor in me, and if not, I want to help this team win a lot of games, so getting into the organization is going to be the next step.

(on staying in shape and in rhythm after only playing one game due to COVID-19)

For sure, it was hard. Thank goodness I had the Senior Bowl to help me stay in football shape. We always say that. I mean you can always condition. You can always lift weights, stuff like that, but there's something different about hitting guys. So, being able to just hit pads, being able to train with other offensive linemen, they understand the physicality of the game, so having them hold pads for you and stuff. It's been difficult, but at the same time, I think I did a good job at it. Things showed at the Senior Bowl, and we'll continue to do that through OTAs and rookie minicamp.

(on being a strong run or pass blocker and the prospect of blocking for running back Derrick Henry)

For sure, so I think both my games are going to transition really well to the NFL. We are a power-run scheme at NDSU, so being able to run block. I'm able to come off the ball, and then we had Trey Lance, obviously, so we let him air it out a few times. Obviously, pass blocking, but there's always going to be things to work on, but I feel like that will transition really well. Like you said, blocking for Derrick Henry, that's going to be awesome. I mean, he got the 2,000 yards last year, and I listened to Taylor Lewan's podcast and stuff. They're always trying to get him to break that record, and whatever I can do to contribute to help him get that. I mean, he's an awesome running back. It's going to be an awesome offensive line and just excited to contribute.

(on the challenge of switching to right tackle after playing majority left tackle in college)

I played a lot of my career at left tackle, so just switching over, that will probably be the first challenge. I've been working on it in the offseason, doing drills and stuff with the right tackle if that is the position they want me to be at. So I've been working on both sides of the ball, switching up my stance like that, so that is probably the biggest challenge and then making sure everything you're dotting your I's and crossing your T's when you switch over. Making sure the play calls are right, stuff like that. As long as you do that, I have, I do that well, and then follow what the coaching staff tells me to do, I think there would be no problem in the transition.

(on the level and style of play at North Dakota State)

It's a pro-style offense. Obviously, yes, we're a heavy run team. We love to run power football. We do a little outside zone, inside zone when we need to, but we run everything under the sun there. I've run all kinds of plays with protection, all this stuff, called Mike (linebacker) ID, so I have no problem about transitioning into a next-level offense. Just being able to do that at NDSU, I think that's why we produce a lot of NFL players or starting to produce a lot of NFL players, especially with quarterbacks, and we produced two other offensive linemen. Yeah, there's a jump in skill, but other than that, mental wise and running an offense like that, I think it'll transition really well.

(on taking the rookie season to develop if a starting role doesn't work out)

First and foremost, like you said, I'm always going to want to start. I'm not going to speak it into existence that I won't be, but like you said, if that for some reason happens, I'm always going to be competitive. I'm always going to want teams to win. I'm always going to want my team to win, so I'll push the guys in front of me and make sure they're on their P's and Q's about that. It's going to be a competitive atmosphere. We'll get after each other. I'm sure I'll get pushed around a lot. I'm sure they'll get pushed around, whatever it may be, but ultimately, the team is trying to win a lot of games, so whatever we can do to do that, I'm sure that'll be the end goal at the end of the day.

(on the Titans need for a tackle after cutting Isaiah Wilson)

Yes, I'm familiar with what happened. Very unfortunate circumstances.

(on watching and emulating tackle Taylor Lewan's game and what stands out about the Titans on film)

Firing off the ball, I think that says for Taylor (Lewan) and the whole offensive line. If you get firing off the ball, getting that pressure on the defensive lines, Derrick Henry can make his cuts. I watch Taylor (Lewan) in the pass game a lot because he's got such good hand placement, good hand striking and he's so balanced in his feet. You never see him really leaning one way or another. He always seems cool, calm and collected when he's dropping back in his pass set, so looking at all those things. I feel like I'm going to be able to learn a lot from this whole offensive line group.

(on the level of excitement to get back on the field after only playing once last year and the additional challenge that presents)

Like I said before, being in football shape is a little bit different, but I mean everybody's going through the offseason. Luckily, we'll have OTAs, mini-camps to get me ready. But then at the same time, there's a positive not playing or only playing in one game. My body is super fresh. I literally have no injuries at all, no nicks and bruises. I was able to gain a lot of strength too through that because I wasn't playing in the season, so my body's in tip-top shape. It's just a matter of getting back into or I should say coasting into that football shape that I was talking about since I haven't played football, but I'd say there's a lot of positives about only playing one game.

(on a noteworthy quality he brings to the Titans)

Throughout this draft, I've tried to make myself as versatile as possible. I think that's what's going to be unique about me. We talked about moving to right tackle, but who knows maybe I'll be pushing a guy at right guard, maybe pushing a guy at left guard, whatever it may be, maybe taking some snaps, probably won't happen, but we'll see. Just being able to push teammates and build a good core group there. I think that'll be a uniqueness that I bring just being so versatile. Overall, like I said, it's going to be a good group to jump into.

(on where he watched the Draft)

Back home in Minnesota, so just north of Minneapolis here.

(on what the Draft night was like after his name was called)

It was crazy. It was a crazy night. It was fun to watch. I trained with a lot of guys that got drafted tonight and just congratulating them as they went and I have a little get together with my immediate family. I saw the phone ring from the Tennessee area code, and it said Tennessee on it, and I was like, 'Well guys, I guess I'm

going to be a Titan,' and everybody's like, 'Wait, what?' and then I was like, 'Yeah, they're calling me right now,' and so it was good. Tears were shed, tears of joy, and hugs were going around. This is a moment my family's been waiting for a long time. It's a very exciting process. I'm super happy to be where I'm at.

(on what head coach Mike Vrabel and executive vice president/general manager Jon Robinson said on the phone)

I talked to Jon (Robinson). He's like, 'Hey, how's it going?' I was like, 'It's going well. How are you?' and he's like, 'We're going to make you a Titan with this next pick,' and I was just like, 'Oh my gosh!' trying to hold back tears as I talked to him, and then I talked to Mike (Vrabel) too, and he was saying congratulations and all that stuff and getting me down there and all that stuff, so it's all good things, it was a great conversation. I can't wait to get down there.

(on meeting with offensive line coach Keith Carter)

I do not believe so, maybe if I have, I don't quite recall, but I don't believe so.

(on what led to being the Senior Bowl Player of the Week)

Just being able to go out there and I think I was one of Jim Nagy's favorites which was good to be in for the situation, but I think going in there and displaying my dominance and my physicalness and firing off the ball and running to running backs as they finished in the end zone. I'm able to fly around and stuff like that. I think that proved to give me the opportunity to win that award, and, I mean, there's a lot of great players that probably could deserve it too, but it was just a huge honor to win that one.

(on his current weight and playing weight)

I might be pushing 310 right now. We've had some Mexican food catered in tonight, so had a lot of tacos. I probably weigh around 305, around playing weight. That's what I'd like to play at. Obviously, there's room for development there. I've been developing a lot, cutting down on body fat, so if they need to put a few more pounds on me then that'll be what I do, but other than that, I'd like to play at 305.