

New York Giants Media Conference

Thursday, April 27, 2023

New York, New York, USA

Joe Schoen

Brian Daboll

Draft Press Conference



JOE SCHOEN: The way it went down and the way the board fell, we were getting depleted.

So it was the right thing to do for us. We do a lot of research on team needs, and what people need behind us, and including the team that we traded with.

So that was a scenario we put together early in the day if we got there, and we were worried about anybody else coming up to that position. We had something in place with Jacksonville and it worked out.

Q. As it was unfolding today, maybe until about pick No. 19, it looked like it was playing out well for you. Even if you were looking at receivers, how tense does that start to get once it got to like 20, 21, 22?

JOE SCHOEN: I would say it got pretty tense. We had a lot of irons in the fire, whether it's moving up, moving back. We had a lot of opportunities to move out of 25 if we would have stayed there.

So trying to manage phone calls with teams from us while also keeping track of options if we decided to move back. Then the other option was staying, make the pick at 25.

Q. The TV shot that caught Wink, looked like he might tackle you. Can you speak to what that was all about?

JOE SCHOEN: You guys know Wink's defense and what he likes, and Deonte fits that mold to a T. He was ecstatic.

Q. What is it about specifically that attracted you to him?

JOE SCHOEN: He's a prototype from a size standpoint. He's athletic. He's physical. He can run. He ran 4-3-2 at the Combine. He has arm length, big hands. He's been a four-year starter. He was hurt a year ago but he has played a lot of ball at Maryland and schematically, he's a

good fit.

And we spent a lot of time with him. Met with him at the Combine. He's a guy that, you know, we went down to the pro day, and we spent a good amount of time with him, and again we felt comfortable with him.

Q. Are you surprised, you mentioned you were worrying about teams jumping in front of you. Did you think Jacksonville, maybe they could --

JOE SCHOEN: Yeah, if you look a lot of the mocks and just like you guys track the 30 visits, we track the 30 visits, and the rally is, the last four or five teams in a line there, when things looked like they were lining up for us, he visited a lot of those players.

So you take a lot of that into accounts, risk versus reward. Didn't want to get greedy. Hey, this is a player we like, we covet, don't get cute. Let's just take him, and then we'll move on to day two of the Draft.

Q. When the receivers started, they were done for a long time, and then bang, bang, bang. How much did that affect this pick here?

JOE SCHOEN: You mean that the receivers started to go?

Q. Like four in a row.

JOE SCHOEN: That was part of it. There's some receivers that were going off the board and some corners, typically, corners that go, and once Gonzalez went, we were wondering what was going to happen next and Forbes went. Getting Banks is a guy that we liked, we spent a lot of time with and we're ecstatic to get him.

Q. You talk a lot about the traditional value stuff and knowing premium spots. Were you locked into a couple different positions in that spot? Obviously wide receiver and corner. How important was that for you knowing in that spot that you wanted to take a premium pick rather than lean towards a perceived need in another area?



JOE SCHOEN: In an ideal world, that's how that works out. You know, on the open market these players are getting at their position, and some of the positions continue to ascend up, and some have went the other way. But corner is one that's going to continue to ascend. You take that into account.

But when you're picking at 25, we had multiple, multiple positions and it may not be a popular -- (audio skip) -- we were prepared in different situation, scenarios that we went through that we would take one of those players.

Q. You said you met with him at the Combine; what do you remember about the meeting?

JOE SCHOEN: Just personality. He's a personable individual. Football intellect was good. Very good understanding of their defense. You know, made a good first impression at the Combine, and I'll give our scouts the credit -- (audio skip) -- in 2021 and one of our guys was in there in August, and he wasn't really on our radar because he didn't play --(audio skip) -- our scouts were on him early.

So he is somebody that we were able to get out and see and we had several looks throughout the fall, live looks, whether it was at the school, games or at practice. So you know, we had very good coverage on him.

Q. How much last year as the whole season went on did you get a sense that you had -- cornerback, you had some guys hurt, Adoree' got hurt a little bit; that that was a position that you had to manufacture things there?

BRIAN DABOLL: You can never have enough good corners. This is a passing league. We have a tough division and ^ 'Te, he's a tall, lengthy, press, man-to-man corner who we had graded high, and happy we have him.

Q. You he were talking about how the variables were a lot different than last year and you knew a handful of guys. Was this, like, something you expected he'd be there? Were you surprised? Did you think about moving up sooner when you saw him maybe falling further than your projection?

JOE SCHOEN: Yeah, we had a group of players that ended up being in the same range. Again, all the mocks, if it's a player you covet, you naturally think everybody else may, too.

So a lot of mock drafts' guys are gone and we went through different scenarios, and it played out pretty darn close to some of the scenarios that we went through.

We weren't sure he'd be there, and we also were surprised maybe a couple other place were still available as the Draft went on.

Yeah, you try to go through as many of those scenarios as you can, and you know, you make the phone calls with the other general managers throughout the league and you have good dialogue and conversations, where if you get on the clock and there's an opportunity.

Again, I had talked to Trent Baalke down in Jacksonville earlier today and said, hey, I don't know if there may be a scenario where I'm worried about somebody coming behind us to this position, would you be open to it, these would be the parameters, and we stayed in communication throughout the Draft.

Q. Is this guy a cover corner or is he a press guy or what?

BRIAN DABOLL: Yeah, he's played a lot of press man-to-man. Again, we play a variety of defenses with our system but he's played a heavy amount of man-to-man coverage and press and he's strong.

He's got good length. He's got good quickness, good speed. And now we'll just throw him in the mix with our guys and good to have him.

Q. The knock that people seem to have on him was the lack of interceptions. What do you guys make of that, if anything?

BRIAN DABOLL: Look, he was around the ball quite a bit. There was a lot of pass breakups. He can match receivers. Again, it's new for all these young guys coming in, but I think he's a good player. I'm glad we got him.

Q. Do you think he's ready to come in and be a year one starter?

BRIAN DABOLL: We got a lot of work to do, so you know, with us, everybody has got to earn their role. Come in, throw him in the mix. Again we think he's a good player. Obviously we drafted him in the first round, but everybody here has to earn their role and come in there and compete.

Q. Not too long ago in this league it was the idea of rookie corners weren't able to come in and make that impact unless they were really that elite guy. Did what happened last year in the league with guys coming in like Sauce and some other guys change maybe the way you think corners can transition maybe a little quicker than they have in the past?

JOE SCHOEN: Yeah, that's one of the hardest positions in football. You're moving backwards, away from the ball, trying to cover; elite athlete. So it's one of the most difficult positions, I think, in the NFL.

Like Dab said, everybody is going to come and compete. Nobody is going to be given anything. So he's going to have to come in and earn his stripes and he's got a lot to learn in terms of scheme and our defense.

So looking forward to getting here and get to go work.

Q. Does trading the picks make you less likely, or you want to of maybe trading up in, like the second or third round, because now you do have a little less draft capital?

JOE SCHOEN: No. I'd still go up. No, it's not going to affect. We'll still move. We still have, like, our premium, second, third, fourth. We are in good shape from that standpoint if we want to move around.

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