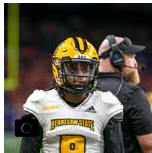
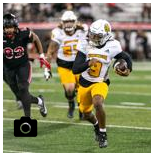


https://www.mdjonline.com/cobb_football_friday/ksus-bryson-still-getting-comfortable-with-new-position/article_a7b68737-a4ac-4d13-8282-7b3834bf0337.html

KSU's Bryson still getting comfortable with new position

By Jack Martin MDJ Sports Writer
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Kennesaw State Athletics - Dave Williamson, file

Davis Bryson breaks into the end zone on a touchdown run last year at UTEP. After coming into the Kennesaw State program as a quarterback, the redshirt junior is transitioning into a new role as a receiver under new Owls coach Jerry Mack.

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KENNESAW — Davis Bryson is seeing the ball come towards him a lot faster this season.

That comes as a result of the redshirt junior's transition from quarterback to wide receiver as part of first-year coach Jerry Mack's new-look roster.

"The technique from a receiver position is just different for him," said. "The ball is coming a lot faster than he probably anticipated, but I tell you what he has been really good at taking in all the stuff."

Bryson, a 2022 signee from Woodbridge, Virginia, is coming off a sophomore season which saw him complete 55% of his passes for 1,495 yards and six touchdowns. He also added 297 yards and four touchdowns on the ground.

However, with the change in coaches, offenses and personnel, Mack brought in a different set of quarterbacks, including projected starter Dexter Williams II. That said, Bryson was asked to make the position change, but he said the transition has been fun.

“Props to (receivers) coach (David) Whitlow for making the transition so much easier for me,” Bryson said. “We have a great group of guys in the room — people that are making me better, and people that are just making each other better. Everybody is close-knit, everybody has a great bond. It’s just making this transition fun.”

Bryson has shown he can be a versatile athlete in his time at Kennesaw State, and he said he loves having the ball in space.

“That’s where I pride myself, and that’s what I feel like I’ve been able to do my whole career playing football,” he said.

Going from quarterback to wide receiver is a big transition, and the new coaching staff was aware of that. Bryson said the idea for the change came from both ends, and he knew he would work well in the new system as a wide receiver.

“Being able to make plays in a different position with the skill set that I have and the new system that’s coming in, I feel like I was able to produce and help the team out more in this position,” Bryson said.

Mack said Bryson has shown flashes at his new position.

“It’s really just a work in progress to continue to see how he digests all of the different things that we put in front of him,” Mack said. “He has that quarterback background, so he understands how we’re trying to attack different defenses.”

Bryson said one of the biggest learning curves during the process has been conditioning.

“I had to adjust to the conditioning and not touching the ball every play,” he said. “You play 16 or 17 years at one position where you touch the ball every single play, and the play doesn’t happen without you touching the ball. Now, having to transition to another position, it forces you to see it from a different perspective. That has really been the fun part about this transition. It has allowed me to just find a new love for the game.”

Bryson acknowledged that it has been a big adjustment, but it has also been fun.

“It’s allowing me to find a new love for the game and to see it from a whole different perspective,” he said. “I just thank God for allowing me to continue to play. I can be anywhere right now, I can be doing anything, and God allows me to keep putting on my cleats and keep playing the game I love.”

Having a quarterback change positions can create frustration, but Bryson seems to embrace his new role. He said there was some consideration of transferring elsewhere following the firing of former coach Brian Bohannon, but once he learned that Mack would be coming in, he wanted to stay and learn.

“Of course, there was a small consideration (of transferring), just not knowing the new coaching staff that would come in because I didn’t know what the next step was going to be for this program.” Bryson said.

Bryson said there was not a specific focus in his improvement as a wide receiver.

“Just the small details, looking in at every football, catching the football, the small details of route running, not selling your routes and not giving tips off to the (defensive back) when you’re going to break,” Bryson said. “Just small things like that that I’ve been studying ever since this change and just implementing that all to the field.

Despite the position change, Bryson still has input in the film room. His leadership role has not changed either, and he said he prides himself on being a leader.

“I allow the guys around me to help me be better for myself,” he said, “so it’s not just me speaking up, it’s other guys as well. That’s helping me be a better leader, and as long as everybody is on the same page, we’re good.”