

2005 NFL Draft Breakdown --- One Week Before the Draft BY MATTHEW HATFIELD --- Saturday, April 16th, 2005



Kansas State RB Darren Sproles draws comparisons to Barry Sanders, but will he be able to counter lack of size with speed at the next level?

Arizona Cardinals

1. #8 RB Cedric Benson - Texas
2. #44 CB Brandon Browner - Oregon St.
3. #75 QB Adrian McPherson - Florida St.
3. #95 OG/OT Evan Mathis - Alabama
4. #111 DT Atiyah Ellsion - Missouri
5. #168 CB Ellis Hobbs - Iowa St.
7. #226 TE Billy Bajema - Oklahoma St.



Arizona Cardinals (6-10): What the Arizona Cardinals decide to do with their first round pick - 8th overall - all comes down to whether or not they can pull off a deal for RB Travis Henry. It's very conceivable that one of the top two corners - Antrel Rolle and Pac-Jones - will be available as Tennessee seems like the only team in the top seven potentially after a defensive back. That sets up well for them as does the fact there's also an increasing chance one of the three highest rated running backs should slide to them or beyond. Because the Henry deal appears off right now, my prediction is Dennis Green selects Cedric Benson. Like last year, look for Green and the crew to really do some damage in the second, third and fourth rounds of this draft with some players that slip through on draft boards.

Atlanta Falcons

1. #27 S Brodney Pool - Oklahoma
2. #59 OG Elton Brown - Virginia
3. #90 WR Vincent Jackson - No. Colorado
4. #128 DT Ronald Fields - Miss. St.
5. #160 OT Rob Petitti - Pittsburgh
5. #163 RB Ray Hudson - Alabama
6. #201 P Cole Farden - Oklahoma St.



Atlanta Falcons (11-5): Remember this when you sit down to watch the draft on April 23rd: the sleeper pick for the Atlanta Falcons in either the first or second round

is Nebraska safety Josh Bullocks. In 2003 Bullocks made ten interceptions and can be a takeaway specialist on an Atlanta defense that gets good pressure up front with their front four. That being said, the one d-tackle spot Ed Jasper has owned for years could use some tightening. Shaun Cody of USC would be an average to slightly above average take near pick 27, though they can also get someone like Wisconsin's Anttaj Hawthorne or Luis Castillo of Northwestern in the next round provided they want to go safety in the first. Around round three I think Atlanta has to deliberately go after a wide receiver even if it means going high for someone. Mike Vick needs an extra weapon, and not one who under performs like lanky Michael Jenkins did in limited time last season.

Baltimore Ravens

1. #22 WR Roddy White - UAB
2. #53 OT/OG Logan Mankins - Fresno St.
3. #84 CB Darrent Williams - Oklahoma St.
4. #124 MLB Kirk Morrison - San Diego St.
5. #158 DL Albert Means - Memphis
6. #195 WR Chauncey Stovall - Florida St.
6. #213 DE Ryan Riddle - California
7. #234 RB Lionel Gates - Louisville



Baltimore Ravens (9-7): A few weeks back the Ravens were looking at the possibility of trading up just outside the top ten to get Mike Williams of USC or maybe even Troy Williamson (So. Carolina). Now it looks like they are content with pick #22. Some names out there they will give serious consideration on the 23rd. Oklahoma's Mark Clayton, Roddy White (UAB), and an offensive lineman. This draft has some depth on the o-line so unless they really like one of the top three tackles it's a good bet the Ravens strengthen the line in the later rounds. Baltimore is looking for the Clarence Moore sleeper pickup in that 4th-6th round area. I think it would be a good idea to go defensive tackle around then and hope Memphis 'tweener' Albert Means is available.

Buffalo Bills

2. #55 DT Luis Castillo - Northwestern
3. #86 TE Kevin Everett - Miami (FL)
4. #122 C Jason Brown - North Carolina
5. #156 CB Daven Holly - Cincinnati
6. #197 OT Jeremy Parquet - So. Miss
7. #236 DE David McMillan - Kansas



Buffalo Bills (9-7): My guess is that the Bills will go defensive tackle with their first draft choice in this year's draft, which happens to be in the second round since they dealt this year's to get J.P. Losman last April. Losman now gets the opportunity to start with Drew Bledsoe gone. He's got the targets to throw to in last year's earlier first round pick - Lee Evans out of Wisconsin - Eric Moulds and Josh Reed. Now what he needs is middle of the field tight end threat. Who better than Stanford's Alex Smith or Kevin Everett (Miami FL)? The offensive line can also use work - maybe Wesley Britt of Alabama fits the mold in round three. Since they do have a pick in the fourth and the

fifth, Buffalo may elect to go o-line then draft an Adam Bergen (Lehigh) later. One surprise move would be running back in the third or fourth round where they can have a number of different guys (Eric Shelton, Marion Barber III, Darren Sproles, etc.). Nonetheless, the Bills defense will be even stronger when they pick Anttaj Hawthorne or Luis Castillo in the second round.

Carolina Panthers

1. #14 OT Khalif Barnes - Washington
2. #45 RB Ciatrick Fason - Florida
3. #79 WR Terrence Murphy - Texas A&M
4. #115 LB Robert McCune - Louisville
5. #149 DT Anthony Bryant - Alabama
5. #169 TE Garrett Cross - California
5. #171 S Donte Nicholson - Oklahoma
6. #189 OLB Zac Woodfin - UAB
6. #207 QB Bryan Randall - Virginia Tech



Carolina Panthers (7-9): Two seasons removed from reaching their first ever Super Bowl in franchise history, the Carolina Panthers may be poised to return. First thing is first and that is getting past the Atlanta Falcons. Carolina made some small moves including adding two safeties, offensive guard Mike Wahle, and former Seahawks corner Ken Lucas. One thing may be missing surprisingly: a strong, consistent running game. The Panthers turned away from what they did best two years ago and threw it more times than not. Reason why is because Stephen Davis went down and DeShaun Foster, too. Carolina wants to get an offensive tackle opposite Jordan Gross, or someone to catch the ball in place of Muhsin Muhammad (i.e. a Mark Clayton or Troy Williamson). After that you should look for Fox and the crew to strengthen the defense and add a shifty tailback.

Chicago Bears

1. #4 WR Braylon Edwards - Michigan
2. #39 RB Vernand Morency - Oklahoma St.
4. #106 OLB Jordan Beck - Cal-Poly
5. #140 OT Pete McMahon - Iowa
6. #181 TE Joel Dreessen - Colorado St.
7. #220 WR/QB Reggie Marshall - West Virginia



Chicago Bears (5-11): Let me ask everyone a question and then answer it: when's the last time Chicago had a quarterback go to the Pro Bowl? Answer: Jim McMahon. We're talking about 20 years ago and Rex Grossman gets his chance this season. Muhsin Muhammad was given big dollars to be Grossman's top target. Muhammad, over the age of 30, has really only had one great season and that was last year with Steve Smith out. To me he looks like a better second receiver. My projection for the Bears is wide receiver Braylon Edwards, second choice being Mike Williams, third being Cedric Benson, and fourth Cadillac Williams. Offensive tackle was initially thought to be the move, but the Bears would rather get a sure-fire wide receiver than an offensive tackle such as Alex Barron, who has not played up to his full potential. A

physical linebacker to play alongside Brian Urlacher is needed. Best candidate there is Louisville's Robert McCune, who's arguably the most ripped LB in the draft.

Cincinnati Bengals

1. #17 S/OLB Thomas Davis - Georgia
2. #48 C/OG Chris Spencer - Ole Miss
3. #83 TE Alex Smith - Stanford
4. #119 DT Lynn McGruder - Oklahoma
5. #153 WR Aireese Currie - Clemson
6. #190 RB Alvin Pearman - Virginia
7. #233 K Dave Rayner - Michigan St.



Cincinnati Bengals (8-8): Cincinnati has to go defensive tackle... or do they? The Bengals were definitely not the most effective team in the league shutting down the opposition's rushing attack. It also does not help when you have to go up against Jamal Lewis, Jerome Bettis, and a Browns team that can quietly gain 125-150 on the ground against you. However, bringing in ex-Dolphins and Bears d-lineman Bryan Robinson to team with John Thornton in the middle gives Marvin Lewis some flexibility. According to league sources, the guy Lewis is targeting shall we say is Georgia safety/OLB Thomas Davis. When he was with Baltimore he liked those type of players such as your Kim Herring's, Rod Woodson's and Ed Reed's. Madiou Williams was a tremendous pick out of Maryland a year ago at the safety position. Davis would give Cincy someone that can roam around and come up in the box on many occasions. In the end, they still may go d-tackle, but if they do not in the first round then they could wait till the third or fourth round. If the Saints take Davis one pick ahead of them I can see Cincy choosing Travis Johnson and then looking at a tight end say in Stanford's Alex Smith. One area the Bengals really do not need to address is corner with Tory James and Deltha O'Neal.

Cleveland Browns

1. #3 QB Alex Smith - Utah
2. #34 OLB Darryl Blackstock - Virginia
3. #67 DT Anttaj Hawthorne - Wisconsin
4. #103 OG/C Scott Young - BYU
5. #139 WR Chase Lyman - California
6. #176 DE Eric Moore - Florida St.
7. #217 RB Noah Herron - Northwestern



Cleveland Browns (4-12): Does Cleveland say we're thin at LB and go for Derrick Johnson here? Shawne Merriman - he's another possibility here at #3, but it's a bit of a reach. Some are thinking it will be WR Braylon Edwards to give the Browns the vertical threat they've been lacking. Nevertheless, the consensus around the country is Alex Smith goes here at #3 overall. New Head Coach Romeo Crennel wants to put his stamp on the team with defense. Don't be stunned to see them something similar to what Chicago did last year under their then new Head Coach - Lovie Smith. Linebacker is an area the Browns must definitely improve at on defense. Darryl Blackstock of Virginia

and Tennessee's Kevin Burnett are two prime prospects to go 34th overall. Losing all those d-linemen to Denver also says d-line will be addressed.

Dallas Cowboys

1. #11 OLB/DE Shawne Merriman - Maryland
1. #20 WR Mark Clayton - Oklahoma
2. #42 S Josh Bullocks - Nebraska
4. #109 OT Todd Herremans - Saginaw Valley St.
5. #148 C Junius Coston - North Carolina A&T
6. #208 DE/OLB Jonathan Welsh - Wisconsin
6. #209 CB Abraham Elimimian - Hawaii
7. #224 WR Charles Frederick - Washington



Dallas Cowboys (6-10): Here's a team I think can help themselves even further in the draft. Bill Parcells, Jerry Jones, and the rest of the Dallas Cowboys organization made it a priority to get better in the off-season. Guess what? They did, inking deals with ex-Browns corner Anthony Henry, longtime Packers guard Marco Rivera, and nose tackle Jason Ferguson formerly of the Jets. In a way those moves make you forget Dallas finally got its QB - Drew Bledsoe. Last year everyone doubted Parcells and co. in their decision to pass up Steven Jackson to get Julius Jones in the second round. Since they have three selections in the top 42 overall they can maneuver a little bit on draft day to get extra picks or move up higher. Dallas will probably take an Oklahoma player somewhere early whether it be safety Brodney Pool or steady wideout Mark Clayton. Hey, they may even go get an o-lineman like Jammal Brown, possibly Tennessee's Michael Muñoz in a trade where they may get an extra pick in the third round. **Two teams can definitely do some wheeling and dealing on the draft day and they are: the Philadelphia Eagles and the Dallas Cowboys, both of which are in the NFC East division.**

Denver Broncos

1. #25 CB Fabian Washington - Nebraska
2. #56 QB Jason Campbell - Auburn
3. #97 DT C.J. Mosley - Missouri
3. #101 RB Eric Shelton - Louisville
6. #200 WR Dante Ridgeway - Ball St.
7. #239 C Vince Carter - Oklahoma



Denver Broncos (10-6): What have the Broncos done this off-season? All the defensive line moves they have made... horrendous. Denver now has four former Browns defensive linemen in Courtney Brown, Michael Myers, Gerard Warren, and Ebenezer Ekuban. So why did they make these moves, and how did HC Mike Shanahan approve then? Very simple - the team's new defensive line coach is from Cleveland. Denver has not had the dynamo player at tight end since Shannon Sharpe. Heath Miller is a possibility to go to Denver, but I think the team will shy away due to the hernia problem. Miller reminds me a lot of Baltimore's Todd Heap and would be a solid selection. Denver doesn't and should not plan to be patient with QB Jake Plummer. That's why we see Jason Campbell going to them in the second round.

Detroit Lions

1. #10 LB Derrick Johnson - Texas
2. #41 OT/OG Marcus Johnson - Ole Miss
3. #72 DE Chris Canty - Virginia
4. #113 S Oshiomogho Atogwe - Stanford
6. #184 FB Nehemiah Broughton - The Citadel
7. #223 DE George Gause - So. Carolina



Detroit Lions (6-10): Steve Mariucci knows the time is now for his Lions with a division that is down. Yes, the Vikings made some superb moves on the defensive side of the ball, but Detroit can be wild card material. It all comes down to whether or not Joey Harrington performs. Harrington has a career QB rating of 67 and has 12 more interceptions thrown than touchdowns. Jeff Garcia was brought in and may push for the starting job. Playmakers are there in Kevin Jones, Roy Williams, and Charles Rogers - the last three first round choices by the Lions. Offensive tackle may be what they are thinking here. I, for one, believe Derrick Johnson out of Texas is the best or second best defensive player in this draft. He should be there at #10 overall and contribute right away. DE Chris Canty would be an ideal third round selection to team with James Hall (11.5 sacks) since Corey Redding has not played up to par opposite Hall.

Green Bay Packers

1. #24 DE Erasmus James - Wisconsin
2. #51 QB Charlie Frye - Akron
2. #58 S Ernest Shazor - Michigan
3. #89 MLB Adam Seward - UNLV
4. #125 WR Courtney Roby - Indiana
5. #143 OG/OT Nick Kaczur - Toledo
6. #180 CB Scott Starks - Wisconsin



Green Bay Packers (10-6): The Packers are hoping for a draft resembling that of 1992, which went a long way towards them capturing their third ever Vince Lombardi Trophy in the 1996-97 season. Obviously, Brett Favre cannot possibly play forever. Auburn's Jason Campbell is a high first-mid second round prospect that would fit the successor billing and the same goes for Akron's Charlie Frye. Green Bay has two other glaring needs: defensive end help and safety to replace Darren Sharper. Ranking 25th vs. the pass, the Packers need a safety that can attack the ball in mid-air. They'd love for Thomas Davis to slip to them in the first round, but someone like Brodney Pool of Oklahoma is more realistic in round one provided they go safety in opening round. Green Bay has to consider going after a strong side linebacker, too. And also, let's not forget the Packers lost both starting guards - Marco Rivera and Mike Wahle - in the off-season. Guards such as Elton Brown (Virginia), Chris Kemoeatu (Utah), Evan Mathis (Alabama), and Oregon's Adam Snyder are middle part of the draft possibilities. This is an awfully important draft for Mike Sherman and crew. Plenty of holes for sure.

Houston Texans

1. #13 OT Alex Barron - Florida St.

2. #47 DE Matt Roth - Iowa
3. #73 MLB Alfred Fincher - Connecticut
3. #78 WR Fred Gibson - Georgia
4. #114 CB Stanford Routt - Houston
5. #151 RB Cedric Houston - Tennessee
6. #188 S Justin Beriault - Ball State
7. #227 OG Claude Terrell - New Mexico



Houston Texas (7-9): At #13 the Texans want to go offensive tackle. They tried getting Orlando Pace in the off-season, but that did not work. Tony Boselli was the team's expansion pick and how did that one pan out? Answer is not good. The only team in front of them that would want Alex Barron is Detroit. They'll probably opt to take Texas' Derrick Johnson, though. I think Houston would be ecstatic to get a player like Matt Roth in the second round. Alfred Fincher and Fred Gibson are two solid third rounders. Sleeper pick for Houston in round #5 is Tennessee tailback Cedric Houston. Some question whether Dominick Davis can take the full load once again. It's possible the team goes for a running back in the second round if they don't feel comfortable with taking a defensive guy there.

Indianapolis Colts

1. #29 LB Channing Crowder - Florida
2. #60 CB Bryant McFadden - Florida St.
3. #92 DT Jonathan Babineaux - Iowa
4. #129 C Eric Ghiaciuc - Central Michigan
4. #135 LB Leroy Hill - Clemson
5. #165 FB Justin Green - Montana
5. #173 QB Jason White - Oklahoma
6. #202 RB Anthony Davis - Wisconsin



Indianapolis Colts (12-4): Do you know who Gary Brackett is? He's the starting middle linebacker on the Colts' depth chart as I write this. Don't feel left out, because the name doesn't ring a bell with me either. That's why Florida linebacker Channing Crowder fits the Colts here with this pick if still on the board. Some injury questions are hurting his stock, though the Colts have to go defense. If not him then look for a cornerback like Justin Miller of Clemson, Fabian Washington out of Nebraska, and LSU's Corey Webster (maybe as a second round steal) to be the selection.

Jacksonville Jaguars

1. #21 DB Marlin Jackson - Michigan
2. #52 RB Frank Gore - Miami (FL)
3. #87 OT Wesley Britt - Alabama
4. #123 DE Jonathan Goodard - Marshall
5. #157 WR Tab Perry - UCLA
6. #194 CB Kelvin Hayden - Illinois
7. #237 OG C.J. Brooks - Maryland



Jacksonville Jaguars (9-7): Jack Del Rio has done an excellent job in Jacksonville. The quarterback is in place with Byron Leftwich, two defensive tackles stop the run extremely well - Marcus Stroud and John Henderson, and the Jags know how to win close. What they're going to need is more offensive firepower and weapons for Leftwich. They began the '04-05 season with a 3-0 record, though only had 35 points through those contests. It's a very good possibility the Jags go running back early in this draft. Maybe not first round, but Frank Gore is a local fit come middle part of the second round. They'd like to get a strong corner that does not get beat deep with their first round pick. An explosive pick would be Clemson corner/return man Justin Miller. My scenario has them getting Michigan's Marlin Jackson, who can convert to safety at some point. Tall Bama offensive tackle Wesley Britt may be their third round choice if he can pass protect for Leftwich okay and not let his weak leg make him a liability.

Kansas City Chiefs

1. #15 CB Carlos Rogers - Auburn
2. #46 MLB Barrett Rudd - Nebraska
3. #99 OT David Stewart - Miss. St.
4. #116 WR Roydell Williams - Tulane
5. #147 DE Jim Davis - Virginia Tech
5. #150 DB Dustin Fox - Ohio State
5. #162 QB Dan Orlovsky - Connecticut
6. #187 DT Jason Jefferson - Wisconsin
6. #199 OLB Derek Wake - Penn St.
7. #229 QB Chris Rix - Florida St.
7. #238 S Jamaal Brimmer - UNLV



Kansas City Chiefs (7-9): Who KC really wants to take at pick #15 overall is unknown at this point. Some think Auburn corner Carlos Rogers is still the guy Carl Peterson and Dick Vermeil like the most. They'd really like to see Derrick Johnson of Texas fall to them, but we know that's not going to happen. It's important that the Chiefs just take the best player available on defense (not offense) when they're on the clock. Defensively this team can improve if wise selections are made in the second, third, fourth, etc. rounds. Eric Green, a corner that got better as the season went along at Virginia Tech, is an intriguing name they might consider if LB's Barrett Rudd and Darryl Blackstock are gone (or DeMarcus Ware is indeed picked at #15). Of course a lot of teams would like to upgrade at QB and WR depth wise, but the Chiefs must stay focused at getting defense and also an o-lineman somewhere in the draft. I've got them taking Mississippi St. offensive tackle David Stewart, a slow rising prospect that got little attention in college. 50-50 chance Tulane WR Roydell Williams is there in the 4th round.

Miami Dolphins

1. #2 RB Ronnie Brown - Auburn
3. #70 C Ben Wilkerson - LSU
4. #104 S Sean Considine - Iowa
5. #138 WR/PR Chad Owens - Hawaii
7. #216 DT Santonio Thomas - Miami



Miami Dolphins (4-12): Expect the Nick Saban and the Dolphins, barring any trade down, (which they may consider in order to gain a 2nd round pick) to take Auburn running back Ronnie Brown with the second overall pick. At first it was thought to be Cedric Benson of Texas, but the organization sees Brown as more of a complete back with pass catching ability as well as good pass blocking skills. Plus, Benson probably reminds them too much of Ricky Williams, something they don't want to think about at this time. With the 3rd round pick (70th overall), I'd look for Miami to pursue LSU's Ben Wilkerson, who was an All-Conference center at LSU each of the past two seasons. After that they can look at such areas as defensive tackle to give depth to free agent acquisition Kevin Carter, wide receiver to play in the slot about two years from now (when Derrius Thompson has decided to go elsewhere where he can make more money), and cornerback since Patrick Surtain's name is linked with the Chiefs practically every day now.

Minnesota Vikings

1. #7 WR Mike Williams - USC
1. #18 DE Marcus Spears - LSU
2. #49 K Mike Nugent - Ohio St.
3. #80 OG Chris Kemoeatu - Utah
4. #120 CB Nick Collins - Bethune-Cookman
5. #154 OLB Cornelius Wortham - Alabama
6. #191 S/PR Jim Leonhard - Wisconsin
7. #219 TE Tony Curtis - Portland St.



Minnesota Vikings (8-8): Mike Tice was fortunate the Vikes made the postseason with an 8-8 record, and he's fortunate to be coming back. Now Minnesota is the class of the NFC along with Philadelphia and Atlanta. Why? Well, they got rid of Randy Moss. Okay... so how's that make them better? A problem on/off the field is gone, and three superb defensive additions were made in Buffalo DT Pat Williams, ex-Packers safety Darren Sharper, and former Redskins corner Fred Smoot. Not to mention they got Napoleon Harris in return for Moss, and will use one of the first three picks likely on defense. Hope is what they are doing... that is that Mike Williams will fall to them at #7. It's now very unlikely Braylon Edwards goes to them at #7, and So. Carolina WR Troy Williamson (4.38-40) is a definite stretch at #7; not at #18. Williams may be nothing more than a 4.6-40 guy, but he can be a home-run threat they're looking for in the offense.

New England Patriots

1. #32 CB Justin Miller - Clemson
2. #64 MLB Odell Thurman - Georgia
3. #100 WR Mark Bradley - Oklahoma
4. #133 OT Adam Kieft - Central Michigan
5. #145 DL Adell Duckett - Texas Tech
5. #170 C Scott Mruczkowski - Bowling Green

6. #206 QB Gino Guidugli - Cincinnati



New England Patriots (14-2): New England, winners of three of the last four Super Bowls, has a few areas to make stronger. Hard to believe right? Many veteran teams like the Patriots tend to experience injuries now and then. The secondary has been kept together with bandages and paper clips it seems, plus Tedy Bruschi's off-season health scares do not help matters. Losing both coordinators - Romeo Crennel and Charlie Weis - makes things interesting this coming year. Is this the year the Colts, Steelers, or someone else in the AFC beats New England? Maybe not if they draft wisely, getting younger at key defensive positions such as outside linebacker and corner.

New Orleans Saints

1. #16 OLB/DE Demarcus Ware - Troy
2. #40 CB Eric Green - Virginia Tech
3. #82 QB Kyle Orton - Purdue
4. #118 S/OLB Gerald Sensabaugh - UNC
5. #152 OT Calvin Armstrong - Washington St.
6. #193 WR Brandon Jones - Oklahoma
7. #232 RB Ryan Grant - Notre Dame



New Orleans Saints (8-8): Last season the Saints ranked 30th in rushing yards per game allowed. Yes, safety/linebacker Thomas Davis makes sense with this pick since he stops ball carriers in their tracks and knows how to help in pass coverage (where they ranked 27th) as well. But the only defensive move New Orleans made in the off-season was signing Super Bowl 37 MVP - defensive back Dwight Smith. No doubt they need someone to help stop the run, and DT Travis Johnson could be that guy. New Orleans' picks over the past few drafts (like 2003 first round choice Jonathan Sullivan for example) have been puzzling to say the least. Everything points to them taking Davis, maybe Johnson. In these types of drafts where the talent pool is thought to be pretty much even throughout, expect the unexpected. Maybe it leads to a pass rusher like Marcus Spears of LSU. Entering one week before the draft, we've got Demarcus Ware of Troy going here.

New York Giants

2. #43 DT Mike Patterson - USC
3. #74 OT Chris Colmer - NC St.
4. #110 WR Craig Bragg - UCLA
6. #186 RB Walter Reyes - Syracuse



New York Giants (6-10): Eli Manning gets his chance to stifle all the doubters and prove the Giants made the right decision by acquiring him in last April's draft. Eli now has Plaxico Burress to work with - the Giants' prized free agent acquisition. A good #2 or #3 receiver would benefit the second-year QB out of Ole Miss, too. The Giants do not possess a first round pick so look for them to address the defensive tackle and

linebacker positions in the second and third rounds. Then, New York can get an extra o-lineman (i.e. - Adam Terry of Syracuse perhaps) and receiver in the 3rd-4th round area. Nobody has established himself as an elite run stuffer for the Giants to steal some of the attention from star DE Michael Strahan. USC run clogger Mike Patterson might be the guy to do it when the Giants come up at pick #43. Antonio Pierce was added from the Redskins so they may be reluctant to take a middle linebacker like Georgia's Odell Thurman or Nebraska's Barrett Rudd.

New York Jets

1. #26 TE Heath Miller - Virginia
2. #57 CB Corey Webster - LSU
3. #88 OT Michael Roos - E. Washington
4. #127 P Dustin Colquitt - Tennessee
5. #161 FB/RB Brandon Jacobs - So. Illinois
6. #198 DT Tim Bulman - Boston College
7. #230 WR Geoff McArthur - California
7. #240 DE Simon Fraser - Ohio St.



New York Jets (10-6): Many would initially think running back would be a way to go for a few reasons and none of which involve current production at the position. First, Curtis Martin, who had an excellent resurgence, has only a few more years left one believes. Secondly, LaMont Jordan, the team's backup went bye-bye to the Oakland Raiders. Reason I don't think they will take a running back in the first three rounds is because the team did acquire Derrick Blaylock from Kansas City. What the Jets' fans want to see is either Heath Miller of Virginia be available at #26, or a good corner (Justin Miller, Marlin Jackson, Fabian Washington, etc.) still be on the board. Since this draft is deeper at the cornerback position my feeling is they take Miller and then go Eric Green (Va. Tech) or LSU's Corey Webster. If everything falls into place as it ought to then the Jets can take a gamble in the fourth round and get a kicking specialist in Tennessee punter Dustin Colquitt or Ole Miss place kicker Jonathan Nichols. They may wait till around round five, round six to go special teams. One area they won't go for sure is linebacker.

Oakland Raiders

2. #38 DE/OLB Dan Cody - Oklahoma
3. #69 CB Ronald Bartell Jr. - Howard
4. #105 RB Maurice Clarett - Ohio St.
6. #182 QB Ryan Fitzpatrick - Harvard
6. #185 LB Ryan Claridge - UNLV
6. #212 DL Vincent Burns - Kentucky
6. #214 DT Sione Pouha - Utah



Oakland Raiders (5-11): Well, I guess Randy Moss is not a bad pick with the 7th overall choice is it? That's essentially what the Raiders got in their deal that sent that pick along with linebacker Napoleon Harris in exchange for the man on the receiving end of 90 touchdown plays since coming into the league in 1998. The Charles Woodson situation is messy and that could lead to the Raiders take a corner with one of their early

round picks. Two guys I see the Raiders giving serious consideration at #38 if available - Iowa DE Matt Roth and Oklahoma defensive lineman Dan Cody. Neither is rising and you can make the argument both are slipping a tad. Of course, Norv Turner likes to air it out --- would the Raiders take another WR? No way... or Turner should have his head examined. Oakland has to go defense all the way, maybe mix in a pick or two to get an offensive lineman and future backup tailback to LaMont Jordan.

Philadelphia Eagles

1. #30 DL Shaun Cody - USC
2. #35 WR Reggie Brown - Georgia
2. #63 RB Ryan Moats - La. Tech
3. #77 OLB Michael Boley - So. Miss
3. #94 OT Ray Willis - Florida State
4. #132 MLB Rian Wallace - Temple
5. #146 WR Steve Savoy - Utah
5. #167 DT Mike Montgomery - Texas A&M
5. #172 TE Adam Bergen - Lehigh
6. #211 OG Chris Myers - Miami (FL)



Philadelphia Eagles (13-3): One team I really think will package a couple picks to move up is the Philadelphia Eagles. A lot of talk going around about Terrell Owens and his unhappiness concerning the status of his contract. The Eagles definitely are going to draft a wide receiver, maybe even two or three. Matt Jones of Arkansas could still be around by the time they come up if they indeed plan to hold onto the 30th overall pick. The guy I'm thinking they will trade up to get is Troy Williamson of South Carolina. Freddie Mitchell is not expected to return, and Williamson gives any team a legit deep threat. Then, they can get rid of Todd Pinkston, retain another long ball man in Greg Lewis, and go defense/o-line potentially rest of the way. However, with Cedric Benson's stock dropping a bit he could fall into the teens where the Eagles nab him in a trade up. Ryan Moats is the running back I have them taking at pick 63 overall in the second round. Moats has an elusive quality that allows him to avoid big hits and get 20+ carries. Team him with Brian Westbrook and the rushing attack goes from good to very good.

Pittsburgh Steelers

1. #30 WR/QB Matt Jones - Arkansas
2. #62 CB Stanley Wilson - Stanford
3. #93 DE Bill Swancutt - Oregon St.
4. #131 RB Kay-Jay Harris - West Virginia
5. #166 OT Daniel Loper - Texas Tech
6. #204 OLB Roger Cooper - Montana St.
7. #228 WR Taylor Stubblefield - Purdue



Pittsburgh Steelers (15-1): My crystal ball tells me the Steelers are going to take a Stanford player in the second round. Decent chance it'll happen because Pittsburgh can use a tight end like Alex Smith, or another secondary player such as 5-11 $\frac{3}{4}$ 185 pounder Stanley Wilson. When you look at the first round they can go a couple of different

routes, including one that has them taking the Arkansas combine stud Matt Jones. At 6-6 240 pounds, Jones has the size and 4.4 speed to excel at almost any athletic position in the NFL. Chris Henry of West Virginia would be a nice choice somewhere in the draft, though you wonder whether Bill Cowher wants to bring on someone with character issues. The offensive line has Jeff Hartings and Alan Faneca anchoring the ship on the interior, Barrett Brooks providing depth at tackle, Max Starks maybe soon to take the next step into the starting lineup, and potentially a 3rd-5th rounder for insurance behind Starks. Kay-Jay Harris of West Virginia and Louisville's Eric Shelton are two solid running backs that can come to help spell Duce Staley in the future as Jerome Bettis' career winds down. It also would not hurt them to see if a DE slips through the cracks like a Bill Swancutt.

St. Louis Rams

1. #19 RT Jammal Brown - Oklahoma
2. #50 DE Justin Tuck - Notre Dame
3. #66 WR Chris Henry - West Virginia
3. #81 DB Domonique Foxworth - Maryland
4. #117 QB Derek Anderson - Oregon St.
- 4 #134 DT Lorenzo Alexander - California
5. #155 OLB Marques Harris - So. Utah
6. #192 OG Justin Geisinger - Vanderbilt
6. #210 WR Josh Davis - Marshall
7. #231 S/LB Matt Grootegoed - USC



St. Louis Rams (8-8): You never know what the mad scientist Mike Martz will think of come draft day 2005. The guy is so pass happy that a wide receiver early on or even a quarterback around the 4th round to compete for the backup spot with Jamie Martin is not out of the realm. One guy I think would be an excellent choice with the second pick overall in the third round - Chris Henry. Despite the character problems, Henry can create mismatches with much of the concentration on Torry Holt and the other speedy Rams. It's not a good bet that Kyle Turley will play 16 games at RT for St. Louis which means Jammal Brown and Khalif Barnes are two candidate at pick #19 overall. Steven Jackson, last year's first round pick, may turn out to be a 1,000 yard rusher as well as someone who can haul in 45+ balls. Later on in the draft a backup that can be used as a short yardage power runner (i.e. fullback too) has to be added in my mind. Madison Hedgecock of North Carolina and UCLA's Manny White Jr. are two people to look for later on in the draft. Defensively, the Rams could not tackle people to save their life. It was most evident vs. Atlanta in the playoffs. They could use three impact def. rookies.

San Diego Chargers

1. #12 WR Troy Williamson - So. Carolina
1. #28 DE David Pollack - Georgia
2. #61 OT Adam Terry - Syracuse
4. #130 RB Darren Sproles - Kansas St.
5. #164 LB Marcus Lawrence - So. Carolina
6. #177 OG Dan Connolly - SE Missouri St.



San Diego Chargers (12-4): Last year the Chargers didn't get Eli Manning, but no problem at all. The team stunningly made the playoffs one year after being the worst team in the league. San Diego has two first round picks and there is small talk another deal will be made. A receiver at #12 is what I've got projected. However, others think the Chargers will go defensive end. Some candidates include: Marcus Spears, David Pollack, and Erasmus James. Spears is the interesting guy because he fits the 3-4 defensive scheme they will likely run once again. It's not out of the picture either that San Diego goes OT with an Alex Barron or Khalif Barnes. Adam Terry and Marcus Lawrence are two 'blue-collar' picks for the Chargers. Terry is interesting because people say he is not a large, intimidating framed guy. But the 6-8 330 pound Terry disagrees. X-factor pick for the Chargers is Darren Sproles (Kansas St.), who could battle with Michael "Burner" Turner for the spot behind LaDainian Tomlinson on the RB depth chart.

San Francisco 49ers

1. #1 QB Aaron Rodgers - California
2. #33 RB J.J. Arrington - California
3. #65 DE Jovan Haye - Vanderbilt
4. #102 WR Crapphonso Thorpe - Florida St.
5. #137 S Vincent Fuller - Virginia Tech
5. #174 C/OT Richie Incognito - Nebraska
6. #175 CB Karl Paymah - Washington St.
6. #205 S James Butler - Georgia Tech
7. #215 MLB Mike Goolsby - Notre Dame



San Francisco 49ers (2-14): One week from draft day the 49ers are close to making Aaron Rodgers of Cal their new official quarterback. But hold on... the Niners do have the right to chance their mind, meaning they may opt to take either Michigan WR Braylon Edwards or Utah QB Alex Smith if Rodgers is not the pick. He should be, and don't be surprised to see Rodgers' teammate at Cal - running back J.J. Arrington join him. Arrington's stock is quietly rising and I see him going at pick #33 overall. San Francisco knows they are not going to compete immediately in the NFC West for at least a few years. All that put aside, Mike Nolan has to make an imprint next weekend by loading up on quality players in the later rounds like Bill Walsh so successfully did during the team's title run. There will be what I like to call the "All-Conference leftovers" (players that were selected All-Conference, but either had a disappointing combine or senior bowl that hurt their stock). When you have multiple needs like San Fran does there's no need to trade.

Seattle Seahawks

1. #23 DT Travis Johnson - Florida St.
2. #54 OLB Kevin Burnett - Tennessee
3. #85 QB Andrew Walter - Arizona St.
3. #98 OG/OT Adam Snyder - Oregon
4. #121 RB Marion Barber III - Minnesota
4. #126 CB/PR Antonio Perkins - Oklahoma

5. #159 DB Travis Daniels - LSU
6. #196 TE Bo Scaife - Texas
7. #235 DE Chauncey Davis - Florida St.



Seattle Seahawks (9-7): Washington offensive tackle Khalif Barnes would be an ideal pick here to fill the void left by one Chris Terry. Two names they may look at in the third round, after they find a backup QB to replace Trent Dilfer, would be Wisconsin guard Dan Buenning and powerful interior lineman Scott Young of BYU. Despite that, the Seahawks run defense may need more attention, particularly now that Chike Okeafor has been replaced by Bryce Fisher, and Kevin Bentley comes over from Cleveland to take over for the recently departed Anthony Simmons. Are those moves upgrades? Probably not, and bringing in Travis Johnson from Florida State to team with last year's top round choice - Marcus Tubbs - would give them the interior twosome. Clearly this ball club has taken a step back not only behind the Rams, but behind the Cardinals in my eyes as well.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers

1. #5 RB Cadillac Williams - Auburn
2. #36 OG/C David Baas - Michigan
3. #71 WR Roscoe Parrish - Miami (FL)
3. #91 OLB Matt McCoy - San Diego St.
4. #107 DT Darrell Shropshire - So. Carolina
5. #141 QB Stefan LeFors - Louisville
5. #144 K Jonathan Nichols - Ole Miss
6. #178 CB Cedrick Williams - Kansas St.
7. #203 OT Doug Nienhuis - Oregon St.
7. #221 FB Will Matthews - Texas
7. #225 CB Eric King - Wake Forest



Tampa Bay Buccaneers (5-11): Word now has it the Bucs want to trade up and get a quarterback - preferably Utah's Alex Smith. Good move? I don't think so and let me tell you why. They've already got two quarterbacks in Chris Simms, who showed signs of a decent quarterback in spots, and Brian Griese, a guy that was re-signed in the off-season. Ironically both of those QB's are the son of great quarterbacks (Bob Griese and Phil Simms). Tampa needs to go back to that punishing running game and explosive perimeter attack. The explosive wideout is there in Michael Clayton, last year's first round choice out of LSU. Joey Galloway, when healthy, is a good #2 receiver now a days just like fullback Mike Alstott can be effective for 15 carries when he's healthy. Still, this team, which won the Super Bowl in 2003, has gone **12-20 in their last 32 contests**. Defensively they are not as fierce and could use another linebacker. But when all is said and done, the Buccaneers better have addressed the receiver position, running back, and added an offensive lineman... say Michigan's David Baas in the second round.

Tennessee Titans

1. #6 CB Antrel Rolle - Miami (FL)
2. #37 WR Jerome Mathis - Hampton

- 3. #68 OT Michael Muñoz - Tennessee
- 3. #96 MLB Lance Mitchell - Oklahoma
- 4. #108 QB David Greene - Georgia
- 4. #136 WR J.R. Russell - Louisville
- 5. #142 OG Dan Buenning - Wisconsin
- 6. #179 RB T.A. McLendon - NC St.
- 7. #218 CB Alphonso Hodge - Miami (OH)



Tennessee Titans (5-11): The Titans say they are going to take the ‘best player available’ when they come up at #6. Haven’t we heard that before, though? Assuming both of the top two quarterbacks are off the board, which one may not be and that could open up the door for them to maybe pick one, I think Tennessee really has to address the cornerback position. In the off-season they lost both Samari Rolle and Andre Dyson so either Pac-Man Jones or Antrel Rolle would fit the billing. However, Jeff Fisher’s team has a great chance to get an impact wide receiver to replace Derrick Mason and play alongside Drew Bennett, spoiling the Vikings’ hopes of landing one if available.

Washington Redskins

- 1. #9 CB Adam Jones - West Virginia
- 3. #76 DE Trent Cole - Cincinnati
- 4. #112 OT Anthony Alabi - TCU
- 6. #183 MLB/SS Lofa Tatupu - USC
- 7. #222 QB Timmy Chang - Hawaii



Washington Redskins (6-10): I think the Redskins will make at least one trade at some point in the 2005 NFL Draft. Where is the question. They could go down in the first round a few picks and get someone like Troy Williamson of South Carolina or Auburn’s Carlos Rogers. It’s highly unlikely either Williams or Edwards falls to them at #9, plus a wide receiver is not the burning need to them anymore with the additions of diminutive guys David Patten and Santana Moss. Still, a deep threat is desperately needed for QB Patrick Ramsey, but even more so desired is a dynamic corner to fill Fred Smoot’s shoes opposite side of Shawn Springs. Fantastic athlete Adam “Pac-Man” Jones (4.38 speed) is the guy I’ve got penciled in at pick #9, though it wouldn’t shock me to see them take Rogers or nearby pass rushing product Shawne Merriman here.



LSU corner Corey Webster could go mid-late first round or somewhere in the third round. Whoever gets him shouldn’t be disappointed.