

ARIZONA CARDINALS FIFTH-ROUND SELECTION
149th OVERALL
RB TIM HIGHTOWER (TH)-RICHMOND

On how the day has been for him:

(TH): “It seems like it was a long day, but it was all worth it.”

On if he knew the Cardinals had an interest in him:

(TH): “I got a phone call. I had minimal contact with them, but I had a really good conversation with the running backs coach (Maurice Carthon) at my pro day. He let me know exactly how he felt about me and how the organization felt about me, so I got a really good feeling about them from my pro day.”

On playing with a chip on his shoulder because he has not always been highly regarded:

(TH): “Coming out of high school, it was kind of a similar situation. I wasn’t highly recruited. It was always the thing; I had a dream of playing professional football. That’s something I set my mind to. It was the same thing with college, the same approach. I’m just blessed and fortunate to have this opportunity with the Cardinals.”

On if he thinks speed is overblown:

(TH): “I definitely think it is. I don’t think in any way that 40 was a reflection of the type of back that I am. You really can’t define it and put it into a workout. I’m going to work hard, I’m going to be a competitor and I’m going to make everyone else around me better. I’m going to make plays, I’m going to practice hard, work hard and I’m going to help my team win, whatever it takes, whether it’s short yardage, catching the ball, blocking, tackling, whatever it is. I’m willing to do whatever it takes. So, I don’t think that can be measured by numbers, combine stats or anything like that.”

On why his numbers went up so much in his senior season:

(TH): “First of all, I’ve got to give God all credit. It’s a blessing for me to even have this opportunity. But, mostly, it’s just my teammates. [Wide receiver] Arman Shields (a fourth-round selection by Oakland), he’s pushed me from the time I came in. He said it was his goal and his dream to play professional football as well. He’s been such a hope and inspiration just to see him battle through everything. I had great coaches, my running back coach, Coach [Charles] Bankins and my strength coach, Coach [Brandon] Hourigan. He (Hourigan) worked with me in the off-season and through this season, and transformed me, helped me become more flexible, faster and stronger. Coach Bankins, he just worked with me in learning the game of football and the position of running back. It was a collective effort for me. From my coaches to my teammates, everything combined just translated to a great season.”