

**ARIZONA CARDINALS  
ASSISTANT HEAD COACH/RUN GAME COORDINATOR/OFFENSIVE LINE  
COACH RUSS GRIMM (RG)  
DISCUSSING 167<sup>th</sup> OVERALL PICK- OL HERMAN JOHNSON**

**On what he liked about Johnson:**

**(RG):** “I liked the way he handled himself at the Combine. You talk to the coaches down there, and everybody loves the kid. He’s a good worker. He still has some work to do. He, obviously, is young, but he’s got massive size and he’s got ability. It’s just a matter of he’s got to push it a little bit further and see how far we can bring him along.”

**On if his weight is a concern:**

**(RG):** “Weight concerns are a little bit of an issue, but he’s 6-7 ½, so he carries the weight fairly well now. Obviously, we’re probably going to ask him to lose a few, but that’s normal with some of the young kids coming out of college; trim a little bit of the baby fat off and put some more muscle on him, and go from there. But, you sit and talk to the kid, and he says all the right things. He wants to work. He’s not afraid to work. You talk to the people down there. He loves to work, and we’re going to push him when he gets here.”

**On how his feet are given his size:**

**(RG):** “He has pretty good feet. We’re going to look at him probably both at the guard and tackle position, and see where he fits in. We’ll make that decision kind of early on, so that way he can focus on one thing and go from there.”

**On how he feels about the depth of the offensive line:**

**(RG):** “I think we were happy with the depth [last year], because we didn’t have to go very deep. Sometimes it doesn’t get exposed. Elton Brown, we know, has filled in for us, both at the guard and tackle before, so we felt good with Elton there. The rest of the guys were young. Brandon Keith was a rookie, Elliot Vallejo was on his second year still as a free agent, so we’ve got some young guys there that are going to be battling for some spots. You like to go into camp with, you can call it depth, but I like to call it competition. So, those guys go into practice with the first group, I want them kind of looking over their shoulder a little bit, saying, ‘hey I got somebody pushing me, I can’t take any time off.’”

**On if he has a number in mind for what weight he wants Johnson at:**

**(RG):** “No. [Strength and conditioning coach] John Lott kind of handles that. For example, Deuce [Lutui] is a big guy. Can Deuce lose weight? Yes. But can he carry more weight than maybe some other people can? Yes. [Lyle] Sendlein, we’re always on Lyle trying to keep the weight up. So, certain people’s metabolisms are a little bit different, and their body can carry a little bit more. Some can handle the heat better, some can’t. We’ll just wait and see how he moves and where he fits in, but this is a big man with a big frame. He’s always going to be a 340-plus guy.”

**On his mentality:**

**(RG):** “He’s a good kid. I talked with him a little bit about X’s and O’s, and he’s sharp enough. He’s plenty sharp. It’s not where we had a flag on him or something like that. The kid’s smart enough. A lot of times, it’s going to be a new system for anybody, so a lot of times these guys come in, and he doesn’t know what pi-r-squared is, but I can teach him what a linebacker is. Some of that knowledge doesn’t always transfer over to the football field. They say his test score was this, but meanwhile the guy is pretty sharp and he has good instincts on the football field.”

**On his toughness:**

**(RG):** “I think he’s going to be tested at this level. I don’t think he’s really been tested yet, as far as the toughness level. Everybody he plays against is smaller. If he’s been beat, it’s because people run around him. They’re not going to run through him. He’s going to be facing bigger, quicker guys now, so the competition level is going to go up. I think he’s the type of kid who’s going to look forward to the challenge. I don’t think he’s really been pushed.”