

Carolina Panthers Media Conference

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GM Dan Morgan

Head Coach Dave Canales

Draft Day Press Conference



DAN MORGAN: All right. I think you guys just saw drafting Nic Scourton, a guy that we obviously really liked as an edge rusher and then the same thing with Princely. I'm not going to pronounce his last name because that's a little too complicated for me, but in all seriousness, they're two guys that we think very highly of. They can get to the quarterback. They can play the run and they can do all the things that we're going to ask them to do. So, yeah, we're just super excited and didn't think we would be able to get both of them so to be able to capitalize and trade up and get these guys, you know, we're just super excited about it. So, I'll leave it to you guys.

Q. You guys both constantly talk about making the roster uncomfortable and adding new piece. You guys have spent cash on an edge rusher and now you spent two premium picks on edge rushers. How should the outside linebacker group, the incumbent group, feel about all these additions?

DAN MORGAN: I mean, I think we said earlier, you know, the roster, it's all about adding competition, adding depth, and especially at a position, you know, last year, I felt like we needed to get a little more pass rush out there, so to be able to add these two guys, it's just going to add to the group and the competition and everything that the program's about.

Q. How much of this, too, was about maybe -- and Dave -- getting Jadeveon off the field a little bit more than all the snaps he played last year?

DAN MORGAN: Yeah, again, I just think it's about the competition out there, you know, keeping guys fresh, having a healthy rotation not only on the outside but also on the inside, so just our D-line group as a whole, just keeping those guys fresh and be able to play, stay healthy. It's a long season, so to be able to add these two guys into that mix, it's going to help everybody out.

Q. Just to be clear, Jadeveon, you do plan on keeping

him?

DAN MORGAN: You know, we're still working through the roster, we're still talking through things. Obviously we're focused on the draft right now and what's in front of us.

Q. Dave, both these new edge rushers have pretty different body types. Do you see them as a rotation based on packages or how do you think these guys complement each other?

DAVE CANALES: Yeah, there's versatility in there for sure, and I think the cool part about adding Pat Jones is Pat's shown an ability to rush on the edge. He's also shown the ability to rush inside in different packages and, you know, talking to Ejiro, just the different ways in known pass situations that you can mix the bodies up, it just gives you a lot of versatility with what you can do and Dan alluded to it, too. A long season, all these are going to play. They have to play, you know? And so for us the goal was to add more guys to the arsenal to just keep those guys fresh and make sure when we have those critical downs end of half, end of games, that we're able to deep that intensity level up and just keep throwing guys at the offensive line and the pass protection unit and affect the quarterback.

Q. Dan, from the standpoint of scouting, a guy who's not going to turn 21 until August, to get a pass rusher that young that you feel like you can probably develop long-term, from the scouting perspective, how intriguing is that?

DAN MORGAN: It is, obviously still young guys, guys that are still developing, still growing, working on their arsenal, working on their craft and to get these young guys that are energetic and super motivated to get out there and improve our team and roster, it's exciting.

Q. Dan, you mentioned a few moments ago kind of jokingly that your brain isn't really working right now.

DAN MORGAN: Yeah.

Q. How chaotic did things get in there tonight, even

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allowing you to get both these guys?

DAN MORGAN: I don't think it was chaotic at all. I think we have a really good process. We have a really good group. The communication is great between all of us and that's what you want. You don't want to feel like it's chaotic at all in there and it hasn't felt like that at all throughout the whole draft process and I think it's a testament to my staff and Dave's staff and the communication and just everybody working together towards a common goal.

Q. Chaotic may not have been the right word, but how would you describe just the range of emotions? Because you mentioned at one point you didn't know if you could get both, so how that played out.

DAN MORGAN: Yeah, I think the one word is just excitement. To be able to go and get your words and guys that you have been watching forever and that you've really grown to enjoy watching and just kind of see them play. Both these guys are fun to watch, they're great players and to be able to get them, I mean, we're so excited.

Q. You were a little noncommittal in Steve's question about Clowney. Can you expand on what your going through with him?

DAN MORGAN: Yeah, I think it's not just him. Just the roster as a whole, we're just kind of working through things. We're working through the draft, we're focused on that. We're going to reassess it after the draft and go from there.

Q. Dan, obviously you want to get impact players in the early rounds. Either of these edge rusher guys are both guys you feel are capable of starting the rookie year?

DAN MORGAN: I think it's up to them. I think they have the ability but everything has to be earned and as coach alluded to.

DAVE CANALES: Yeah and I think if Nic and Princely were here talking, they have high aspirations for themselves but for us to put those types of expectations on them, the goal is for them to first and foremost get in the building, learn what we're doing, learn the calls, the techniques. There's a discipline that goes with playing this game and so I don't think they're naive to the fact that there's a lot of hard work in front of them and that's hopefully what we create and I just want to mention Brandt is not up here with us but Brandt Tilis is -- having Brandt right here sitting next to Dan and going through different trade scenarios and working with Justin and Eric Eager and just running through the simulations and what it would take and just kind of the speed in which they do that, I

haven't been in a lot of draft rooms for the whole time, but I just know it makes our decisions so much cleaner where we have the percentages of who's going to be available to hold tight. I'm probably panicking the most, even though it's not really visible. I'm probably panicking the most oh, he's still there! They're the ones that have the grasp of history, the grasp of all the probabilities and so that part just kind of sets me at ease, take a deep breath, okay, let this thing come to us and running through hundreds of simulations just kind of using mock simulators and all that, if you were to tell me that we were going to get T-Mac and then Nic Scourton and then Princely, I mean, I didn't get that not once in any of my mocks in the first three picks so I'm just like ecstatic right now. I'm really excited about these guys.

Q. Those guys, the edge rushers among a group that you guys had pinpointed and you saw a lot of edge rushers going off in the second round getting the point...

DAN MORGAN: Yeah, I think as a whole it's a good class of outside line backers/rushers. These are guys that when you watch the tape. The tape stands out. To be able to get these two guys, just like Dave said, it's really exciting.

Q. Dan, the inside linebackers and safeties and some of these positions, end corners have kind of dropped in this class. How confident do you feel like you can address needs like that on day three?

DAN MORGAN: Yeah, I think that type of stuff runs in our favor. Obviously we want to address not just edge rushers and receiver, but there's other spots that we need to add to and I think it matches up pretty good with our needs.

Q. Dan, Princely talked a lot at the Senior Bowl about wanting to make sure he could get to a double-digit sack season before he left to the NFL and he changed a lot about his game to make that happen. As you watched his tape, did you see that progression and what does that kind of tell you about him?

DAN MORGAN: Yeah, I think he was working on his craft and you can tell on tape he got better and better as a pass rusher in terms of using his hands and kind of developing a toolbox and he bends about as good as new rusher that I've watched this year. To get him, the speed he brings off the edge, his ability to bend. He's got a wicked spin move. He's got a long arm. He can do a lot of cool things. I think he's just going to get better and better.

Q. Going into tonight, was that edge position going to be a focal point for you guys?

DAN MORGAN: Yeah, I felt like it was. It just so happened to match up with our board and, hey, we have these guys high and they were still there and that's why you saw us go and trade up for them. We wanted to capitalize on that.

Q. What about for either of you getting both of them out of the SEC and what that meant, if it meant anything?

DAVE CANALES: I mean it's great. It's great to see them against some NFL competition. All of them getting their shot against Will Campbell certainly matters. You watched them battle against the best and just watching them do it in different ways, too. You got more of a compact built bowl with the spin and the high motor there and Princely and all the things that Dan talked about and to see them to continue to refine their craft against a really high level of competition was really cool for us.

Q. How much did EJ and AC kind of play into today as far as identifying those two guys?

DAN MORGAN: Yeah, again, it's a collaborative effort between the scouts, the coaches, all of us just communicating and coming up with the guys that fit our scheme and fit our culture, so, you know. We're all working together and it worked out good.

Q. T-Mac was telling us today about how Bryce lobbied for him. Can you elaborate on what that is like for Bryce to do that? Because he doesn't like a guy that would just walk in and pump his fist or do anything. How would you describe him doing that?

DAN MORGAN: I think a lot of it is just, like, the communication part of just talking to Bryce, talking to the players in general and of course I'm going to take Bryce's recommendation on a guy that he was out there throwing with and he had intimate knowledge of what he looked like and of course I'm going to pick his brain and get his thoughts and Bryce is a big part of this organization, so I'm glad we communicated and we got it done.

Q. We didn't ask you guys last night about T-Mac's comments that resurfaced from a couple years ago about he didn't watch film. Is that something y'all addressed with him and were you satisfied with his answer?

DAVE CANALES: I never brought it up. We just met him, we put it on the board, we talked to him. He's really sharp, you know. We felt like this was a guy that could come in and learn and do the things we're going to ask him to do and we ask our receivers to move around quite a bit in

different formations and all that and we felt really confident he can do that. And just like... I think I mentioned it before but if you just watch his craftsmanship and the way he goes about the game, he works at it. You don't just -- that stuff doesn't just happen, the details and the technique and all. Not really something that played?

Q. Where do you fellow like right now the tight end position is maybe an area might have thought about addressing in the draft or maybe still are? Where do you guys feel tight end is at right now?

DAVE CANALES: I feel good about our group right now. Again, all of these positions as we have a bunch of picks left so every single position we're going to try to add good players there to challenge the room. The central theme of our whole deal is competition and when we throw competition at something, you get the best out of everybody so we're going to try to challenge as many positions as we can.

Q. Dave, when T-Mac was here today and you got to watch him and Bryce meet up and chitchat for a while. As a head coach, what is it like to just kind of watch that first interaction and what it's going to mean for your team?

DAVE CANALES: Yeah, there's a me to you factor to this sport when it comes to the pass game and it is about time on task. It's about throwing, but it's also about chemistry. It's about feeling like you have a connection with somebody. I think back to there was that crazy throw that Bryce had to Tommy Tremble up up the sideline on a third and long, almost like it was designed, they just kind of knew and it's just about spending time with each other and his body language said he's going up, I'm going to throw it now and I think any little touch they can have, any little connection they can have, it finds a way to make itself visible on the field and you can feel that chemistry and that's what we hope happens.

Q. Dan, have you guys made a decision on Iggy's fifth year yet?

DAN MORGAN: No, we haven't. Once the draft's over, we'll get together and make a decision pretty quickly.

MODERATOR: All right, thank you.

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