Assistant General Manager and Vice President of Player Personnel Glenn Cook &
Assistant General Manager and Vice President of Football Operations Catherine Raiche

4-28-23

Opening statement:
Cook: "Really excited to have him (WR Cedric Tillman) on our team. You never know how it falls, so we worked through scenarios where he would be there and really looking forward to adding his size, his ability. We obviously feel really good about this addition."

Raiche: "I'm super excited to add (WR) Cedric (Tillman). Great person, good player. It'll be another tool in our toolbox for (QB) Deshaun (Watson), so very excited with the addition."

On if the pick was to keep supplying Watson with weapons:
Cook: "Yeah, I mean, it's a blend of few things. I think we understand how important it is to have a really strong passing attack just to balance out, obviously, (RB) Nick (Chubb), who's one of the best backs in the league, so that was in consideration. Also, just as the board falls, you want to make sure you're considering the best talent available and Tillman is definitely in that conversation, so we're really excited to, first, kind of just add the talent and then the added bonus of someone who can enhance our passing attack."

On if they were looking for eyes over speed at WR:
Cook: "I wouldn't say that's the distinction that we made. I would say that's definitely his strength. He's a big dude, 6-3, 215, but I wouldn't say he doesn't have the ability to contribute on all three levels to get behind DBs and make plays down the field. I wouldn't say we made a tradeoff in terms of size versus speed, but that's definitely his strength."

On if Tillman can help in the red zone:
Raiche: "Absolutely, he can help us. As Glenn mentioned, I think he's going to be able to help us there, but also on all three levels. He's run a ton of comeback routes in his career. He can create separation on the intermediate level, as well. We just feel that he's going to be able to help in many ways.

On how concerned the team is in his medicals:
Cook: "Yeah, we did our work. We definitely did our research in that area and give him a lot of credit, which speaks to just his makeup, the kid battled to get back. He probably could have just kind of held himself out, but I think he wanted to contribute to a really successful team in Tennessee and maybe not have as much on-field statistical production, but still be a part of their high-power success. Obviously, we consider all those things when we're making decisions and we felt pretty good about it.

On going up to get the ball in college:
Raiche: "Yeah, definitely a piece of the puzzle. Surehanded, and really someone that's going to be able to come down with the football and help us make a play on offense."

On how tempting it was to get a DE in that spot:
Cook: "Felt pretty good as it played out when you got to probably three or four picks before we were on the clock. Just our options there. Ultimately, we ended up really feeling good about Cedric being the choice, but we felt good about how the board sat once were sitting at 74."

On what stood out about Tillman:
Cook: "I think you've heard what coach said, smart, tough, accountable. I think that's what I was referencing in my thought process. He plays to his size. He's a big, physical young man. He does not say much, per se, but it

jumps out on the film. Just his size and the way he makes plays on defenders down the field. When I speak to that, that's what I was speaking to."

On the biggest edge Cedric had over Jalin Hyatt:
Cook "I don't know if we considered an edge, per say. Two pretty talented guys. I think Jimmy Haslam is pretty excited to have the compliments that they brought to their offense and I think the league saw similar of the fact they went off the board right behind each other. Again, Cedric has his strengths and Hyatt is a really talented player, as well. I wouldn't say there was a particular edge."

On how many receivers are too many:
Raiche: "I don't know if there is such thing to be honest with you. We are always looking for competition in the room. We're looking to put the best players on the field and give as many weapons as we can to our quarterback."

On how important having different body types at receiver is:
Raiche: "I think when we think about it from a draft perspective, we're really just trying to acquire the best talent available. However that falls at the pick that we're picking, that's what we're going to go for. Now, having some diversity and looking at different skillsets definitely helps. But again, when we think about our board and where it fell, it's really about acquiring the best talent that is out there."

On the SEC pedigree:
Cook: "I think when you talk about his toughness and his competitiveness, I think we understand all the talent that is in this league in the secondary. It's not going to come easy to you and he expressed some of the potential to really compete downfield and use his ability to make plays and contest situations. The margins are thin and I think he showed the ability to make plays in that way."

On how much of an adjustment there will be compared to what was run at Tennessee:
Cook: "That's a good question. It's definitely something you consider. You know, they do a really good job of putting their guys in position to make plays and utilize all their tools. I think we have faith that (HC) Kevin (Stefanski) can do the same thing. I think all college players, especially at the receiver position, there is a learning curve and it takes them a little bit of time to transition at times. We feel good about his makeup and feel good about what he can do. It may not be seamless. We'll see. We're not concerned about the transition."

On what it was like waiting for 73 guys to go off the board before making a pick:
Raiche: "It was definitely worth the wait. We had our strategy going in and we were not just sitting there, we were really looking at different scenarios. Whether it would be to go up or down, and really kind of figuring out however the board falls and what we were planning on doing. Excited to finally make that pick."

On how big of a learning curve they are anticipating with Cedric:
Cook: "Yeah, I think we're comfortable, starting with CO (Chad O'Shea), who we think is a really talented receiver coach. AVP (Alex Van Pelt). Kevin. I think we're comfortable with the abilities we have on that side of the football to make his onboarding process as seamless as we can. You never know. We believe in his ability to learn the game, he is a smart young man. He works really, really hard, so I do not think we have significant concerns on his ability to transition. Again, we'll see. He has to go out and compete, but we believe it's in him."

On his father playing in the NFL and his background story:
Cook: "I think just the beauty of who he is, I guess. I think we had a chance to meet with him at the combine, have him in for a 30 visit. Obviously, we have strong ties to the University of Tennessee. I went to two games this year, so had a lot of opportunity to just be around the young man. He's just, first and foremost, an exceptional individual. He's a work-first-speak-second-type-of person. All of those things, really, are more appealing than what he can do on the field, first and foremost. Just what he's going to bring, I think we're really excited about that.

On if he can be a No. 1 WR in the NFL:
Cook: "It's in him. We'll see. I don't have a crystal ball on that. You know, we believe in what he can do and coach is going to utilize him to the best of his ability and we'll make sure we maximize what he can do."

On him lining up primarily on the right side in Tennessee's offense and how it factors into the evaluation process:
Raîche: "When we go through the evaluation process for these guys, we look at everything. So we definitely look at all the information that's out there. Now, how that's going to translate and how we're going to use him at the next level, that's something we leave up to our coaches and our coaches are going to make sure that they maximize just the glance point, maximize their strength and put these guys in the best position to develop and succeed."

On his route running ability?
Raîche: "Well, as we mentioned, that's a guy that we think can make plays down the field. That's a guy that did come down with the ball in contested situations on the third level and he's a guy who can help us in the red zone. As I mentioned earlier, that's also a guy that runs a ton of curls and that can get open at the top of routes and on the intermediate level. So really, that's someone that we feel good about the overall skillset, ability to run the routes that our coaches are going to want to put in the game plan and be successful."

On how the other wide receivers can help him:
Cook: "You know, I think we're fortunate to have someone like (WR) Amari (Cooper), and honestly, even like (WR) Elijah (Moore). Different types of competitors, but I think when you have two guys like that in the room, and some of the other players we have in the group, it's about competition. I think those guys, they'll raise the game of each other, but it's definitely awesome to have it got like Amari setting the example for how to approach the game of football as a receiver"

On if he can you play inside:
Cook: "I think Kevin will find a way to use him. I think we're still working through how we want to deploy everyone on offense. I think Kevin will, like I said before, put him in the best positions for him to make plays and help us."

# # #

Visit the Browns Media Center for materials provided by the Browns communications department, including media schedules, press releases, quotes, photos, media guides, rosters, depth charts and more.

WR Cedric Tillman
Third Round 2023 NFL Draft

4-28-23

On how fired up he is to be catching passes from QB Deshaun Watson:
"I'm fired up. You know Deshaun Watson is one of the best quarterbacks in the league and I'm really looking forward to getting to know all my teammates and new brothers, new coaches and stuff, so I'm excited."

On joining the Browns wide receivers and what they all bring to the table:
"We'll see. I'm excited. Like I said, I know all those receivers, those are all good receivers. I'm really excited to join them and be a part of the Cleveland Browns receiving group."

On the mental fight to overcome his injuries last season and to get back to being ready to get drafted:
"Yeah, you know, it's tough. Last year didn't go the way I necessarily wanted it to. I, unfortunately, got hurt. Like I said, that adversity, I fought through it. I fought to get my ankle back ready to go and I'm a hundred percent now and ready to go."

On his contact with the Browns before the draft:
"We talked at the combine and stuff like that. I believe we talked a few times outside of it. Like I said, I'm excited to be a Brown."

On if it was a surprise to be drafted by the Browns:
"I was a little surprised, but it was a good surprise. I'm ready to go."

On how he expects his size and hands to help him as he moves to the NFL from the SEC:
"Those things you named, I use those to my advantage. I'm working hard each and every day to get better at the things I may not be the best at. So I'm just going to bring my tools, my hands, my body. I'm going to dominate. That's what I plan on doing."

On if he had any exposure to Jimmy Haslam during his college career at Tennessee: I have. He's come to practice quite a bit of times. Obviously, there's a relationship there.

On why it was important for him to fight through his ankle injury last season and be there for his team:
"I'm a football player. My job is to go out there and compete with my brothers. You know, I wanted to go out there and compete. I played in the SEC, the best. So I want to go against the best of the best and help my team win and it was important for me."

On if he's watched WR Amari Cooper over the years and how excited he is to pick his brain:
"I'm very excited, I've watched Amari Cooper since his Alabama days. So having one of the best receivers, one of the best route runners, being able to learn from him will be huge for my game. I look forward to it."

On how much influence his dad had on his life and what it means to him to be drafted like his dad:
"It's huge. It's a blessing. Especially to be a Cleveland Brown, one of the great historic franchises. I'm ready to go. It hasn't been an easy journey, but I wouldn't replace it for a thing and I'm excited to go.

On how he benefited from having a dad in the league:
"Just having someone who has done it at the highest level, being able to coach me and help me out. Tough love at times, but it's definitely needed and definitely has been huge in my success."

On what type of competitor he is and what he is hoping to prove:

"I'm a great competitor. I go out there and I compete every day, especially one-on-one situations and team situations, so I give my all on the field. Like I said, I'm looking forward to joining those other great receivers you just named."

On what it meant to represent his brother wearing the number 4 at Tennessee:
"It's huge. Like you said, my brother didn't necessarily have the opportunity to, so being able to represent him through my high school and college career was very important for me."

On what he was thinking when his teammate was drafted and what he thought about back-to-back Tennessee receivers:
"I wasn't expecting them to go back to back. Like I said, I'm blessed and happy for (Jalin) Hyatt. That's my brother and we've been through a lot together. I'm proud of him and he's gonna ball out and I plan on doing the same."

On how the Tennessee offense prepared him for the NFL and what adjustment he is going to have to learn:
"I think, obviously, Tennessee really helped me. I learned how to play fast and really compete for the ball down field, run downfield routes. Going to the league, it's a different type of game. Route running is going to be an important key, so I'm going to learn from one of the best in Amari Cooper, and that's going to be dope."

On playing primarily on the right side in college and if he's comfortable moving around:
"Absolutely. Like I said, we played a fast-tempo offense. I can play anywhere, flat, outside, left, right--it doesn't matter."

On if he's a junior:
"Yes."

# # #

Visit the Browns Media Center for materials provided by the Browns communications department, including media schedules, press releases, quotes, photos, media guides, rosters, depth charts and more.

Executive Vice President of Football Operations and General Manager Andrew Berry & Head Coach Kevin Stefanski
4-28-23

Opening Statement:
Berry: "We're really excited to add (WR) Cedric (Tillman) and (DT Siaki) Ika to our roster. These are two guys that we liked a lot throughout the draft process. I know Glenn (Cook) and Cat (Catherine Raiche) talked a little bit about Cedric earlier this evening. A big-sized receiver, a ton of strength, really consistent hands and was very productive when he was on the field for Tennessee. We're excited to add him to the mix. Workman-like attitude, real quiet. I think he'll fit in really nicely with our group. Then Siaki, he is another player that we really identified early in the scouting process. I think the first thing that stands out is his size, but he actually moves pretty well, especially for a bigger defensive tackle. We saw him as more scheme versatile, even though he played in an odd front at Baylor. We really enjoyed our time we spent with him this spring when he visited us earlier this month. Two players that we're excited to add and we're ready to get going."

On how tempting it was to take a DE at 74:
Berry: "There were a number of players that we liked at 74, across a number of different positions. I'll be honest, we felt like the board fell favorably. There are a number of prospects that were in play for that pick that we would have been very excited to have. We just felt that Cedric was the right fit for us. Very clean profile, adds an element to the receiver room that we don't currently have with just his excellent size. We were really excited when he was there at 74."

On where Ika's weight is at and where they want him to be:
Berry: "I'll call it a 'Schwartzism.' He (DC Jim Schwartz) wants guys to be as big as they possibly can, without sacrificing movement. For some guys at defensive tackle, that may be 305 and others that may be 355. Siaki has been anywhere from 335 to 355. depending on what the scheme required. For us, we'll work with him when he gets on site for what we're going to ask him to do, but he has played effectively throughout that weight range."

On if they were close to making a trade or if they were comfortable:
Berry: "Yeah, actually we were. We had a couple opportunities around both picks. As I mentioned earlier, we were pretty pleased with the pool of players available at 74, so we felt comfortable sitting. We were really excited when Ika was there at 98. With that being said, there was an offer that we strongly considered a few picks beforehand. Just the team that we were dealing with, their player came off the board, so that made it a pretty easy decision for us to just sit with that pick."

On if size was a priority when adding to the receiver room:
Stefanksi: "I don't know that going into tonight or going into the draft that size, specifically, was a priority. I think for us, we're always looking for traits. I think Cedric does possess those dominant traits; size, ability to go get the football. Like Andrew mentioned, we did a lot of work on these guys. A lot of really good football players, so we're excited. As coaches, you sit there and you know that you're adding good players to the roster, and I think Cedric fits the bill."

On the transition Tillman will have to make to the NFL from college:
Stefanski: “I don't think it'll be a transition. I think you see his skillset, you see him come off the ball. Yes, he's winning outside quite a bit, working outside. He's very intelligent and it will not be an issue moving him around at all."

On if taking a defensive tackle deals with DT Perrion Winfrey and his situation:
Berry: “No.”

On update about Winfrey:

Berry: “No. I mentioned earlier. I'm not going to comment any further on pending legal matters.”

On if Ika and DT Dalvin Tomlinson can play on the field together:
Berry: "Absolutely."

On if having big guys in the middle of the line is a change in philosophy:
Berry: “Honestly, it's not, I know it appears that way from the outside. That just happened. We viewed Siaki as a little bit unique, because you don't usually see those bigger guys that you feel comfortable to play in an over front. We did and we thought that he actually has an mobility to do and that's what attracted us."

On adding more wide receivers to the room:
Berry: “I'd say in general, you can never have enough playmakers, guys that can do something with the ball in their hands. I also have mentioned in the past here that part of our job in building our roster is to think about both the present and the future. I think, specifically with the pass-catching group, we like the variety that we have in that position room, where guys can produce and win in different ways. We're optimistic that it will grant Kevin and the offensive staff more flexibility as they gameplan.

On if he thought the WRs really needed to be upgraded last year:
Stefanski: "No, I think every season you go in knowing that you lose players to free agency, to whatever it may be. You trade players, you add players. That's just the normal life of the NFL season, where you're adding more to it. For us, we're looking at good players wherever they come. In this case, talking about some pass catchers. We were able to add guys that we feel really strongly about. A bunch of picks left. I promise you Andrew and crew are working nonstop throughout the calendar year to add good players."

On Tillman not having many drops in college:
Berry: "It's certainly something that's important with this profile. His size, his strength, he is a very good athlete, despite his dimensions, and has really strong hands. That being said, while he's not necessarily your vertical stretch player, his speed is just fine, so we thought it was a nice wholistic package more than anything. Certainly, the hands were a big part of it."

On moving Tillman around the field to different sides:
Stefanski: "It's not uncommon in college football to play left and right. You see it in the NFL, think back to Marvin Harrison, Reggie Wayne. It's not uncommon. Watching the kid work out, what he's capable of. It's not an issue for receivers to bounce around. Again, his intelligence, I think, plays a big factor in that as well."

On Ika's dimensions and his comparison to Vita Vea:
Berry: "I don't think of most players in terms of comparisons, because I think oftentimes when people do that it may be the school they went to, their size, their ethnicity. I think most players strike me as unique, so I think it would be unfair to compare Siaki to Vita at this point in his career. Certainly, they are both bigger guys that have a lot of power to the game."

On Ika playing as a true freshman at LSU:
Berry: "Honestly, his power really stood out. Even on the LSU film, even at a young age, he was a pretty big human being. Even though he didn't necessarily know what he was doing and was just kind of part of the rotation, you can see a really big disruptive presence in the middle of the line of scrimmage. When he was really allowed to attack in the manner that we are going to ask our defensive line to do so, we thought the skills were certainty transferable."

On if the Giants trading up affected anything:
Berry: "No, it didn't."

Continued:
Berry: At that point in the draft, I rarely guess. I mentioned, we had a pool of players that we really liked there and we were happy to get Cedric."

On if Jimmy Haslam did the primary scouting:
Berry: "(Laughs) No, but Jimmy certainly knew a lot about Cedric, given his time at Tennessee."

On the impact of last year's problem with stopping the run:
Stefanski: "I think year in and year out, you look at what your strengths are, some things that you struggled with. You hope to address that. Sometimes in free agency, sometimes in the draft, sometimes schematically, whatever it may be. Certainly trying to have a well-rounded defense and I think adding some of the guys that we did up front, I think, will make a big difference come fall."

Berry: "I don't think either Dalvin or Siaki was with a specific goal of just stopping the run. I think Jim will tell you, our emphasis is really on getting after the quarterback and really stopping the run with numbers in the box, as opposed to just bigger bodies or size. When you can find guys that you think can be multidimensional players with size, that is certainly an added bonus.

On interactions with the two selections before the draft:
Berry: "Cedric, we spent most of our time with at the combine. We had a really good feel for him coming out of the fall. His background was pretty easy and really the thing that stood out is he's just a **consummate** pro. Then Siaki, he was one of the players that we actually had in Berea. I think the thing that stood out with him was just his energy. He is a very energetic, big personality. And that comes across with the coaching staff, it came across in his meeting with me, came across with our support staff. He made a really favorable impression."

On if the impression of being a consummate pro came from having a pro as his dad:
Berry: "I think that certainly helps, definitely."

On the competition created by the draft:
Stefanski: "I think competition is great. As you know, you can't keep everybody and when you add great players to the room, it elevates everybody's play. It adds competition to rooms and that's what our guys love to do. We've talked about it already this offseason. We want to compete every day. You add new faces into a room via the draft, via free agency, whatever it is. I think guys are always welcoming new teammates. Ultimately, we're looking to make the team better and looking to make individuals better through competition."

On what he saw from Ika on tape:
Berry: "I think one of the most impressive things is--I joked with him on his visits, 'Ok, what is a 340-pounder doing in the Big 12?' That's the worst possible conference for you to be in. I think what was impressive is just a guy who could keep going, keep going, keep going in a conference that the offenses are really predicated on space. I think it was in those moments that we were able to see him. Even though he was in a different scheme, do some of the things that we would really ask him to do here, which is certainly different from what he did at Baylor. I think his motor stood out, his power stood out and we do think that he has understated pass rush."

# # #

****Visit the Browns Media Center for materials provided by the Browns communications department, including media schedules, press releases, quotes, photos, media guides, rosters, depth charts and more.****