

**ARIZONA CARDINALS THIRD-ROUND SELECTION
95th OVERALL
S RASHAD JOHNSON (RJ)-ALABAMA**

On if he had contact with the Cardinals or had an idea they were looking at him:

(RJ): “I met with them at the Combine, and didn’t talk to them again until probably three or four days ago. They called just with draft info, things like that, so I really didn’t have much info, really didn’t know they were interested in drafting me.”

On if he is surprised the Cardinals selected him, given the team’s current safeties:

(RJ): “I definitely thought there might have been some other teams that took me. Chicago, I’ve been in contact with them, and I know they need a safety, Atlanta, Seattle, just different teams, but I’m happy to be a Cardinal. I’m ready for the opportunity to come out there. I’m definitely going to compete and do whatever I can to try to earn a spot on the team.”

On what he knows about the Cardinals:

(RJ): “I know Adrian Wilson [is there], and Antrel Rolle is their other safety. Of course, Larry Fitzgerald, Kurt Warner, their offense is just spectacular. That’s pretty much all I know about them. I’m ready to get out there and learn more about my new teammates, learn more about the system. I’m ready to do whatever I can to contribute to the team and help them win. I know they played in the Super Bowl last year, and it was a tough loss, so hopefully I can be able to help those guys and do whatever I can to push them over the edge.”

On if he was surprised he wasn’t taken sooner:

(RJ): “It definitely had me down at times. I was thinking I may have gone sometime yesterday. I actually got a call from [scout Jerry Hardaway] yesterday, so I’m excited, checking the draft info just to make sure it’s the right numbers. So I’m excited thinking they’re going to take me, and then they went outside linebacker. But it really doesn’t matter once you get drafted. Right now, my foot is in the door. I have an opportunity right now, and it’s about taking advantage of this opportunity that I have.”

On if he thinks he can contribute on special teams right away:

(RJ): “Definitely. That’s how I earned my role at the University [of Alabama]. I walked on, and that’s all I did. I played special teams for two years. Every team that there was, I was on it. I was a big contributor. I was special teams player of the week numerous times during those years. I know the importance of special teams, and I know how to play them, so I’m definitely excited about coming out, being able to get a role, and going out there and competing on special teams.”

On the process of walking on at Alabama and if there are parallels between that and what he will face in the NFL:

(RJ): “I came from a small school, and I got offered by some smaller colleges, Division II colleges, and I went and visited, and it just wasn’t where I thought I should be. So, I walked onto the University [of Alabama]. It was definitely a constant struggle, day in and

day out, of showing who you are, showing the player that you are, on the field and off the field, and just competing every time. I think there's no difference here on the NFL level. I'm going to a place where there are a lot of proven guys. They've proven themselves. They've proved that they can play in the NFL, and I have to do that. So, I'm going to go in with the same mentality and the same attitude, working hard every day just to get better, and working hard to make somebody else better. I'm just blessed, and I'm so happy right now. I can't explain it. I'm just excited about the opportunity to come out and work hard, day in and day out."

On how many people live in his hometown:

(RJ): "Probably 1,200; 1,500 at the most."

On how many people were in his high school:

(RJ): "My high school class graduated 54. It was probably 400 from seventh through 12th [grades]. We don't have a middle school, so it goes seven through 12."

On if he feels his lack of size caused him to be drafted later and if that's something he's battled throughout his football career:

(RJ): "I've always been a smaller guy. I've never been extremely big. My frame isn't intimidating when you see me. I definitely think that maybe if I had been bigger, my dad is 6-5, if I had some more height, a little more weight here, a little more weight there. It really doesn't have a whole lot to do with your size. It's your production and the mentality that you take on the field day in and day out that proves the player that you really are."