

**ARIZONA CARDINALS
HEAD COACH KEN WHISENHUNT (KW) AND
GENERAL MANAGER ROD GRAVES (RG)
DISCUSSING THE FIRST DAY OF THE DRAFT**

Opening Statement:

(RG): “With our second round pick we selected Calais Campbell, defensive end, out of the University of Miami.”

(KW): “He is a junior coming out who had a fantastic sophomore year and didn’t quite play as well this year but we still feel like he is a very good player. He was a good high school player coming out of Colorado. I believe he had 67 sacks in high school and 19 over the last three years at Miami, so he is a guy that has some skill getting to the passer, along with the fact that he is six foot eight, 290 pound guy which are hard enough to find. We were very excited that he was there.”

On if he is guy that has great athletic skills but needs to refine technique:

(KW): “I think that is the case with any player that is coming out. Fortunately for us and fortunately for me, the Bidwills have allowed us to hire very good coaches and they did a great job with that last year. Another thing which I think is important is that he going to have a couple of good players in front of him in (Darnell) Dockett and (Antonio) Smith who can help show him how to play that position and also compete in that position, and to me that is how you become a better football team. We are excited about that from that standpoint.”

(RG): “He is at a position where I just don’t think you have enough of those type of players. Last year we ran into a situation where depth became a concern across our defensive line. So the more and more we thought about it, obviously he was the highest rated player on our board, we just felt like adding to that group. When you have a player with his tools and athletic skills, it was just too tough to pass him up.”

On why you think his production dropped off in his final year:

(RG): “You never know all of the factors that contribute to that. You have to take into consideration that the program was not quite as strong as it has been in previous years. Who knows if that was a residual effect, but we do know this for a fact-he has excellent tools and he has demonstrated in the past what he is capable of doing and it will be our job to get it out of him on a consistent basis, which we feel confident we can do.

On not taking a running back and if this was just a best player on the board:

(KW): “The first thing was that he was the highest rated player on our board at that time. It was a position that is very difficult to find in the NFL-anytime you can build depth, have an eventual starter at that position, especially where we picked in the second round. I think like Rod (Graves) said it is very difficult to pass those guys up and for that we are excited.”

On if he is more a pass rusher than a guy who can play the run:

(KW): “I don’t think so, I think he can do both and I think he has very long arms, in fact I believe I heard someone say he has the longest arms of anyone in the draft. I think we do a good job and Coach (Ron) Aiken does a great job of working on leverage with our players and anybody who has that type of arm extension can move blockers back if they are using the right technique. Hopefully he will be able to get his hands up on the pass rush and knock some balls down, which is another thing when you have a guy who is that height. Just like in the first round when you have a guy who is a physical talent for that position, which we feel like Calais is, where we are picking in the second round, especially with the high grades we had on him, we were excited to get him.”

(RG): “I also believe that as I suspected prior to the draft, that there would be a run on running backs early and then there will be an opportunity probably a little later in the draft to pick up on some guys that may not bring everything to the table that you want in a total back, but they can certainly help our football team and we felt like those opportunities would be there for us at some point if we chose to go in that direction. When you have the opportunity for a big athletic defensive lineman, those guys tend not to last very long, and we just felt that was the direction that we needed to go.”

On if they feel they got a steal because of his ability:

(RG): “To be able to select him at the 50th pick when he was inside our top 30, I think it certainly makes us excited about an opportunity to coach a player like that.”

On if there is a chance they would trade back up into the second round:

(RG): “I don’t believe we will do that today. In fact I am as anxious to get home as you are.”

(KW): “This new thing (new draft timing) has moved along very well today. I have been very impressed with that.”

On if they are going to restack the board before the third round:

(RG): “When you say restack the board, we are sticking with the same board we have. In past years when we set our top 120, that has usually taken us right through the draft. We will continue to work on that board tomorrow. It is pretty much set for us and we will make determinations based on the circumstances that are prevalent tomorrow, but we will be working off the same board.”

On how they feel about having so many defensive linemen in competition at camp and possibly getting Campbell time in sub packages to rush the passer:

(KW): “Calais is obviously a good first and second down player where he is targeted. We will have to see how he competes against Chike (Okeafor), against Travis (LaBoy), against Bert(rand Berry), against those guys as far as getting third down rush. When you talk about the position he is going to play and if you go to a sub rusher, he can maybe move inside and still have that pass rush ability from that stand point. That only makes us better if he shows that he can do that. Now when you talk about playing teams in our division or even teams in the league where they are going more three and four wide

receiver sets, then when you have a big guy that can force pressure on the quarterback from the inside, shutdown the throwing lanes with a big wing span, it definitely helps. Also bring pressure on first and second down from the outside. That is one of the factors that makes him attractive. Now obviously he has shown he can do that, but doing it consistently and competing with our guys that we have on the field right now is what is what is going to be a big factor.”

On what the reaction of the fans at the draft party was:

(KW): “They were excited; it seemed almost like a home game with the noise that was going on out there. University of Phoenix Stadium was rocking on a Saturday in April, which generates the excitement that we are use to seeing during football season so it really makes you want to get over there and play a game.”

On what are the thoughts going into day two:

(RG): “We will just follow the same path that we have been on and that is to approach it first from the best player available and talk about our needs within that context. If there is a player there that fits a need position and we are not deviating far off that top player, than we will consider that, but we have not run across that case with the last two picks and we decided that these two selections were the better selections for our team.”