



CLEVELAND BROWNS TRANSCRIPT

*2020 NFL Draft, Round 4
4-25-20*

Assistant Director of Scouting Glenn Cook:

On the Browns selecting TE Harrison Bryant:

“Harrison really impressed us throughout the spring, starting at the Senior Bowl, working through the Combine and up to some of the post-combine virtual stuff we did. He is a really blue-collar young man. His work ethic is great. He is going to bring really good leadership. As a football player, his pass-catching ability is probably what stands out the most. You will probably hear that a lot, but he is an athletic, natural sure-handed guy, really tough and competitive after the catch. It got to the point where we were staring at the board and you kind of couldn’t ignore the fact that he was still up there.”

On why Bryant was available at the time, given his college numbers:

“I can’t really speak for the rest of the league. It could be a level of competition or questions about if he could produce at the same level in the NFL. We really just thought his skillset and adding that talent to the room fit for us, especially at that spot. We thought it was a pretty good pick.”

On if this year’s college all-star games became more important due to the impact of COVID-19, particularly for Day 3 selections:

“I think we really push our guys to hone in at the at the all-star games, not because we knew this situation would come up but because you have much more access to the players, both on and off the field, that you can garner a lot of really valuable information. Between the ability to see them throughout the week in different meeting settings or just across different exposures and then definitely competing on the field, you can you can glean a lot from that week-long experience.”

On differences evaluating skill players on offense and defense and their skillsets as the NFL game has evolved:

“I think that those positions, at the end of the day, it is really the production on the ball. Guys get in positions in unique ways. Some of the bigger corners use their size and instincts, and some of the guys with maybe less size use more athletic traits in quickness and speed. At the end of the day, it is producing on the ball. As a receiver, for me, the price of admission is catching the football. If you can catch the football, whether it is in contested situations or underneath and making things happen after the catch, those are really the things that we look for. Really, production is key. Being able to produce in whatever manner you can consistently is really the calling card for those two positions.”

On evaluating a player like Bryant from a program that faced a handful of major college programs but also played smaller schools:

“It is a fair question. I think you really just have to hone in on the skillset. I think that is one of the things that we really liked about Harrison is from our coaching staff and our scouts, they both really appreciated his ability to get open in a multitude of ways. He is just pretty consistent at catching the football. He struggled a little bit early on this season, which was a bit uncharacteristic, but across his lifespan in college, catching the football is something that he did really well. We kind of expect him to carry that over. That is how we reviewed him and why we thought this was a good pick.”

On the personnel department’s process this year at all-star games when the Browns had not yet hired Head Coach Kevin Stefanski and Executive Vice President of Football Operations and General Manager Andrew Berry:

“I think our group did a really good job of coming together and really just using some of the experienced guys that we did have in our group to help direct us in that time. We kind of stayed the course. We had somewhat of a layout written already in terms of assignments and responsibilities. We kind of just stuck to that and married that with AB’s philosophy and planning when he came in. It worked out pretty well. It didn’t throw us off too much. Obviously, you like to have your group in place, but I think we did a really good job of adjusting.”



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On the significance of Stefanski's use of tight ends in the offensive system when evaluating players:

"I don't think it hurts to make the head coach happy. He has a strong affinity for that position. I just think with this selection, like I said earlier, he just kind of stuck out on our board based on where we had him. Obviously, we want to add talent to the roster, add competition and guys that can produce in the passing game. He kind of checked off a significant number of boxes. That is why it worked out the way it did."

On if Bryant had games against major college programs in particular that stood out to the team:

"No, not necessarily. I think everyone will kind of lock in on Ohio State, but we try not to take competition into too much consideration. It definitely is a factor, but he played at a major D-I school. The kid was really, really productive. Like I said just across all his exposure, you really couldn't poke too many holes in the things that he does really well."

On Bryant's character and leadership as a captain at Florida Atlantic:

"He is high character, blue collar and has a really strong work ethic. He is not going to say much, but you will feel his work on the field. He is just going to be a great addition from that piece, as well, just to add a lot of professionalism early on coming into the building. We are really excited about that piece of it as well."

On if it was more difficult to evaluate players from smaller schools this year, given the absence of individual workouts and other opportunities during a normal offseason:

"It was, but I will say this is probably one of the more fun times for the pure scout. It is one of those moments where you kind of just have to rely on the tape and leverage that as much as you can. We really dug in as much as possible and inserted a lot of cross-check situations and parameters to get us more comfortable with some of those smaller school guys. Also, I think with what we are using now -- Zoom, (Microsoft) Teams, WebX and all the technology -- we really leveraged that to its maximum extent to get as much access and exposure to all these players. Regardless of where they are now, every 18-22 year old has an iPhone or some type of device so that was helpful."

On the last time he looked at this much film of a player:

"I would say coming in as a scouting assistant, you probably do get a lot of the leg work of the smaller schools and really digging on that tape. I wouldn't say we watched any more tape. To a degree, it could become a little bit of an issue if you second guess yourself too much. I think we did our due diligence. We stuck to our schedule as much as possible in terms of the phases that we went through. You had a few more weeks or time here and there to say 'Oh, let me take just one extra look at this particular player,' but I wouldn't say I watched a ton more film."

On Bryant's transition from OL to TE:

"Just coming out of high school, sometimes there are unique transitions. He kind of came into college at 215 and he has worked his way up to about 235-240. I think he filled out maybe a little bit and maybe a late bloomer physically, but he transitioned pretty well to the position, if you ask me."

On how selecting Bryant impacts other TEs on the Browns roster like TE David Njoku and if the team needs an abundance of TEs in this offensive system:

"I don't think we can have enough good players, first and foremost, especially at that position with some of the packages and sets that we are going to use in Kevin's offense. This isn't any indication on Njoku's future, (TE) Stephen (Carlson) or anyone else. I think you just continue to try to add good players in the right spot, add competition and see how it works out. We are still pretty optimistic about Njoku's future and like the things that Carlson did, but we think any type of competition and anything that can help our roster get better, we are going to take a look into it."

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TE Harrison Bryant:

On being drafted by Cleveland:

“Obviously, I have had a few teammates from FAU play for the Browns and heard a lot of great things. When I got the call, I was extremely excited and just ready to go up there, go to work and do whatever I can to help the team win.”

On joining a team that plans to frequently use TEs in Head Coach Kevin Stefanski’s offensive system:

“They use a lot of tight ends. Just knowing how Coach Stefanski and his recent play calling years and the OC’s (offensive coordinator Alex Van Pelt) play calling years how they use tight ends, just coming into that situation with some other great tight ends and being able to be in two or three two tight end sets with them, it is going to be a really cool situation and just ready to go to work.”

On if he was a skill player waiting for his moment to break out in high school prior to his transition from OL to TE:

“Yes sir, I always knew I could. My high school coach he was like, ‘I think you should play tight end. I moved to tight end and it worked out for me.’”

On joining a group that includes TEs Austin Hooper and David Njoku:

“I am obviously extremely excited to join this group of tight ends and two really, really, really good tight ends. I have watched a lot of tape on Hooper, as well as Njoku. To come in and join this group and just be able to do whatever I can to help produce and make the tight end room successful, I’m ready to do.”

On if what he believes he can offer the Browns and Assistant Director of Scouting Glenn Cook’s comments about his consistency as a pass catcher:

“First off, I feel like that can bring a lot of versatility to the team, lining up anywhere I’m asked and really lining up wherever I need to and whatever I need to do to win and help the team. Really, just developing as a pass catcher on not playing tight end until my senior year of high school, it was really in my freshman and sophomore years [in college] that I really focused on developing, learning how to run routes and become a better pass catcher. A lot of help from my position coaches, the receiver coaches and also the other tight ends FAU – we had a real close bond. One of our other tight ends (Florida Atlantic TE John Raine) who was a really great route runner, I just got to work with him, and he taught me a lot of good things. Now, it has worked out for me.”

On the jump in competition from Florida Atlantic to the NFL:

“I have a really close friend (Bills RB) Devin Singletary. He plays for the Bills now. Had a great rookie year for the Bills. I have been talking to him a lot. For him, he said the biggest jump and the biggest thing, obviously, is just getting used to the different speed of the game. Coming from FAU, we played Ohio State, UCF and some other big team throughout my career. We have had some faster speed of games, but nothing like what I am going to have to prepare for and get used to. I feel like that is the biggest jump is just the speed of the game.”

On his mindset preparing to play Ohio State in college:

“Going into that game, the first game of my senior year, I knew that was the biggest football game of my life to just really help show what I can do and just give myself this opportunity for the next level. Going in, I knew I needed to play well, block well and catch the ball well. I actually had a drop early in the game, but I rebounded well, finished really strong that game and really put some great things on tape that I think helped me out and really helped the Browns make this decision, as well as other teams with just how they looked at me and how people thought of me. A big point in my career was that game.”



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On if 49ers TE George Kittle and Chiefs TE Travis Kelce can serve as reference point in terms of the level he could potentially reach:

“In college throughout my four years, I watched a lot of George Kittle tape and really just watching to see how he ran routes and how he just competed. The biggest thing was how he blocked. He is a great blocker. He is really the most complete tight end. I have been mentioned in words and stuff with him. He is the best of the best, and I hope my potential is to someday be like him and be at the level he is. It is just a lot of work coming in and doing whatever I can to get to that level.”

On how his high school coach discovered he should play TE:

“My junior year, we were in a big state final game, and I caught [a pass] on a tackle eligible for touchdown. He could tell I could catch well, and that is when I grew a few inches and lost some weight. That is when he put me at tight end, and it worked out for me.”

On his journey to become the John Mackey Award winner after not being heavily recruited in high school:

“Coming out of high school, very lightly recruited. I got an opportunity at FAU, went there and I knew I had to make the most of my opportunity, and I felt like I did. Winning the Mackey Award last year was just a huge accomplishment to join that list of previous tight end names and all those great tight ends. I definitely felt like I made the best of my opportunity at FAU. Now, I am just looking to make the best of my opportunity with the Browns.”

On former college teammates who have played for the Browns and told him about the team, and if that included former Browns K Greg Joseph and LB Adarius Taylor:

“Yes, sir [with Joseph]. I was not [a teammate with Taylor]. The other two are (former Browns and Cardinals DT) Trevon Coley and (DT) Brandin Bryant. Since [Joseph and Coley] are at their new stops, I have not had too much contact with them, but obviously, a lot of great things about Cleveland, the fans, just the surrounding area and how great of a time they had there. I am just really looking forward to it.”

On the significance of his experience at the Senior Bowl:

“I actually think that was really the most important part of this whole process for me of just going to the Senior Bowl and proving I could compete on that field and I could hold my own on the field with that type of talent. I went there and I felt like I had a great week picking up a lot of things. Actually, my offensive coordinator for the team I was on is actually the offensive coordinator now for the Browns (Van Pelt). I think that kind of had a thing with it and Coach Van Pelt. That was good timing to have, too.”

On being the first tight end from a non-Power 5 program to win the John Mackey Award and if that helps his confidence entering the NFL:

“I would say it does to a point because obviously, it is selected by a lot of people. At the same time, I really get my confidence from just the way I work off the field and preparing every week for the game. I would not say I let the trophy or that accomplishment really give me that much confidence. It is really just how I prepare and train myself to get ready for the game and practice.”

On the impact Buccaneers TE Rob Gronkowski on his career and TEs in general:

“He is one of the best to ever do it, possibly the best to ever play tight end in the league. I was extremely excited when I saw him announce he was planning on coming back. I have watched a lot of tape on him, just like I have watched a lot of tape on George Kittle. I try to pick stuff from every tight end that has had success in the league, just pick little things and really just model my game after the ones who have been the best. He is a character off the field, and he has fun with it. I am not too outgoing or as much as him. I am an outgoing person but not like him. I am just looking to come in and just make a lot of great friends and great relationships in the locker room, like he did, and just have a good time and win a lot of games.”

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