

**LSU SAFETY JAMAL ADAMS PRESS CONFERENCE**  
**Featuring head coach Ed Orgeron and Jamal Adams**

**HEAD COACH ED ORGERON**

*Opening statement ...*

“Welcome everybody. I want to welcome George and Michelle, Jamal’s parents, great people. I want to welcome you, Coach (Les) Miles. It’s great to see you. You are important to LSU and have been important to all of our lives, and we love you to death. We are here to celebrate Jamal Adams. What a great Tiger! He exemplifies our recruiting process. We want to recruit the state of Louisiana, get the great players of the state of Louisiana to come here and to go out into the neighboring states first and get potential No.1 draft choices. We got that in Jamal. We have more than that in Jamal. We have a Tiger for life. We have a leader. Growing up, watching LSU football, he reminds me of what a Tiger defensive player played like, with tenacity and with speed. He will strike you. He has discipline. He is a team leader. I had a chance to really observe Jamal for two years. I watched him grow. I watched him grow under his coach Corey Raymond, who he loves. I watched him grow under Dave Aranda’s system, which we all love, but most of all I watched him grow to be a man, a man that we can all be proud of. I know his parents can be proud of him. He has great character on and off of the field.

“I waited a while to name him team captain. I waited because I wanted him to be team captain for our biggest game of the year. He did a tremendous job of leadership when we were practicing for the bowl. He did a tremendous job of leadership when we got down to Orlando. We had no problem turning over the leadership of our team to Jamal Adams. We thought that he played one of his best games against Lamar Jackson in what was one of our best defensive efforts all year. It was a tribute to him and the way that he led this football team and led this defense. He is an All-American. He is a two-time All-SEC player. He has 37 games with 26 starts, 209 career tackles, 17.5 tackles for loss, 15 pass breakups, five interceptions and being a part of two top-10 defenses and on and on and on again.

“We all feel that Jamal will not only be an excellent NFL player. We feel that he has All-Pro capabilities and perhaps a Hall-of-Famer one day. I present to you Jamal Adams.”

**SAFETY JAMAL ADAMS**

*Opening statement ...*

“Thank you Coach O for those kind words. After deep prayer and consideration, my family and I have agreed that I will declare for the 2017 NFL Draft. This decision did not come easy, but with the support of my family and the people of LSU, I have been able to develop and grow into an athlete and a man that is prepared to take on this next chapter in my life.

“Before all, I would like to thank God. Without faith and the power of God, none of my opportunities would be possible. I would also like to thank my siblings for supporting me through everything. I would also like to thank my parents who have sacrificed so much for me to have this opportunity. I am grateful for my mother, who has always shown me unconditional love. As for my father, I cannot think of a better role model and example. You being selected as a first round draft pick by the Giants is something that has always fueled me, made me eager to work and made me feel like my goals were tangible because my own father had already achieved them. To Coach Mac, you have trained me since seventh grade, before I even knew I wanted to be a DB. It was you who made me fall in love with the position and molded me into the DB that I am today. Thank you to Carlos and the ... you coached me at a young age and made me physically and mentally tough. I would also like to thank Coach Brazil and Coach Heard for molding me into the type of athlete schools look for to offer scholarships to. Coach Heard, you pushed me to limits I didn’t think I could reach. Since then, I have set higher standards for myself in everything that I do.

“Becoming a student-athlete at LSU has been a life-changing decision. Thank you to Joe Alleva for all that you do for this program. I would also like to thank the training staff, Jack (Marucci), Mama Shelly

(Mullenix), Andy (Barker), for putting my health and safety first as well as having open arms for whatever I needed, even if it was just to talk. Thank you to our equipment staff as well as Doug (Aucoin) and the video staff. To Coach Moffitt and Eric (Donoval), thank you for always pushing me. I have become a better football player by the work that I have put in the weight room and the lessons I have learned from you guys. I would also like to thank Coach Miles for the opportunity to come to LSU and be a Tiger. To Coach (Bradley Dale) Peveto, thank you for allowing my first start at LSU to be on special teams. You introduced me to college football. Chief (John Chavis), thanks for allowing me to get my first plays in as a true freshman. Coach (Kevin) Steele, thank you for stepping in for Chief and letting me be free and blitz. To Coach (Dave) Aranda, thank you for teaching me to be a smarter football player and being the first DC to never scream at me. To Coach Raymond, I can't thank you enough for molding me into the player that I am today, showing me what it takes to excel as a DB. Coach O, I remember when you recruited me at USC when you told me I needed to be a Trojan. I learned that everything happens for a purpose, and I am grateful that you were able to be my head coach and that we ended up together. You are family now. We are both forever LSU.

"Thank you to my teammates for allowing me to create unforgettable memories and bonds that cannot be broken. To my DBU family, I love you, and I am happy to be a part of a brotherhood that cannot be torn apart. To all of my fans and LSU family, I could not imagine representing a better school or fan base. Each of you pushed me and served as my motivation every day. I hope that I can make you proud as I start the next chapter in my life. I wouldn't change my experience as a Tiger for anything in the world. Thank you for all that you have given me. I love y'all, and Geaux Tigers!"

***On who helped to influence his decision ...***

"Hands down, my parents. I can't ask for a better group, couple, like my father and my mom. They have sacrificed so much for me. Things weren't always handed to me like everybody seems to think. They pushed me so much, and I can't thank them enough."

***On the difficulty of his decision to enter the NFL Draft ...***

"It was definitely tough. I wasn't that guy that googled my name and looked at NFL drafts and mock drafts. I wasn't worried about that. We went through so much as a team this year with Coach Miles being fired. It took a toll on everybody. I wanted to change the program. I didn't want the program to go down. We hit adversity that nobody will ever see, no one will ever go through as a team. I wanted to finish as a winner. There has been people saying 'Why were you saying Heisman? Why were you saying this and that about returning?' It wasn't to try to trick anybody. It was to just stay focused and be where I am. I didn't want to be anywhere else. I wanted to focus on the team. I wanted to win. I wanted to go out and beat Lamar Jackson and the Louisville Cardinals. I was just focused on winning. I just wanted to finish this strong. There has not been a time that I was focused on the league. After the bowl game, I definitely sat down with my parents and my family. We talked. They gave their opinion. At the end of the day, I prayed on it, and this is the right decision for me."

***On having both Coach Ed Orgeron and Coach Les Miles at his press conference ...***

"It's huge. I told my father to invite Coach Miles. I definitely wanted him here. He's a family guy. I love Coach Miles to death; I love Coach O to death. They are two great guys, two great head coaches. It's a family and a bond that can never be broken. To this day, I can call him any time that I need to. I really wish the best to both of them and know they are going to do tremendous things."

***On LSU losing key pieces to the secondary ...***

"It's DBU. It's simple. Those guys, I know what they are capable of. You have Donte Jackson, Xavier Lewis, Kevin Toliver, John Battle, Cam (Lewis) and there's so many people that can make an impact. I think the secondary will be fine. They have a wonderful coach in Coach Raymond. You just move on. Those guys know what's at hand. That's funny because I texted them yesterday in a group message. I

told them don't let it slip. This DBU thing is something that we pride ourselves on. Everybody is chasing it. Everybody wants to be us. That's our standard. I think they are going to be ready for it."

***On his plans leading up to the 2017 NFL Draft ...***

"It's really simple, just bettering my 40. That's the main thing I want to work on along with just becoming a pro. That's why I wanted to do a press conference. I think when you take the next step in your life, something this big, it needs to be done the right way. I wanted to do it the right way. This is my start; this is my day one of being a pro. I will definitely be in Arizona at Exos, training. Hopefully, it's the right training for me. I plan on going out and putting on a show at the combine."

***On what stands out most during his time at LSU ...***

"My first big game. I will never forget it. It's unique. It was the game my freshman year against Kentucky, my dad's alma mater. Leading up to that game I was playing a little bit, mainly on special teams. I would get in here and there on defense in the dime package. That's why I love Mustang so much. Thank you Chief. There was a play that really sparked and set the tone for my career at LSU. It was when Tre'Davious White caught a punt. He was coming down, and I made a huge block. That play just set the tone. I finished the game strong. I was MVP of that game. From then on out, I never looked back. The rest is history."

***On having a mentor in the NFL ...***

"My father. He doesn't play DB, but ... Tyrann (Mathieu) and Patrick (Peterson). I mainly talk to Tyrann. I talk to Ryan Clark. Really all the DBs. I talk to Corey Webster. Those guys come around, show love and talk to us. Anything we need, we ask. I really don't have a mentor like that certain one, but those guys are great guys. One day I hope to be as good as them. They are doing tremendous things."

***On when he made the decision to go pro ...***

"I kind of made the decision before the Louisville game, but at the same time, I was really iffy. I sat down after the Louisville game with my parents and my family. I told the team. I told most of the guys that I loved them and that I was moving on, but a lot of them joked with me and said one more year. I made a decision, and I'm moving on."