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For Immediate Release
April 20, 2020

Photo – Cedar Hill High School Class of 2015 Graduate Trevis Gipson has a chance to become the first CHISD Graduate drafted by the NFL in nine years. (Photo courtesy of the University of Tulsa)

CEDAR HILL ISD GRADUATE PREPARES FOR NFL DRAFT

(CEDAR HILL, TX) – Trevis Gipson was absolutely euphoric on the AT&T Stadium field in Arlington on December 20, 2014.

The 2015 Cedar Hill High School Graduate had just helped the Longhorns win its third UIL Football Championship, defeating Katy High School, 23-20.

"It was a once in a lifetime opportunity," Gipson said.
Less than two months later, Gipson signed with the University of Tulsa, the only FBS Division I Program that had recruited him. The lack of recruitment fueled Gipson's drive for success, and it appears as if he'll have the last word.

On Saturday, he'll have a chance to become the first CHHS Longhorn selected in the NFL Draft since Josh Thomas in 2011. It's also been nine years since a Tulsa Football Player was drafted in the NFL.

As a high school senior, Gipson was a 6-foot-4, 205 pound defensive end. A fellow Texan named Philip Montgomery became the Tulsa Football Coach just nine days before Gipson and CHHS won their State Title.

Sure, Gipson had verbally committed to Tulsa under previous coach Bill Blankenship, but he was part of Montgomery's first freshmen class. "Trevis made the most out of that one college offer," Montgomery said. "He has done a sensational job of developing himself in getting to where he stands now, and he's still humble and hungry. (At Tulsa), he was driven and relentless. Trevis is a tremendous worker and very disciplined."

When Gipson settled in the northeastern Oklahoma city, he immediately dedicated himself to the weight room, adding approximately 50 pounds of muscle. Gipson redshirted in the fall of 2015, and a year later, he made his bowl debut as the Golden Hurricane rolled past Central Michigan, 55-10, in the Miami Beach Bowl.

A valuable member of the Golden Hurricane's defensive unit, Gipson hit his stride as a junior, becoming a starting defensive end for the first time in his collegiate career. He finished with 114 career tackles, including 95 his final two years with the program.
He had a chance to play against top-level competition, including Texas and Oklahoma State.

Gipson, 22, graduated from Tulsa last December with a degree in Organizational Studies and a minor in Business Management and a minor in Coaching.

"It's pretty important to me because football doesn't last forever," Gipson said. "I'll have to hang the cleats up someday, and that's where education plays a part in my life."

Since then, he's returned to Cedar Hill to train for the NFL Draft, and COVID-19 has changed that approach. "I'm trying to stay on top of my strength and conditioning," Gipson said. "It's a lot of push-ups, sit-ups and dumbbells. I'm making the most of my resources during the quarantine."

The quarantine means that Gipson hasn't been able to work out in front of teams, but he's been in communication with representatives from approximately 12 NFL franchises.

He said the Cowboys, which drafted CHHS' Thomas in 2011, are among those teams.
In a time of uncertainty, Gipson knows that the process won't be the same this year. Draftees may not report to their respective franchises right away, and it's unclear whether there will even be a 2020 NFL Season.

"I am taking it one step at a time," Gipson said.