



Senior Linebacker Ivan Pace Jr.

What the process has been like for the last couple of weeks?

"I was down training in Fort Myers, Florida and it is good to be back in Cincinnati to get ready for this pro day. I participated in the Senior Bowl and NFL Combine, which prepared me to come back here and be ready for it."

What is the biggest thing or things you want to show the scouts and everything else?

"Not seeing us [Cincinnati] as a smaller program because we are full of talent. I want to show them that I can play with anybody and that the size does not matter to me."

What teams have you been in contact with over the last month or so?

"I won't name any teams, but I am just taking the process real slow. I am just waiting for draft day. Anybody can talk, but I am just waiting for somebody to pick me."

We are about a month away from the draft, what does the process look like for you now?

"I think the next steps are to continue to prepare. I am coming off combine training, which is different than football training with all of the drills. Now it is just continuing to get back into football shape. It is different because of the kind of workouts that you have to do. They are truly different and it is a big difference. You come out to here to work through drills for the Combine and Pro Day, but it is not football training and I want to be ready for when that time comes."

How did playing the one year here at Cincinnati really elevate your game?

"I felt like I already had that game in me. I have also had that mentality that I am good enough to play anywhere. That is why the main reason I transferred to come to Cincinnati and my brother was here too. I could have went somewhere else, to a bigger Power Five program, and played there, but I came here to show those things and ball out with him."

Senior Wide Receiver Tre Tucker

What did you want to show NFL teams here today?

"I would say my route running and how I have continued to improve on that. I had a pretty good Senior Bowl and I thought that I showed it at the Combine. I wanted to come out and show that I am sharp and that I can do everything needed. I was catching punts, I re-ran my 40 again and went through all the shuttle drills. I wanted to show that I am very versatile."

What has the process been like to this point?

"It is still crazy to think that three months ago or four months ago I was preparing to play my last game at Cincinnati. Time flies by, but it goes also slow at times starting off with the Senior Bowl. I think once that kicked in that things started to be fast. I got back from the Senior Bowl and I couldn't take time off because I had the NFL Combine in a few weeks and after the combine, you go to Pro Day. It is a grind, but I have really enjoyed it."

What the preparation like for these next couple of weeks?

"I like to say that I don't have to prepare for the 40 or any more shuttle drills anymore. It is now just strictly football. I am excited to get to run routes. You might see me out there practicing at Cincinnati. I might go out there a little bit with them. The main thing is I want to stay in football shape because everything is right around the corner with the draft and rookie minicamp right away. So, I want to stay in shape and continue to be sharp."

What is the importance of special teams?

"As you can see, they had me catching punts. There is obviously value there, it's important. It only adds to my game. One of them says when you can contribute on special teams and run routes the way that you do and your fast you will play in the league for a very long time."

What teams have you been in contact with?

"I can't really say. I can say I have talked to all 32 teams. I have talked to a lot of them quite a bit. I have had a ton of meetings. I had a ton yesterday. I am going to be very busy in April. It is going to be exciting."

Redshirt Senior Tight End Josh Whyle

What did you want to demonstrate to NFL scouts?

"Going into Senior Bowl, I feel like the question that's been on my name has been about my weight and how it's fluctuated throughout the years. I came into Senior Bowl a little heavy and weighed in at 260 pounds. I just want to show the coaches that I am comfortable playing a little bit heavier. You can still split me out, put me in the box and do whatever with me. That's been my biggest thing. I weighed in a little bit lighter here and at the combine, so maybe I can get a tick off my time, but that's been the biggest thing."

What was your Senior Bowl experience like?

"We were really busy all the time. They try to make it that way and keep your schedule packed. You have to learn a playbook, practice and have meetings all throughout that week. It was really cool to meet the other tight ends in my class. From there on out, we had the combine together and we are going to be in league together, so it was cool to meet them."

How did former QB Desmond Ridder and QB Ben Bryant have helped your growth?

“Two great quarterbacks. Not only that, but two different styles of quarterbacks. Obviously, Desmond [Ridder] being a dual threat and Ben [Bryant] being more of a pro style. It was really just unique to work with both of those players and I was blessed. I have had a really good relationship and good chemistry with both. My five years at Cincinnati went really well.”

What is the preparation process over the next few weeks?

“I am going to be staying here in Cincinnati just in the facility, making sure my body is healthy and getting into the training room. Obviously, I have to lift and keep my cardio up, but right now I want to maintain my frame and stay healthy. That's my biggest thing over the next few weeks.”

What do you want most with your future team in the NFL?

“My thought process is that I just want to go somewhere that's going to utilize me in the right ways. Playing in the city that I've played all three levels of the game in would be pretty cool. I want to be a part of a team that wants me and wants to win championships and Super Bowls.”

What was your training process like?

“I have been in Santa Ana, California at a place called Proactive. It was all pretty cool and I got some good work done. I was training with a really good tight end group. It was me, Michael Mayer and Darnell Washington. It was a good competition for the past three months.”

Junior Wide Receiver Tyler Scott

What does the preparation process look like over the next couple of weeks?

“After this I am getting ready for the mini camp. There was a lot of preparation and training for the events and drills. So now it's time to get ready for football. Hopefully you will hear my name being called here in the next month at the Draft and then immediately following that is rookie minicamp. Until then I will be training to stay in good football shape and being prepared to compete.”

What has the process been like leading up to this pro day?

“It has been very hectic lately with getting calls and emails all the time. We have also had ton of meetings. At the end of the day, I will take it all with gratitude because growing up I watched all of the athletes that I looked up to go through this process and I wanted to be a part of it. To finally be on this stage is awesome. I am so grateful for these opportunities.”

How did being a part of the Cincinnati program prepare you for the NFL?

“We had a lot of great guys and especially in our 2021 season, we had a Jim Thorpe Award winner in Coby Bryant on one side and the AAC Defensive Player of the Year in Sauce Gardner on the other side. We also had Bryan Cook, who was a second-round pick, so there were so many great players in the secondary to compete with. They have all helped me with my game. There were times where I would go against Coby Bryant last year and he already knew what I could do, so I had to learn how to get open and when I got into games, I was prepared for a lot. We had Alec Pierce, Jerome Ford, Desmond Ridder and Josh Whyle who showed us how to be professional in the locker room. One thing that Coach [Luke] Fickell always said to us was ‘We are training to be pros, not training as pros.’ So having that mentality through my college career helped me to get to this spot.”