

2005 NFL Mock Draft #002 - BY MATTHEW HATFIELD
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1. San Francisco 49ers QB Aaron Rodgers California

Are they going to trade this pick with San Diego or somebody else? We thought so as many believed the Niners were not happy with either Rodgers or Smith compared to last year's top three QB's (Eli Manning, Ben Roethlisberger and Phillip Rivers). San Fran has depth at wide receiver even though nobody is the proven go-to-guy as TE Eric Johnson fits that billing for now. Kevan Barlow was solid two years ago at tailback.

Pick: It has to be either Rodgers, Smith or a trade down. After that, the Niners have plenty of areas to try and improve upon in this NFL Draft.



2. Miami Dolphins RB Ronnie Brown Auburn

If Nick Saban and crew decide to go this route, then I disagree with it to a certain degree. Who better to take the place of one Ricky Williams (provided he does not return) than Cedric Benson? Benson has dreads, went to Texas and his running style is very similar to that of Ricky. Benson, my second best overall player next to Mike Williams of Southern Cal, does not catch the ball as well as Brown, but he is a better inside rusher.

Pick: Brown. Other areas the Dolphins will address include offensive line, a backup QB in the second or third round, and younger defensive players.



3. Cleveland Browns QB Alex Smith Utah

It's not a cinch by any means that the Browns keep this pick and take a quarterback. Romeo Crennel is a defensive guy and has to be really thinking hard about Texas linebacker Derrick Johnson. Another guy fast rising in this draft is Maryland DE/OLB prospect Shawne Merriman. I, for one, do not think he is worthy of a top five pick, more likely in the middle to early stages of round #1. Smith is a system type quarterback coming from Utah where Urban Meyer taught him a lot about the game.

Efficient, winner, good scrambler, all those things describe him. Bringing in Trent Dilfer also gives the Browns a veteran to help groom him along the way. **Pick: Smith is their top option as of right now. They'll think about trading down to get better on the o-line and may even get a corner. However, a cornerback here is a stretch. This is the first big decision Crennel has to make and we'll see if it pays big dividends.**



4. Chicago Bears WR Mike Williams USC

Bears can go a number of ways with this draft choice. Thomas Jones got off to a nice start of the season before tailing off a little bit. He finished the '04 season with 948 rushing yards and seven touchdown runs. In addition, he hauled in 56 catches for 427 yards. Are those star like numbers? Probably not, but the Bears need vertical threats in

the passing game for Rex Grossman. Muhsin Muhammad, one of the top five wide receivers in the league statistically last year, was their best off-season transaction. Still, the cupboard is bare at that position. I look for Lovie Smith's team to build on what their defense did, much of which was acquired in the draft/free agency in 2004. Now they are bolstering the offense and if either Braylon Edwards or Mike Williams is available - they have to go that route. **Pick: One of the two wideouts, or a running back like Benson. Edwards fits the Chicago climate better, but the USC guy is too good to pass up.**



5. Tampa Bay Buccaneers

RB Cadillac Williams

Auburn

Probability that the Buccaneers take a guy with the last name Williams is better than 50%. Some believed, including myself, that Carnell "Cadillac" Williams was the best tailback on his own college team at Auburn. Then how is Ronnie Brown rated ahead him in most mock drafts? Go figure! Mike Williams is my #1 overall rated player in this entire draft. Michigan's Braylon Edwards has an outside chance of being picked here, but it's about the same as San Diego dealing for San Francisco's top pick and taking him.



6. Tennessee Titans

CB Pac-Man Jones

West Virginia

Will Steve McNair return? That's a key question and if he does not I see Tennessee sticking with Billy Volek. Tennessee has to consider cornerback and offensive line with this draft pick. In the third or fourth round they can get a nice wide receiver to help replace Derrick Mason as Drew Bennett becomes the primary target. The pick here ought to be Pac-Man Jones of West Virginia for the simple fact he can move sharply, runs a 4.38-40 and someone needs to take the place of both starting corners that are gone - Andre Dyson and Samari Rolle.



7. Minnesota Vikings

WR Braylon Edwards

Michigan

Has any team upgraded their defense more this past off-season than the Minnesota Vikings? They did it getting rid of Randy Moss, an internal problem child within the team's organization. Albeit a great talent, Moss needed to go elsewhere and he fits in perfectly with the Raiders. Minnesota can now replace with him a big-time wide receiver in Braylon Edwards or Mike Williams. Vikings have to hope one will be available and they've got a good shot that one will be on the board by pick #7.



8. Arizona Cardinals

RB Cedric Benson

Texas

This is not a misprint: Arizona may have made themselves the favorite to win the NFC West with the moves they made. They got former Giants and Rams quarterback Kurt Warner to throw to the talented wideouts there, the offensive line is better for Warner than in New York, and there's talk of bringing in Travis Henry. Defensively, the Cardinals got better there with Chike Okeafor playing on the other DE side opposite of

Pro Bowler Bert Barry, Robert Griffith penciled in at safety, and Orlando Huff to add depth at linebacker. Some see one of the two QB's for the future - I don't see either being available. Even if they get Henry, it's always good to have two steady halfbacks.



9. Washington Redskins CB Antrel Rolle Miami (FL)

Scary... that is how the Washington Redskins have made very little movement during the off-season. Someone must have tied up Daniel Snyder and said do not move a muscle. All the Skins have essentially done is get diminutive wide receivers David Patten and Santana Moss, and ex-Ravens center Casey Rabach. No big splash yet, but this move could turn out to be an outstanding one. Gone are the two starting corners from two seasons ago - Champ Bailey and Fred Smoot - and it could belong to Shawn Springs and Antrel Rolle, a teammate with last year's top pick - Sean Taylor - at Miami. They tried to get Courtney Brown, who wound up with the Broncos, so look for them to add a receiver and line help in the later rounds.



10. Detroit Lions LB Derrick Johnson Texas

Despite having the 15th ranked run defense last year, the Lions were often below average stopping the run. Bringing in linebacker Derrick Johnson would be an outstanding move for them, especially if they can stay healthy on both sides of the ball. I say that because right now it looks like the Vikings are clearly the team to beat in the NFC North, and with Green Bay down and Chicago trying to re-build, Detroit might be able to finish second. If they finish second then a wild card spot could be within grasps.



11. Dallas Cowboys DE/OLB Shawne Merriman Maryland

Bill Parcells wants to rush the other team's quarterback and who better to do it than Shawne Merriman, who's looked impressive ever since his team's final game vs. Wake Forest, a 13-7 victory. At approximately 6-4 253, Merriman can improve the D'.



12. San Diego Chargers WR Troy Williamson So. Carolina

Williamson only caught 43 passes in Lou Holtz' rushing oriented offense at South Carolina. He clearly can be a good #2 or even #1 wide receiver in the NFL due to the fact he's a track guy and gets a check mark for his aggressive nature to go over the middle.



13. Houston Texas OT Alex Barron Florida State

After giving up a ton of sacks the previous two seasons leading up to last year, Houston knows they could sure use an offensive tackle to protect passer David Carr. At 6-7 Barron is certainly one of the top o-linemen in the draft and can be franchise material.



14. Carolina Panthers **TE Heath Miller** **Virginia**

Panthers will not go corner. They've demoted Ricky Manning Jr. to third on the depth chart behind starters Ken Lucas (newly acquired from Seattle) and Chris Gamble. Therefore, another wide receiver could be the choice, but don't rule out Miller here.



15. Kansas City Chiefs **CB Carlos Rogers** **Auburn**

Dead last pass defense = cornerback. Chiefs are keeping it open as far as taking one of the top wide receivers, but if they're smart, they'll take defense. Rogers' physicality at the corner position suits them well considering the defense has been soft.



16. New Orleans Saints **S/OLB Thomas Davis** **Georgia**

New Orleans has to seriously consider defensive line prospects such as Travis Johnson (Florida State) and Erasmus James (Wisconsin) with the 18th overall pick. Davis simply is a linebacker playing safety and can bring an added toughness to the Saints.



17. Cincinnati Bengals **DT Travis Johnson** **Florida State**

If Cincinnati has somewhere they really need to get better it's up front defensively. Stopping the run and getting pressure on the quarterback is there top priority.



18. Minnesota Vikings **DE Erasmus James** **Wisconsin**

Vikes can go anywhere with this pick if they get the wide receiver they want with the other pick. Thinking here is another pass rusher off the edge.



19. St. Louis Rams **OT Jammal Brown** **Oklahoma**

Isaac Bruce is not expected to be back in a Rams uniform at last report which means the Rams look at receiver sometime. Just not here - OL is a more glaring need.



20. Dallas Cowboys **S Brodney Pool** **Oklahoma**

Can go many ways with this selection. Let's go back-to-back Oklahoma Sooners and take a surprise in safety Brodney Pool to team with another Sooner - Roy Williams.



21. Jacksonville Jaguars **DE Marcus Spears** **LSU**

Jags have to go defensive end, not d-tackle with Stroud and Henderson superbly clogging up the middle. Offensive line or tight end are the secondary options.



22. Baltimore Ravens WR Roddy White UAB

Ravens could use another bulky o-lineman alongside Jon Ogden now that Casey Rabach has departed. One more wide receiver appears necessary for them.



23. Seattle Seahawks LB Channing Crowder Florida

Holmgren better make the right decision w/ this pick since his days are numbered.



24. Green Bay Packers QB Charlie Frye Akron

Either Favre's future replacement in Frye, or offensive line help.



25. Denver Broncos DE David Pollack Georgia

Need for defensive end help has lessened, but it's still a good bet DE is the pick.



26. New York Jets WR Mark Clayton Oklahoma

Would love to have tight end Heath Miller fall right in their lap at pick #26.



27. Atlanta Falcons DT Antaj Hawthorne Wisconsin

Falcons would like to see Mark Clayton still be on the board to help out Mr. Vick.



28. San Diego Chargers DE Dan Cody

Oklahoma

Important thing is to take care of WR needs then add depth anywhere.



29. Indianapolis Colts CB Justin Miller Clemson

No hesitation - Indy takes a defensive player here, in the next round and more.



30. Pittsburgh Steelers DL Shaun Cody USC

Shaun Cody can fit the Steelers defense because he can play either DE or DT.



31. Philadelphia Eagles **DT Luis Castillo** **Northwestern**
Underrated type player in this draft that deserves first round consideration.



32. New England Patriots **OLB/DE DeMarcus Ware** **Troy**
Smart type of pick that the New England Patriots make annually under Belichick.

HATFIELD SPORTS TOP FIVE PLAYERS:

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|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| 1. Mike Williams | USC | WR |
| 2. Cedric Benson | Texas | RB |
| 3. Antrel Rolle | Miami (FL) | CB |
| 4. Derrick Johnson | Texas | LB |
| 5. Braylon Edwards | Michigan | WR |

Honorable Mention: Charlie Frye (Akron QB), Adam Jones (W. Virginia CB) and Carlos Rogers (Auburn CB).