

April 16, 2026

**General Manager Adam Peters &
Assistant General Manager Lance Newmark**

Opening Statement:

AP: “Good afternoon everybody. Thanks for coming. I appreciate it. Exciting time of year, draft, favorite time of year for sure, except for the season and the Super Bowl and those types of things [laughs]. But really exciting, a lot of work is put into it. I think I probably say the same thing every year, but really the cool thing about the draft, it's the whole building. You know, it's every single person that you see that works over there and works behind us here. It's truly one of those things where everybody has a hand in it. So, it's just really fun to be a part of. Couple things, we just did our local Pro Day, 30 visits, which I'm sure we'll get asked about here. But those things, while really fun to talk about, they're a heavy load and a lot of work, so a lot of people put a lot of time into that. I want to thank everybody for that and those things went off really, really well. Really valuable tools for us. In terms of, I just want to highlight a few people that, you know, I think everybody has done a great job, but a few people have really stood out, and I think I'll start with our football solutions team. Those guys, they're developers. They make the whole thing go, the whole computer system. It's amazing. It's just grown by leaps and bounds in the last couple years since we've been here. But [Director of Football Solutions] Seenu Tulluri and [Football Solutions Engineer] Mark [Wright], I just want to thank those guys and continue the good work and we're going to be really, really good. We're already really good and we're going to be really good in that department as we continue to go and then with [Former Washington Director of College Scouting] Tim Gribble leaving, left a void and it's a tough time of year to do that losing your college director. But just want to thank some of the folks in our building that really stepped up. [Director of Player Personnel] David Blackburn, [Personnel Executive] Scott Fitterer, [Director of Process Innovation] Cody Cejda did a really nice job with our draft meetings, taking up a heavy load there and this fine gentleman to my right here, Lance really just thank you guys for all that. And then really exciting about the uniforms. Really, really cool. I just got the new helmet in my office. It looks way better. It's really cool. So, thank you to our ownership group for really having that vision to bring that back. It's just, it's where it belongs, I think. And it's really cool. And then certainly [President] Mark Clouse and his team for bringing that vision to life and, the folks who work in this building and over in College Park, [Chief Marketing Officer] Patrick Arthur is a big, big person to thank there. He's done a great job. He's done a great job working with us, getting our opinion on those things, working with our equipment guys and [Co-Equipment Manager] Justin [Brooks] and [Co-Equipment Manager] Drew [Curls] to get all that done. So, it looks really cool, really excited about that. Got the guys in next week and got the draft next week. So, it's a fun time of year. Let's roll.”

On which draft picks will look good in the new helmets:

AP: “All of them. All six of them, or more or less.”

On if he has a better sense of what will happen at this year's draft compared to previous

years:

AP: “No, so two years ago kind of knew that one pretty good. Last year, didn't know, you know, there's a lot of space in between one and 29. But, this year, I mean, we talked about it, I think a little bit in Phoenix, but it's hard to really understand or figure out where everything's going to go, where everybody's going to go, and man, you hear something new every day, right? Really everybody's, nobody's telling the truth. But what we do is we trust our board, trust our evaluations, and be ready to pick or do whatever we need to do with that pick. And so, I do know this, like, if we're sitting there at seven and we do pick I know we'll get a good player.”

On what would make a good trade offer:

AP: “Yeah, I think with any trade, whether it's at seven or anywhere, it's who's available, you know, what, how far back are you going? What are you getting for it? Who will be, who do you think will be available wherever you're going back to, you know? And obviously you certainly can't predict that. It's a little easier to predict at the top of the draft than it is like in the second or third round. You don't really know who's going to be available. There's a lot more variance at that point. But, all those things that factor in and just, you know, there's someone, like last year, we got a lot of offers, when we picked [T] Josh [Conerly Jr.], and there's a lot of offers and we said before the draft, if Josh is there, we're going to pick him. And certainly happy we did that. And so that's a window into kind of how we look at it. But if that wasn't the case, then we would await all those other things that I just talked about.”

On if he anticipates the team will pick at seven:

AP: “Yeah, certainly have to be ready to do that. I would say more likely than not, that would happen. But you never know. You never know and it'll depend on who's on the board, if a team wants to move up, and then we have to decide if we want to do that. But I would say more likely than not, we'd stay and pick. I don't foresee us moving up, but moving back just depends on the circumstances. But we're not, like, I don't want to say we're not actively trying to move back, you know, we're always assessing our options and making sure we're ready, and then understanding who's going to be there at certain positions and certain spots towards the middle to the later part of the first round. But just being prepared for that, but not really actively trying to get out of that at all.”

On changes to the draft room process after reflecting on the past two drafts:

AP: “Yeah, I think you're always evolving. You're always trying to learn and get better. I think this year's a little unique because of new coaches and so new coaches, new schemes. So, we've adjusted the draft board accordingly because of that, just positionally, but they're not big changes. They're just minor changes, putting guys into maybe different slots than they would've been in the old schemes. But, you're always trying to get better. Certainly, you're always trying to find new processes, whether it's how you meet, how you crosscheck yourself, how you use analytics and all everything else that's coming along, all the new technology, trying to incorporate that as much as possible. But no wholesale changes.”

On draft prospects that would be good for Defensive Coordinator Daronte Jones' scheme for the upcoming season:

AP: “That could be tricky, [laugh], it'll step in it there. I think it's always the same, you know, you want to try to find a person that impacts your team, and when you're picking in the top 10, find someone that impacts your team right away. And then for the long run and defensively specifically, that could be anywhere on the field. And there's a lot of guys that will be possibly be there in

different levels of the defense, really every position, quite frankly, that can really impact us in a real positive way. So, we're fortunate in that way, and it just depends on who's there and who we think can be the most impactful, not only in 2026, but beyond. So, I don't think there's anything, especially when you're picking in the top 10 there's not too many guys that aren't scheme fits, you know, they're all pretty good. So, I think it's just picking the most impactful guy that can help us win games.”

On if the new uniforms have impacted the fanbase’s feelings leading up to the draft:

AP: “Yeah, I can't speak for all the fans, but I think they feel the same way I feel. And] I'm really excited about it and it juices you up. Just watching the highlights. I was watching [RB Jacory] Bill [Croskey-Merritt] against Dallas when we were wearing those uniforms and he's going however we want, 70 some odd yards, 75 yards and that just felt right. You know, it felt really cool. And they did a great job with the new uniforms. I thought even the alternates are really cool too. So, I can't imagine that the fans aren't juiced up. I was really pumped up to wear those last year for those three or four games and I think it's a step in the right direction and our ownership group and business side is hitting the right notes on that. And it's really cool. So, I can tell you, I feel really great about it and really excited. I love looking at this helmet. It's really a lot better than the last one. I gave the old ones to my kids, I was like, ‘You guys can have these.’ [laughs].”

On the pressure of having a top 10 pick:

AP: “Yeah. You obviously you don't ever [enjoy] the circumstances to get this pick. You never want to be in it. And obviously that sucked. But it's a great opportunity for us. It really is. It's a great opportunity to get better and to get an impactful player. So, it is a big pick, but I think all of our picks are big, and every single round you can hit a home run. And so, this one, I think the chances are a little bit greater, so you really want to make sure you don't make a mistake or you don't blow it, I guess. But it's a great opportunity and we've done a lot of work. Our scouting staff's done an incredible job digging up everything on all these guys and we feel really, really confident in our evaluations of all the players. I feel really good about it.”

On how having a top 10 pick impacts division trades:

AP: “No, I don't think it impacts it at all. Obviously, I think there's more scrutiny with that, but it certainly doesn't change. You know, the thought process is always, is this the right decision for our team? And if that's the case, then we'll do it. And it doesn't really matter what the team is, we got to beat them on Sundays and Mondays and Wednesdays and Thursdays and Fridays [laughs] regardless. So, you know, to me that doesn't make it a huge difference there. It's just whatever is best for our team.”

On if rumors surrounding draft picks has become worse than in previous years:

AP: “I thought about that and this is how I feel today, I might change my mind tomorrow, but right now I'm just focusing on us and making sure we have all our t's crossed and i's dotted and all that and making sure we'll be ready for every scenario regardless of what's going on. So, to listen to a rumor and it changes tomorrow and changes the next day. We're just going to be prepared for everything and not worry about, ‘Oh, if this guy comes off the board or this guy comes off the board.’ Just be ready. ‘Okay, this is what we want.’ And if that's not the case then and if not then, and so on and so forth. So, that's interesting you asked that question because I was just thinking about that this morning. It's like we just got to figure out what we need to do for ourselves, and we can't control what's above us. So, how I feel today. Ask me again tomorrow. I think there's a lot more information out there and there's just a lot more stuff everywhere, as you guys know. Which

makes it even easier just kind of easier to just ignore because you don't really know.”

On if depth at a position in a draft class effects how the team picks:

AP: “Yeah, I think sometimes you overthink that, especially when you're picking a seven, you're trying to worry about the next pick. Just kind of get that right and then see what comes next. It is a long wait. It really sucks because all these good players go off the board and you're like, come on. It takes forever, but we want to get that pick right so I don't want to overthink it and try to kind of play like 3D chess and hope that because you never know what's going to happen. And so, really nail that pick, get the right guy for our team and then see what comes next.”

On the allotted time per pick changing to eight minutes:

AP: “Yeah, I think because a lot of times there's a lot of phone calls that come in, last year there's a lot of phone calls that came in, the year before no phone calls, but I think it makes you kind of do a little more work on the front end. So, talking to other GM's on the front end, if there is a deal, which you might not ever make it, but at least getting the parameters so you're not hemming and hawing in those eight minutes trying to work out a deal. You kind of have the parameters ahead of time if that is something you would do, and then very well may well say, no, we're not going to do it at that time, but at least you know so you're not starting from scratch. So, that's probably, to me, the more of a difference this year is you kind of just do the work ahead of time, which you already do, but this one may be a little more intentional.”

On positional value being different at seven versus 29:

AP: “No, I think just finding the best player that can help your team the most and regardless of position, I think. And I think that applies kind of everywhere. So, every position, everywhere you're in the draft, so you just get too deep in a positional value you kind of get lost in who's going to really be able to help your team.”

On how many first-round trades he is expecting across the league:

AP: “I'm not really good at predicting those types of things [laughs], but I don't think there's going to be a ton right around where we pick. I would probably think there'd be more towards the end of the first round, middle to the end. But it just kind of depends on how the board falls, but people start getting antsy and they want to do some things and so you just have to be ready for everything.”

On what a successful draft looks like:

AP: “Yeah, just getting a lot of Commanders, getting a lot of Commanders that we know can come in and help us and add to the team and add to the competition and so however that looks, however we do it. But just getting the right types of guys, the guys that fit what we do and how we play. And so, that's what we're always looking for and that's true for any draft.”

On the types of mock drafts the team performs to prepare for the draft:

AP: “Yeah, so we monitor all the mock drafts. I think let's start with that. We monitor everything. The folks I talked about earlier, Seenu and his team, and then our R&D department does a great job of really getting all that stuff into our system. And so, we can kind of have an idea of where guys are getting mocked, where guys are seen around the league, to the media, to the draft experts in the media. And that gives you an idea kind of where people are thought of publicly, which a lot of times is different than what it looks like in your building. So, it kind of gives you a different perspective. So, you're not so biased that you have a guy too low or too high, you kind of understand where

maybe the league or others think of him. So, we use all that information and it keeps getting better and better. The guys are doing a great job of putting that together. And then in terms of our like mock drafts, we'll run a lot of simulations, we'll run a lot of simulated trades, if this happens then what do we do? If this team calls, what do we do? What does that look like? Do we want to do that? Do we want to go back that far? Who's going to be there and all that. So, all that stuff really starts happening like right now. We finished the draft meetings and now it's the scenarios and those types of things. So, that's what we will shift to. But yeah, that happens a lot. It's a good question."

On how Newmark has grown in his current position:

LN: "I think it's always learning a new way of doing things. I've been through several different regimes and several different ways of coming to decisions and putting up boards and things like that. So, learning how Adam operates and how he wants to operate and he talked about earlier, evolving. So, we kind of build a foundation and then build from that on. I think just my time with him here, it's definitely been a new approach in certain aspects and there's been parts of it that have been very new for me. And I've really embraced everything he's wanted to try to do and also given him my feedback on my experiences and my history. So, I think we're constantly trying to improve and build our process as good as it can be. And I think we're working towards being really good and we still have some work to do, but I feel like every year we're making progress and making incremental steps towards being where we want to be in the end."

On how free agency will affect how the team will use the seventh pick:

AP: "Yeah, I think we talked about this a little bit in Arizona too, really felt good about that and that's what we wanted to do coming out of free agency was make it so we're not having to pick for need or having to reach for a certain position or player. And so, I think we all feel in the building, we feel really good about where we're at. Certainly, we have a lot of time to add, we have the draft and a ton of time after that to add before we start playing games, so we feel really good about being able to pick the best player available."

On how the team weighs players currently on the roster when making picks:

AP: "Yeah, all that factors in, it really does. So, who's coming up, who's a free agent this year, who's a free agent next year, so on and so forth. So, understanding that, understanding the big picture, not just in 2026, but after that those definitely impact the decisions there too."

On looking for athleticism when making draft picks:

AP: "Yeah, I mean you always try to pick the best athletes. I think that's a big part of it for sure. I think everybody's trying to do that. You don't want to get a bunch of guys like me running around there [laughs], but really that's part of it. But part of it's the fit, part of it's the fit in the building, the fit with the scheme, just how we talk about being Commanders and a lot of those guys, obviously the better players hopefully are better athletes, and they have some more upside, I think too."

On if either of the coordinators have made a case for a certain player:

AP: "Not, not yet. But I will say it's been awesome working with them, and both of those guys have been really cool. And I've said this before and Lance can attest to this too, but really great, really collaborative, really helpful in getting us all, a whole scouting staff to understand what we're trying to do offensively and defensively. And if there's something that's not clear, really doing a good job of crystallizing that and been really involved in all these draft meetings and really active participants and so the process has been really good with those guys and really excited about moving forward both in the draft process but also as coaches really, really impressed by both of

them. But there haven't been any campaigns yet, but there's still a lot of time.”

LN: “Yeah, they've both been super cooperative with our staffs and the collaboration between our scouts and the coaching staff and those two in particular has been great. They've put a lot of time into this draft process, and they've really helped us to understand their vision, and we've tried to explain to them what's available and what's out there. And the level of collaboration and cooperation has been outstanding with those two specifically.”