



# TITANS DRAFT TRANSCRIPT

April 28-30, 2022



## SAFETY THEO JACKSON APRIL 30, 2022

### PRESS CONFERENCE WITH LOCAL MEDIA

#### **SAFETY THEO JACKSON**

*(on how it feels to be a native Nashvillian and get picked by the Titans)*

I'm not going to lie to you, I'm going through so many emotions right now. But it's the best feeling, to grow up in Nashville, go to school at Tennessee and then come back home for pro ball. So, it's really like, I can't even think of the words to say right now. I'm just so, so excited. I'm so eager to get to get to work.

*(on if he was a Titans fan growing up)*

Yeah, I did actually grow up a Titans fan because of my uncle, he owns a suite box inside the stadium. I'd go to the games and sit in the box and eat food and just enjoy the game.

*(on if he had any idea the Titans might pick him)*

I didn't know that they were going to pick me. I was labeled to get drafted around this time. But the Titans drafted me and that just made it so much better so I could stay home.

*(on if he was a fan of any specific Titans players as a child)*

When I was going to the games I was young, so I didn't really know players. I was really just excited to be there. It was just my hometown team. As I've gotten older, I really enjoy just being a Titans fan. I haven't really watched any players from the team.

*(on what kind of role the Titans might expect from him beyond just special teams)*

They love my versatility so I can probably play safety, play the dime or play some slot. We never know. It's just how they want to view me and where they want to place me at.

*(on his numbers making big jumps last year and what was the reason for that)*

I think it was just the scheme change. It kind of allowed me to be more free. Then our playbook was a little bit easier. I could focus on what call I have to make and I can focus on what the offense could be doing most of the time. I watch a lot of film so when I guessed, I guessed right most of the time. That kind of helped me out to get that production.

*(on if he attended the Titans Local Pro Day and if he thought this could be the place for him)*

I did attend the local day. When I went there they invited me with open arms. They showed me around the place. I met every coach. I honestly felt comfortable given that is my backyard. I'm sorry, I'm still kind of emotional a little bit. It just felt like home.

*(on where he grew up in Nashville)*

I grew up in Antioch.

***(on where he is watching the Draft)***

I'm at my uncle's house. Funny thing with that is he is probably the biggest Tennessee fan. There are Tennessee jerseys everywhere. His whole downstairs is like Tennessee everything. So for me to get drafted to the Titans in that room, that was super special.

***(on what it was like when the call from the Titans came in)***

When I first got the call, I was just saying, 'Yes, sir, no, sir.' I was just trying to control myself really. Then once I figured out that they were picking me, emotions kind of took over because my long 18-19 years of hard work paid off. My family just exploded with excitement. It's really just an all-around great, great experience for me.

***(on how big an impact University of Tennessee Defensive Coordinator Tim Banks and the staff at Tennessee had on him this past year)***

They had a big impact because they taught me a lot of techniques. They helped me out in the film room. Once I got out on the field, they literally just told me to go out and play with what you see. They gave me the tools and everything that I needed. At the end of the day, it was really on me to do everything that I needed to do.

***(on if it was a more comfortable situation for him this year)***

Yeah. Honestly, yes it was. I was given a lot of freedom. With that freedom, mixing with the instincts and the film study, that really just helped me out a lot.

***(on if he thought being drafted by the Titans was a realistic goal when he was playing at Overton High School)***

When I was at Overton I was still trying to get to the next level, which was college. I was just trying to get to the next level after high school. But in the end, I was envisioning myself playing with the Titans. Just having that vision come true is, I still can't give a word to even say what I'm feeling about it.

***(on if there is a celebration planned for later out anywhere in Nashville with his loved ones)***

I'm not sure, but I've got about 60-70 family members out there, so I probably just might kick it with them tonight because I know I don't have long with them. I'm just going to stay in with them.