

Houston Texans Media Conference

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Davis Mills

Press Conference



Q. They bring in Stroud as the second overall pick, what do you see as your role? How will you help him make the transition?

DAVIS MILLS: I'm competing for that starting job. Since I've been drafted in the NFL I've been in a competition. I don't think anything is going to change.

It's been great getting to know C.J. so far. He's an extremely hard worker. It's great going out there.

Q. What's it been like working with Case?

DAVIS MILLS: It's been great. It's a new offense for me this year, new offense for him. He's been in a version of it previously, but he has a ton of built up knowledge from being in the NFL for so many years.

It's been great to ask him a ton of different questions and seeing his previous experiences and being able to learn from him. It's been great.

Q. How did you approach the off-season after this season? After the draft, after the new quarterback, what's the biggest thing you focused on?

DAVIS MILLS: The big thing is trying to focus on myself. Getting better every day. Trying to put a lot of work in. Some of my weaknesses from previous years, trying to make those my strengths now. Biggest thing is kind of putting my head down and getting better each day.

Q. What are you working on?

DAVIS MILLS: Different things I pointed out. I don't want to say anything in particular. Don't want to clue any defenses across the league.

Just different things I need to work on to make myself a better player.

Q. It's been difficult for you going into your third offensive system?

DAVIS MILLS: The only thing difficult is just picking up new plays and not having anything to fall back on from the year previous. A lot of different offenses across the league run different concepts. They're just calling it different things.

Some of it is getting rid of the old verbiage and picking up new terminology. A lot of stuff is learning from new coaches, the new guys we have in the room, and finding ways to get better.

Q. Your third coach in three years. What's your account of DeMeco Ryans so far?

DAVIS MILLS: I think -- I mean, it goes for me and guys in the locker room, everybody has a ton of respect for him because he's been in our shoes especially, played for Houston. He knows what it's like to go through training camp practice in this heat. He's played with a ton of guys. He knows what it's like to put in the work.

We feel the fire that comes from him, and it's been good. Guys have a lot of respect, and we're excited to play for him.

Q. How has the relationship been with Jerrod Johnson in the locker room so far?

DAVIS MILLS: It's been great. Jerrod, I actually went to a quarterback camp with him when he was working the Elite 11 circuit when I was in high school, so I've known him for years now.

It's been great.

Bobby is another guy that's been great to know. He's another guy that's put in hours and hours studying defenses. I know he's worked on the defensive side of the ball. He even has more insight than what a strictly offensive coach would have.

It's been good seeing how he's going to game plan to attack defenses and use our personnel to go out there and make big plays.



Q. How would you describe what last year was like for you?

DAVIS MILLS: A big learning experience. Obviously the record was what it was. We wanted to win more games, and I think it led to some of the decisions we ended up having to make as an organization this off-season. I mean, it's another day, another day to get better for me personally. I'm looking at it as another learning experience that's going to add to my ability to go out there and play quarterback at a high level.

Q. In the way that you can, how would you describe the differences Bobby Slowik and his offense is trying to get you guys to do?

DAVIS MILLS: A ton of stuff we talk about in that offense is finding ways to create yards after catches by the receivers. Firing the ball in our inside-outside zone run scheme. Using our big, athletic linemen. Getting out on the edge and getting our play makers out on the edge, and also setting up play action and just ways in the dropback game to get our guys out there in space with the ability to run after catch.

It's been exciting so far. We've been pushing the tempo a lot, being aggressive with timing and anticipation on our side as the quarterbacks, and really trying to emphasize to those guys on the edge that we're playing fast and we're going to run by people this year.

Q. Davis, you just discussed your approach. What do you feel like you've improved? Do you feel like you're a better quarterback now than you were a year ago?

DAVIS MILLS: Definitely. Every year in this league, you feel more and more comfortable. Obviously the hunger and the drive to become better is still there. It's definitely a different feeling from when I was stepping in here as a rookie, not knowing anything to where I am now, having all that built-up experience from my starts over these past two years.

I mean, it's exciting. I'm blessed to have the opportunity to come in here and compete for another job. I'm ready for the year.

Q. How good did it feel just to be around your teammates like DP and Nico and things like that?

DAVIS MILLS: Oh, it's been great. Coming back for the off-season workouts, it's great to see the guys. You kind of miss some of them and miss being around them every day when you're home in the off-season.

Once we're back, you kind of get back into the flow of things. It's like you never miss a step.

Q. You talk about having the hunger. With them adding a quarterback like C.J., does that make that get even stronger?

DAVIS MILLS: I think so, but a lot of it, I've always been a very self-motivated person. I want to be the best player I can be. Obviously he's kind of another stress factor kind of pushing me to be my best, but I think a lot of that falls back on me. I've got to be the one putting in the work and waking up every day with that same motivation.

I think, if I keep that with me, everything's going to work itself out.

Q. You spoke about this new offense. Do you feel like it will showcase your skills better than the previous offenses you've been in?

DAVIS MILLS: I mean, I don't know if anything's better in that format or not. I really like what we're doing. I think I fit this offense very well. I'm excited to see once we get to training camp and once we get to start playing versus live defenses, I'm excited to see what we're going to do.

Q. Three offensive coordinators in three years. Is there something you take away every year that's now allowed you to bring that knowledge?

DAVIS MILLS: Yeah, I think every coach, every coordinator has stuff that got them in that position and has proved successful for them. You can feed off of those things. I think that's what makes people better players, better people is if they can learn from the good traits from the guys around them and then also be able to get rid of some of those things that won't really mesh with the new stuff.

I think I have learned a lot from different coordinators, different coaches over the years, and I'm excited to add all that stuff to my memory bank like I've talked in the past and just keep getting better.

Q. Under DeMeco, he said most of your wideout group would be different. Have you seen anything different in the Tank from Robert Woods? Like Tank and Robert Woods?

DAVIS MILLS: Yeah, I've seen a lot. I don't think I've seen anyone get in and out of cuts like Tank. He's very explosive.

And Robert has been playing this game at a high level for years and years.

It's been great. He's already been sitting in on the QB meetings with the offense, trying to pick our brains and make sure we're all on the same page.

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