



August 18, 2011

Afternoon Update

Brayton hits ground running with Colts



Carolina Panthers defensive end Tyler Brayton watches on the sidelines against the Atlanta Falcons during a game on Sept. 20, 2009. John Amis / The Associated Press

(<http://heraldbulletin.com/sports/x1770585174/Brayton-hits-ground-running-with-Colts>)

Defensive lineman drawn to Colts' winning ways

By George Bremer

The Herald Bulletin (<http://heraldbulletin.com>)

ANDERSON, Ind. — Defensive lineman Tyler Brayton got something of a rough introduction to the Indianapolis Colts on Tuesday night.

For his first practice, the newly signed free agent was asked to suit up in full pads in front of an estimated 9,000 fans at Macholtz Stadium.

Perhaps it's a testament to Brayton's competitiveness that the former first-round pick appeared to love it.

"It was neat," he said after Wednesday's afternoon workout. "I was a little rusty. I hadn't played football all offseason because of obviously the labor situation, and then (I had) just to walk in here and be full pads ready to go. But, I don't know. I like starting that way. That's how we start every year in training camp."

Brayton has been under the spotlight since his first day in the NFL.

The Oakland Raiders selected him with the last pick of the first round of the 2003 draft. That's the selection the team received from the Tampa Bay Buccaneers as compensation for signing away head coach Jon Gruden.

Brayton was the second of two first-rounders for the Raiders that year. The other cornerback Nnamdi Asomugha, who became a four-time Pro Bowler before signing agent with the Philadelphia Eagles this summer.

Brayton's Raiders career was less celebrated.

He started 31 games and recorded 106 tackles and five sacks in his first two seasons. But in his final three years in Oakland, Brayton started just 16 games with 69 tackles and one sack.

He got a fresh start in 2008 with the Carolina Panthers, but not before briefly considering joining the Colts.

"I took a trip here, and things just didn't quite work out," he said. "But I definitely had a lot of respect from them then, and it just wasn't in the cards."

Brayton was productive with the Panthers. He started 45 of the 46 games he appeared in and posted the two highest sack totals of his career — 4.5 in 2008 and 5 in 2009.

But he went sackless last season, and Carolina let him go on July 29.

He said Wednesday he was more than happy to land in Indianapolis.

"I'm excited about the opportunity," he said. "I mean, shoot, it's the Colts, man. It's a great organization and a great team to play on."

He's barely been in Anderson long enough to introduce himself to his new teammates. So he's not quite ready to define his role with the team. But he's shown the ability in the past to play both defensive tackle and defensive end.

"At Carolina, I played inside and outside," Brayton said. "So I kind of foresee something like that as well here."

Asked what drew him to the Colts, Brayton responded with just one word: Winning.

He said he'll do anything it takes to contribute to the team's success. And he's thankful for the folks in the front office who believed in him enough to put a horseshoe on his helmet.

"It's a tremendous opportunity," he said. "I'm really grateful for my opportunity here, and I look to prove some people right and do my best."

A blue banner advertisement for LasikPlus. On the left, the text "LasikPlus" is in white, with "Imagine your life in focus" underneath. In the center, it says "Schedule your free LASIK exam today" in white, with "SCHEDULE YOUR FREE LASIK EYE EXAM TODAY" and a right-pointing arrow below it. On the right, there is a graphic of two highway shields: one labeled "EAST" with the number "20" and another with the number "2".

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A few minutes with Patrick Williams

Posted By [Eric Williams](#) on August 18, 2011 at 10:54 am  [Share this](#)

The highlight catch

A native of DeSoto, Texas, Patrick Williams is battling for a roster spot in a crowded receiver group.

But he helped himself stand out with a solid performance against San Diego last week, including [a memorable, one-handed catch along the sideline](#) in the second half on a pass from reserve quarterback Charlie Whitehurst.

The play served as a momentum-builder for the University of Colorado product, and he has been a standout in practices so far this week.

"Basically it was a 10-yard stop route," Williams said. "We had been anticipating all week that maybe the corners were going to be jumping on us and pressing on us a lot.

"And to be honest with you, the ball was really out before I was out of my break. And so it was kind of on me really fast, and he kind of had my arm hooked. And so I was just able to get my arm up, had great concentration and was able to pull it in. I was happy to make a play for my team."

Field stretcher

Williams originally was signed by Green Bay as an undrafted rookie free agent in 2009 when Seahawks general manager John Schneider was with the Packers. Seattle added Williams, 6-1, 204 pounds, to the team's practice squad late last year.

"I'm a confident player," said Williams, who was an option quarterback in high school. "I've been doing this since I was a little kid, and I feel like the coaches are maybe gaining a little more confidence in me, and that's always good to have somebody backing you. I'm just grateful and blessed to be out here trying to make this squad.

"I think my personal strengths are I can stretch the field," Williams said. "And I'm very quick in and out of my breaks. I'm a bigger guy. ... I would like to get the ball into my hands quicker so I can make a play. But I'll do whatever the coach asks me to. Whatever I can do to help this team win, I'll do."

Knowing Carroll's culture

Because Williams spent some time with the Seahawks last season under Pete Carroll, he understands the kind of culture and philosophy that the head coach is trying to build in training camp.

"It's like Carroll says, 'Everything is about competition,'" Williams said. "Every day we come out here we're competing -- we're going 100 mph. It's like a game almost, so when we get to game time it's almost slow. So it's second nature to go out and compete with your teammates every day."

Learning from Sidney

Williams, 25, said he's studying teammate Sidney Rice's every move, both on the practice field and in the film room.

"I look up to Sidney, man," Williams said. "I sit next to him in meetings every day and try and pick his brain, try to soak up as much of it as I can. He's been there. He's been around. He's been to the Pro Bowl, and he's been on very successful teams. So I aspire to do that one day, and I want to follow in his footsteps."

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10 Responses to "A few minutes with Patrick Williams"

SeahawkFan12 says:

[August 18, 2011 at 11:23 am](#)

That was a great catch. As a CU graduate, I'm kinda pulling for my fellow Buff. Seems like a solid dude, too.

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klm008 says:

[August 18, 2011 at 11:35 am](#)

Thank you Mr Williams, excellent blog, as always. Does Patrick Williams make the team or maybe the PS?

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Canfan says:

[August 18, 2011 at 11:45 am](#)

It will be interesting to see which of the receivers can be safely signed to the practice squad. Doug Baldwin, Ricardo Lockette, Pat Williams -- only one of them is likely to make the final roster, with Rice, BMW, Tate, Obo and Durham as locks to make the team. I'm rooting for Baldwin to make the roster.

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Dukeshire says:

[August 18, 2011 at 11:50 am](#)

How many confident yet humble athletes are on this team? Goodness sakes...

That throw by CW, into some very tight coverage, was put in the only place it could be, and it really took a great effort by Williams to make the catch. Solid play all around.

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Cowboys' Jason Garrett remains coy on possibility of movi

By DAVID MOORE

Staff Writer

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Published 18 August 2011 11:55 PM

[Andre Gurode](#) is a [Pro Bowl](#) center.

Yet when asked if he would consider moving Gurode to guard, Garrett left the door ajar.

"We'll just wait and see on that," Garrett said. "We're still a work in progress on the offensive line. We're trying some different combinations t couple of guys who have been playing for us."

The Cowboys have already moved [Kyle Kosier](#) from left to right guard in this camp. Rookies David Arkin and Bill Nagy have gotten time a spasms. [Phil Costa](#) looked good at center early in camp while Gurode was recovering from off-season knee surgery.