

**ARIZONA CARDINALS
HEAD COACH KEN WHISENHUNT (KW) AND
GENERAL MANAGER ROD GRAVES (RG)
DISCUSSING THE FIRST DAY OF THE NFL DRAFT**

Opening Statement:

(KW): “As you know by now we selected Cody Brown, outside linebacker from Connecticut with our second pick. We are very excited. It was another of the positions that was important to us coming into the draft. A lot of things he does athletically we feel like are a good fit for what we are trying to get done defensively. So we are excited about that and obviously looking forward to getting him in here and seeing him on the field.”

On that he said he hadn’t talked to you and the pick took him by complete surprise:

(KW): “We talked to him at the combine so obviously we made a real strong impression on him. We were also at his workout so we had a very good feel for him personally as well as what he could do athletically. Was I surprised that he was still there? Yes. We had a high grade on him so we are excited to get him where we did.”

On whether they have concerns of Brown’s ability to play OLB:

(KW): “Obviously, with a guy who played with his hand down as much as he did in college, that’s something that you are concerned about when you’re evaluating these prospects – so you look at that during the course of working these things out and that’s what his pro day and the individual workout aspect of it are all about. You never know for sure, but what you do see from him is very good athletic skill – especially in his position – whether it’s rushing the passer, chasing a play or making a tackle. So those are indicators that he should be able to do it, just from the way he moves his feet, the way he transitions his weight, especially when he’s rushing the passer. We don’t have any illusions that he’ll be the best at it ever when he gets here, but that’s something I think he’ll improve at and be very good at.”

On what weight range they expect Brown to play at:

(KW): “He was in the 250s the last weight we had on him – so I anticipate him being somewhere in that range.”

On whether there were a number of potential defensive ends in the draft they were considering as linebackers:

(KW): “We talked about this before the draft, it’s always a little more difficult to evaluate because you have these defensive ends you’re looking at as a potential linebacker – but there were a few of them in this draft. We felt like we would have an opportunity to get one with one of our picks, so we feel good about getting him where we did with this pick.”

On whether they think not picking as high in the draft alleviates pressure from the players:

(KW): “I do. I think the first thing you look at is the pressure to perform. As a high-round pick, but we’re talking about today’s picks, so that from the standpoint of not having to come in here and do it, relieves a great burden for them just to start out with. And that gives them the opportunity to grow in the position and we saw the results of that with Dominique (Rodgers-Cromartie) last year. To me, in my experience, that’s always been the best – when you make these guys earn their chance to get on the field. I feel very good about them having to do that, but I also feel like both of these players are good enough that they’ll make an impact for us.”