

Versatile Wilson finding his niche

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The Chargers believe veteran tight end Kris Wilson can help them in several different ways.

Earlier this week, Chargers Head Coach Norv Turner was asked to clarify what position Kris Wilson plays.

“He’s a tight end,” Turner said, referring to how the sixth-year pro is listed on the team’s roster and depth chart.

But that doesn’t fully tell the story.

“I do a little bit of everything,” Wilson said Wednesday following the team’s third Offseason Coaching Session.

That’s what helped land the veteran in San Diego last September, and it’s what will likely keep him with the Chargers this fall. While predominately a tight end, the 6-2, 251-pound Wilson has started 23 games at fullback during his career. He’s also played H-back and excelled on special teams.

“He’s a very versatile guy,” Turner said. “He’s got a chance to help us because he can do on-line stuff and he can move around.”

Wilson began his NFL career as a second-round draft pick in Kansas City where he spent four seasons. When he reached free agency, he chose to join his hometown Philadelphia Eagles, a move that didn’t work out well.

According to Wilson, the tight end role was greatly reduced in Philadelphia last year, and the Eagles released him following training camp. Two days later, Wilson signed with the Chargers. He was inactive for the first 13 weeks of the season, but ran with the scout team in practice and learned the offense.

“It was different jumping into the mix in September,” Wilson said. “A lot of the learning of the offense goes on this time, during the spring and summer. Plus, when you’re playing on a talented football team, you just have to earn your way out there. I came in with the attitude that I was going to work hard and start over.”

Wilson’s first game action with the Chargers came in Week 14, which was also his first trip back to Kansas City. He was active the final three weeks of the regular season and started both of the Chargers’ playoff games as the team opened in a two-tight end set.

“He got more comfortable with what we were doing as the year went along,” Turner said. “Because of some injuries he was able to contribute on special teams. He’s really a good special teams player, so we had him up and active so we’re able to get him a couple plays on the offensive side.”

Wilson hopes that year two of his Chargers tenure brings even more opportunities. He feels much more comfortable in the offense and is excited about the possibility of using his wide range of talents.

“I’m learning a lot of different things,” Wilson said. “You never know what they’re going to ask you to go out there and do. I’m just thankful that the coaches are finding different ways to get me involved and giving me a chance to show that I can do different things.”

“I’m just happy to be on the field, playing special teams and complementing what (Antonio) Gates and Brandon (Manumaleuna) do.”