



Hudsonville native Tyson DeVree hopes to stick with Cleveland Browns after coaching change

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By **Brian VanOchten** | The Grand Rapids Press

The chances of former Hudsonville High School and Western Michigan University standout Tyson DeVree making the Cleveland Browns' roster next season just got a little better.

DeVree, 26, who was signed Jan. 7 to a reserve/future contract, could benefit from Cleveland's purge of six veteran players last week that saved the team \$17 million in salary and bonuses in 2011.



Tyson DeVree

The Browns cut loose former Detroit Lions nose tackle Shaun Rogers, veteran linebackers Eric Barton and David Bowens, defensive end Kenyon Coleman, offensive tackle John St., Clair and tight end Robert Royal.

DeVree, a 6-foot-6, 260-pound tight end, had been signed to Cleveland's practice squad Dec. 5.

"The whole coaching staff has changed," DeVree said of the rebuilding effort taking place under new coach Pat Shurmur. "I'm hoping to stick around and make the best of it. It sort of puts everyone on a level playing field.

"I won't be the only new guy around here."

DeVree said he has worked to add some bulk to his frame.

"I'll report to the Browns in mid-to-late March, depending on how the labor situation works out," he said.

"I'm going to try to make the team. My body feels good. I'm really healthy. I'm up to 260 pounds.

"I'm looking to be a blocking tight end as well as a receiving tight end," he added. "I'm learning you have to be the complete package if you want to stick around for a while in this league. I am happy where I'm at."

DeVree has spent time in the NFL with the Buffalo Bills and New England Patriots.

He spent this past season with the Hartford Colonials of the United Football League. He caught 18 passes for

173 yards and three touchdowns while getting a chance to further develop his skills.

"It was a benefit playing in the UFL. You get to play in the games instead of just standing on the sideline," he said. "It's been a little bouncing back and forth with different teams. I'm keeping the fight going."

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