



FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2011

Vikings Second-Round Draft Pick Kyle Rudolph

Q: Were you surprised at all when the Vikings called?

A: Definitely a little bit surprised. I met with them at the combine but it was one of my 15 meetings I had at the combine. I was just watching, hoping my name would be called and I got the phone call and I'm super excited and I can't wait to be a Viking.

Q: How much concern did teams express injury-wise?

A: The hamstring checked out completely 100%. It was something that I got fixed over six months ago and by the time my pro day came around I was 100%. The MRI shows it's 100% healed and all the doctors dug and prodded on it and they can't find anything.

Q: How exactly did that happen?

A: I had a pulled hamstring and kept trying to grind through it and eventually over time, I did it originally in July, I tore it off the bone in October. As time went on I tore it completely.

Q: If you could go back, would you have sat out longer?

A: Yeah, I definitely learned a lesson from it. Now I would take the time and miss a few games instead of trying to be a tough guy and grind through it. I missed a couple plays against Stanford when I tore the first tendon and then ended up missing the last quarter of the Pittsburgh game. Looking back, it would probably be smarter and better for my leg if I would have just taken some time off when I did it originally instead of trying to grind through it.

Q: Have you looked at the Vikings roster with three tight ends entering the final years of their contracts?

A: Yeah, they have the three veteran guys there. I have a lot of respect for those guys and I'm excited to learn from them. Like I said, I can't be more thrilled to be a Viking and I have a lot of respect for those three veterans and hopefully I can learn a thing or two from them and play as long as they have.

Q: What do you know about Christian Ponder?

A: I met Christian at the combine. He seems like a great kid. Obviously he has a lot of physical ability and I'm excited to hopefully have long careers together.

Q: When were you expecting to go in the draft?

A: I was under the impression that it was more likely than not that I would go yesterday but my dream has come true and I'm in the NFL now. Like I said, I'm just excited to be a Viking.

Q: Was it tough last night when you didn't get picked or were you expecting it because of your hamstring?

A: It was definitely tough because my hamstring is not an issue anymore. It's something that is part of the past and it was a freak injury and it doesn't happen that often in football if ever. It was something that I got fixed and it's not a problem anymore so I was definitely disappointed but I have my family and friends around to keep me positive and we're really excited.