

New York Giants Media Conference

Saturday, April 26, 2025

New York, New York, USA

Darius Alexander

Draft Press Conference



Q. Take us through the last 24 hours. What's it been like for you? What's it like walking through the doors as a Giant?

DARIUS ALEXANDER: The last 24 hours have been great. It's been wonderful. Last night I got the time to enjoy it with friends and family, so I cherished that a lot. They've been with me throughout the whole process, so just to see everybody come and support me was wonderful. Walking through the door this morning was surreal for me. I just left here a couple weeks ago, so talking to Coach Dre and Coach Cox about if I'm going to be able to be out there and them being able to give me that phone call, it was wonderful. I was excited.

Q. How different do you expect this to be? Obviously it's a different environment. You're coming to New York compared to you were in Toledo for all those years.

DARIUS ALEXANDER: Yeah, I definitely think it's going to be a big change for me for sure, bigger city, bigger fans, louder fans. It's going to be a big change. It's going to be fun for sure, but I'm ready to get to it.

Q. Had you been to New York before prior to your visit?

DARIUS ALEXANDER: Definitely, yeah.

Q. So it wasn't new just being part of the city or getting used to what's around here?

DARIUS ALEXANDER: No, sir, not at all.

Q. What was that like coming to New York? What was that part of, just on vacation? Did you come up for business?

DARIUS ALEXANDER: I got family that live down here, so that was the main reason I was able to come down. But to vacation, too, just to tour the city, see everything that I

never seen before, so it was wonderful.

Q. Where is your family from?

DARIUS ALEXANDER: Newark.

Q. Have you talked with Dex yet?

DARIUS ALEXANDER: No, not yet.

Q. Have you talked to Diontae?

DARIUS ALEXANDER: I talked to Tae last night right after I got the phone call. He FaceTimed me and we was on the phone, so it was wonderful.

Q. When you come in and get to work, what do you intend to work on in your game to contribute right away in year one as a rookie?

DARIUS ALEXANDER: For me, I intend to work on everything. My whole game needs work. I think you can work on everything, even what you're good in. Just coming in, putting my head down and going to work, trusting my coaches and the veterans in the room to help me is what I'll be looking forward to.

Q. At what point did you meet Andre Patterson, and what's that relationship been like so far for you?

DARIUS ALEXANDER: I met him when I got here after I got through eating breakfast and everything, I went straight to his room and got to chat with him and talk to him. It was wonderful. It was great. We talked about a lot of things, not just football. It was great to talk about that, too, as well.

Q. What did he say he sees that he can develop in you?

DARIUS ALEXANDER: He said he could develop my whole game, but more than anything, just the knack to go out there and play with reckless abandon, just fly around with my head on fire.

Q. I'm sure to get to this point you've had to have



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special coaches. Dre kind of gives off a different aura when he sits in a room and how confident he is. What was that like for you the first time -- first impression with a coach like him?

DARIUS ALEXANDER: First impression was great. Dre is a chill, cool guy. He's definitely got energy when it's time, but for the most part he's chill, he's laid back, and he just wants to get to understand you as a player better.

Q. Did he surprise you by bringing up some things in your game that you could tell he did homework on you as a player?

DARIUS ALEXANDER: Definitely. Definitely the things that he said were surprising for sure, but it wasn't a surprise to me in the end for real. I know what I got to work on, so just trying to attack that every day is what I'm working to do.

Q. You were here a few weeks ago on a visit, and you look around, it's all new to you, you meet some people. When you come back here today, did it look different? Did it feel different? Then you were here looking around, you had no idea. Did it look and feel different today?

DARIUS ALEXANDER: Definitely it's a different feeling walking in here today knowing that you're part of the team, part of a great organization and a great group of guys who come in here and work hard every day, so coming in definitely was different for me. I was excited and had a big smile, so I'm enjoying it right now.

Q. A big guy like you, do you wonder how do I match up physically in this league? You played at a certain level in college, and now you come here and you're going to be playing against NFL offensive linemen, or do you know how you're going to match up physically, or is that still something you're wondering about?

DARIUS ALEXANDER: That's not something I worry about at all or wonder about. I know what I'm capable of doing, so just going in here and being able to come in and compete and work hard and being able to learn from the veterans and my coaches, I think I'll be ready.

Q. What's this experience been like for you being a dad and also balancing football and just going through all this for the last six years?

DARIUS ALEXANDER: That experience right there, I wouldn't change that nothing for the world. That means everything to me. Just to watch him love the game like I did when I was his age, and for him to be around it for a

very long time, day in and day out, watching how hard I work, to wake up early in the morning with me and go to sleep late at night with me, it's been wonderful. I'd bring him and do it all over again if I could. It's a joy watching him do what he loves to do, as he watches me do what I love to do, so I get enjoyment out of it for sure.

Q. Do you think he realizes how special it is, that this isn't normal? There's not many guys that get to do this.

DARIUS ALEXANDER: Definitely. He definitely sees how special it is for me. But more than anything, he just likes being happy for me and watching me do what I love to do the most.

Q. What's been his favorite part of the last 24 hours or so?

DARIUS ALEXANDER: Honestly, I'd say his favorite part is probably getting on a plane. First time he's ever been on a plane, so he was scared at first, but he actually ended up liking it. He's doing pretty well right now.

Q. Do you have to get tips as far as trying to get him used to it, what to expect?

DARIUS ALEXANDER: No, it wasn't really have to get no tips for real, just about him getting on the plane and being ready to get on it once it took off and landed, and I think he was pretty okay with that.

Q. You told us yesterday that Tae said that this is a group of savages on this team. Now that you know what you're getting with Abdul, Burns, Thibodeaux, how do you see yourself fitting in with this group of savages?

DARIUS ALEXANDER: I feel like I fit in great. I think I'm a savage myself, so just all of us picking each other's brains and going after each other at practice, challenging each other to get better every day, I think that'll be great for us out there.

Q. The GM, Joe Schoen, talked about he wants this team to be full of dogs, have that physical mentality. For you, do you just embrace that being a D-tackle? Do you love being physical like that?

DARIUS ALEXANDER: Yes, sir, definitely. I love taking my opponents at will and just watching them go to the sideline and I know what to say to the coach. I feel like that's something they do well here, too. That's a great group of D-line guys, and I feel like I come in and do that, as well.



