



TITANS DRAFT TRANSCRIPT

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WIDE RECEIVER DEZ FITZPATRICK MAY 1, 2021

PRESS CONFERENCE WITH LOCAL MEDIA

WIDE RECEIVER DEZ FITZPATRICK

(on the Titans trading up to select him and his fit in Tennessee)

I was super excited to get to hear the call and see the Nashville area code pop up and the conversation I had with the coaches. I definitely felt wanted and I can't wait to be a Titan.

(on what the coaches said when they called)

They told me that they had to trade up for me when they saw that I was still on the board and they feel like I fit into what they're trying to do in Nashville and this is such a great organization, such a great team and I'm at a loss for words right now. I'm so sorry. I'm so happy to be a Titan.

(on fitting the Titans offense as both a slot and outside receiver)

They definitely said that they saw the reps that I had in the Senior Bowl in slot and my earlier years at Louisville. They said that they're really impressed that I can play inside, outside at my size. I'm so excited to be a Titan right now.

(on being a vertical threat)

It works from me being able to run the underneath routes, me being able to run every route in the route tree. I keep them guessing. I like to say that I'm a complete receiver and not one dimensional. It keeps them on their toes.

(on playing X, Z, or slot at Louisville)

Going back to my first two years at Louisville, I played the Z position, which allowed me to play inside and outside, but the last two years at Louisville I played the X position.

(on the familiarity with the Titans offense and their needs at receiver)

I'm definitely familiar with them since Corey Davis was drafted there at first and I've definitely been keeping up, obviously, the AFC and everything. I'm very excited. I get to learn more about their offense. I can't wait until the playbook comes and I can study and dive deep down into it.

(on meeting with the Titans at the Senior Bowl)

Yes. I did.

(on speaking with the Titans during the Senior Bowl)

The conversations were positive, obviously, talking about they liked my stature. They liked how I can move at a big size, a thicker frame. They always asked me, 'How would you like us?' back then. I'm excited right now to be a Titan. I'm so blessed and at a loss of words. I'm in shock, but I can't wait to go down there and compete and work hard.

(on the importance of stretching the field and making big plays)

That's definitely important. I feel like for you to be a deep threat that's how it comes, that's how you get your separation in your intermediate routes and your shorter routes. They respect everything if they think that you're going deep. The slants and the hitches and everything works better when they respect your deep threat, and that's kind of how you got to go about things.

(on playing a few games in Nissan Stadium in 2019 and having good vibes in the stadium)

Yes. I actually I do (remember). I do have some good vibes there, definitely do.

(on having memories or notable catches in Nissan Stadium)

I played well against Western Kentucky. The bowl game I was sick, unfortunately, but I had a couple of catches.

(on playing opposite of wide receiver A.J. Brown)

I love to learn new stuff by the guys who've been doing it in the league, doing it well in the league, and I definitely can't wait to link it up with him and talk ball and ask him what works out and how is he successful in the NFL and learn. That's what I'm more excited about doing, is learning right now.

(on players he's watched and emulated his game after)

Growing up, obviously, I loved the Larry Fitzgerald's. I loved the Dez Bryant's. Recently I've been really involved with Davante Adams. I love his game a lot. I kind of think it resembles to my game. I'm super excited to do everything.

(on where he expected to be drafted and what other teams were interested)

I really didn't have any expectations going into it. I know the board and the Draft is crazy. I was expecting somewhere late day two, early day three like around this time. A couple other teams that I thought might pick me up was probably the Rams or a couple other teams that were in contact with me a lot. I'm so excited to be a Titan, meeting my new teammates and get involved with the offense and learn my playbook and start the NFL life because this is what I've been dreaming for my whole entire life.

(on the familiarity with the Titans, specifically quarterback Ryan Tannehill)

When I got drafted and everything kind of calmed down a little bit, Ryan Tannehill, he hit me up, congratulated me and said he can't wait to work. I told him I can't wait to work with him and get down and become definitely a Titan and grow and earn my stripes and do everything that I have to do.

(on confirming Ryan Tannehill reached out and what he said)

Yes sir. Yes sir. I'm sorry, but yes, he said that he's excited for me to come down and he felt like I was a good pick for them and he likes my game and I got to be a weapon with this offense. I said I can't wait to come down and work out and compete with you guys and learn how to be a Titan.

(on the starting quarterback reaching out)

I felt like – this is – I'm at a loss for words by this. I always said this is reality now, but I feel like I'm dreaming right now, honestly. I'm so happy and so smiley and everything. I feel great that he texted me.