



TITANS DRAFT TRANSCRIPT

April 29-May 1, 2021



LINEBACKER MONTY RICE

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PRESS CONFERENCE WITH LOCAL MEDIA

LB MONTY RICE

(on how excited he is to be drafted and what he thinks he brings to the Titans)

I'm very excited. I'm very excited. I've been waiting on this moment since I was a kid, and, you know, it's special. One percent of college athletes get a chance to even be a part of the NFL Draft, and I'm just blessed. It means more to my family than anything. I'm going to come to work every day and live right on and off the field and just do what I'm supposed to do to help the team win.

(on what his strengths are as a football player and what he can work on to take his game to the next level)

I can call a defense, I can run, I can get, I can cover. You know, I can do what a three-down linebacker needs to be able to do. I just think that in today's NFL, you've got to be able to run and hit at linebacker, and I think I do a pretty good job at that. But, you know, you can always get better.

(on what the Titans told him to expect and focus on when he arrives in Tennessee)

You know, I think they're just ready to get to work and help me be a better football player, and just perfect my craft at a high level and just do whatever I can do to be a better player. I think that starts with staying in the weight room and staying strong and mastering the playbook.

(on how the defensive scheme he played at Georgia will translate to the NFL)

You know, at Georgia we've got the most complex defense in college football, so I feel like I'm ready for whatever as far as playbook-wise, just because I'm able to learn any new defense because at Georgia we learned it all. I'll be prepared for that in that aspect, but Tennessee's defense, obviously, will be a little different or whatever. So, it's going to be important to be able to adapt and do whatever they need me to be able to do.

(on if his NFL Draft party was low-key)

No, it's definitely a huge party. I just had to come in here or I wouldn't have been able to do this Zoom. I'm a big family guy, so it's mainly the fam. I got some friends here, but I consider them family too. I can't give you a number. There could be about 50 people here, but that's just me saying a number. I'm not sure. I'm a big family guy so this is not a win for Monty, it's a win for the Rice fam, my whole family and everybody else that's helped me because I've had outside sources, and by outside sources I mean other families who have helped me get to this point. They've sacrificed their time and their money and their household to help me be able to be the person I am today, so I want to thank them as well.

(on what he thinks of playing for Titans head coach Mike Vrabel)

At Georgia I played for a defensive guy, so I think I love, like, playing for defensive guys because they love the game. It's hard to love defense because on defense you got to practice, you've got to do it over, like, it has to be perfect. It takes a lot of reps and it takes a lot of time and it take a lot of thought, and it's a process on defense, and he was good at what he did, and he was a linebacker as well at Ohio State and in the league for a long time. So, I'm glad to be able to be coached by a guy like that. I'll be able to get a lot of intel and information from him because he's already done it.

(on if he heard a lot from the Titans leading up to the NFL Draft)

Honestly, I had no idea. I honestly thought it was going to be the Lions to be honest with you, but it wasn't. I talked to Coach (Mike) Vrabel and their linebackers coach and I talked to their player development guys last week. So, it was like a couple days in a row when I was hearing from people at Tennessee, so that was a sign, but nothing's for certain.