



ROCK CHALK JAYHAWK
LES MILES SIGNING DAY QUOTES
// 2019 KANSAS FOOTBALL

HEAD COACH LES MILES

Those guys that set on the back wall and did recruiting as a senior analyst or as an analyst, we got great effort and great energy from those folks. It made a difference.

Guys that we took on offense are going to be really immediate helpers. The guys that we took on defense, especially at the corner and the linebacker spots, I think you'll find we're much better there than we've been.

I think blame this building. This building right now is a very functioning team, whether it's recruiting, whether it's weight strength, whether it's everybody in this building recruiting well. We're excited that this class is going to be a real capable class.

Any questions?

Q. Every player that you have announced so far is from the high school level. Why is that important for you?

LES MILES: The high school player gets four years, okay? It's pretty simple. The junior college guy, it's two, sometimes three, but more than likely two.

What we're looking for is that guy that's going to be able to make a commitment over time and improve, get involved with the system, stay with the system, and come out the other end a much better player.

Q. Does it take some patience to stay with high school guys? Do you ever feel an urge to go get that juco kid? Is it hard?

LES MILES: It depends on how severe the need is. If there's a guy that fits you specifically in something, maybe a quarterback, maybe a wide receiver, some real specific skill that you have to have, that you don't have on your team, we understand.

But we're not building that way. That doesn't appeal to us. What appeals to us is the opportunity for that guy to come on campus, improve, take steps, take time.

Two years, he's probably played at least a piece of one of those two, then now he's got two solid years left to play. That is to me the recipe for success here.

Q. How important is it to get a lot of these guys signed in December as opposed to waiting until February? Do you like this relatively new format?

LES MILES: The new format is to me an advantage. You go to work to sign December 18th. Now whatever you didn't get, you now are looking to attract and go get. There are good players in the second signing period.

What's happened is what used to be the first and only signing period is now the second signing period. You'll have the opportunity to sign on the 18th of December, then now February as well.

They're going to have opportunity to play. They're going to have the curriculum that they need to study. I think that they would much rather make that decision now than wait another three weeks.

Q. As a coach, what is the ideal number? What would you ideally like to have in December?

LES MILES: I'd like to have exactly who I wanted in December, every December, first of all. But if there's an offensive tackle that's not necessarily signed, he's looking for a spot where they can get a great education and an opportunity at being coached by all our coaches, et cetera, then we'll certainly entertain that second spot.

I like the first spot to know where you're at. Right now we could possibly want two players, then maybe not. There's some guys that we have signed, and you don't know that they've signed, and we can't let it out because it's their responsibility to make that determination, not ours, okay?

If we had an extra two, we'd be shopping for a very specific style of team.

Q. Are there guys that you all signed today that you feel like you need to come in and contribute next year, guys that you need to be on that two-deep, make an impact next season?

LES MILES: Yeah, when we looked and recruited, we looked for those guys that could come in and make really immediate impact.

With that being said, your offensive line, two big tackles, a guy that could play guard or tackle, and you've got a center. We're going to need those guys.

We probably need more if we came to a position where we were looking at some good tackle style guys. We'd like to do that as we come forward, as we go into the next signing period. Or maybe some defensive linemen. We really would like to latch onto a couple guys that could run, had the ability to play multiple positions, et cetera.

Q. Is there anybody on this list who was a particularly dramatic story in getting him to sign, particularly satisfying signing? Is there a person we can highlight in this?

LES MILES: Yeah, there are a number of stories. I'll tell you the Karon Prunty story. He's a 50-meter champion in the state of Virginia, he's a 100-meter runner, got great speed, toughness. He's a wonderful man, okay?

We went through the school and we found out there's not a guy in that school, not a female teacher, who just doesn't think the world of the guy as a student, okay?

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