2025

PLAYBOOK NFL DRAFT

Complete Recap



2025 DRAFT

- Each team's pick by round, number, player position, and college
- In-depth analysis of trades, strategy moves, and player transactions
- Draft Grade Ratings On Each Team

PlaybookSports.com

2025 NFL DRAFT RECAP

SEC Dominates, Playbook Shines!

- **257 players** drafted across 32 NFL teams.
- **SEC leads** with 59 picks, topping the draft for the 19th straight year (down from a record 64 in 2024).
- **Playbook's Mock Draft success:** Nailed 74.8% of first-round picks (190/254) over 8 years, including 49/64 in the last two, with 40 matched to their exact teams!
- **Full recap** includes team-by-team analysis, grades from PLAYBOOK, OURLADS, ESPN PFF, SI, plus composite grade averages.
- **Want more?** Grab the **2025 Playbook Football Preview Guide** at Barnes & Noble, select newsstands (July 18), or early at Playbook.com (print/digital). Call 1-800-PLAYBOOK for instant access.
- **Key stat:** Teams with 4+ Top 100 picks (per Bill Polian) often succeed. This year's leaders: **Browns & Raiders** (5 each), followed by Bears, Chiefs, Texans, Patriots, 49ers, Seahawks (4 each).
- **Early take:** Too soon to judge the 2025 class – stay tuned. Enjoy the draft dive!

Marc Lawrence

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AFC East/North	AFC South/West	NFC East/North	NFC South/West
3 BUFFALO Bills	11 HOUSTON Texans	20 DALLAS Cowboys	28 ATLANTA Falcons
4 MIAMI Dolphins	12 INDIANAPOLIS Colts	21 NEW YORK Giants	29 CAROLINA Panthers
5 NEW ENGLAND Patriots	13 JACKSONVILLE Jaguars	22 PHILADELPHIA Eagles	30 NEW ORLEANS Saints
6 NEW YORK Jets	14 TENNESSEE Titans	23 WASHINGTON Team	31 TAMPA BAY Buccaneers
7 BALTIMORE Ravens	15 DENVER Broncos	24 CHICAGO Bears	32 ARIZONA Cardinals
8 CINCINNATI Bengals	16 KANSAS CITY Chiefs	25 DETROIT Lions	33 LOS ANGELES Rams
9 CLEVELAND Browns	17 LAS VEGAS Raiders	26 GREEN BAY Packers	34 SAN FRANCISCO 49ers
10 PITTSBURGH Steelers	18 LOS ANGELES Chargers	27 MINNESOTA Vikings	35 SEATTLE Seahawks

BUFFALO BILLS

Round 1 (30):
CB MAXWELL HAIRSTON
KENTUCKY



Round 2 (41): DT TJ SANDERS	South Carolina
Round 3 (72): EDGE LANDON JACKSON	Arkansas
Round 4 (109): DT DEONE WALKER	Kentucky
Round 5 (170): CB JORDAN HANCOCK	Ohio State
Round 5 (169): TE JACKSON HAWES	Georgia Tech
Round 6 (177): CB DORIAN STRONG	Virginia Tech
Round 6 (206): OT CHASE LUNDT	UConn
Round 7 (240): WR KADEN PRATHER	Maryland

1ST ROUND

Buffalo had one of the league's top offenses last year (30.6 PPG, No. 2 in the league) behind NFL MVP quarterback Josh Allen. However, their defense has struggled for years in the postseason to make key stops. General Manager Brandon Beane aggressively addressed that side of the ball in the first round with **HAIRSTON**, who missed most of the 2024 season due to injury, followed by three defensive linemen in Rounds 2-4. The Bills needed a high-caliber cornerback to play opposite Christian Benford, and Hairston provides that for them with his solid tackling ability and good length.

BALANCE OF THE DRAFT

The Bills clearly emphasized adding players along the defensive line, as their second, third, and fourth selections were all spent on the trenches. **WALKER** is one of the most notable players in this year's class, standing at 6-foot-6 and weighing 345 pounds, yet he plays with more finesse than his size would suggest. **LUNDT** excelled in Connecticut's zone-blocking scheme, surrendering just one quarterback hit and no sacks in pass protection in 2024. However, despite a strong RB class, the Bills failed to select one.

STEAL OF THE DRAFT

The Bills are accused of reaching for **SANDERS** in Round 2, but the metrics indicate otherwise. Buffalo traded up 15 spots to No. 41 overall to pick the all-SEC defensive tackle in Round 2. The 6-foot-4 interior lineman compiled an impressive Relative Athletic Score (RAS) that sets him apart from other prospects at his position. His 9.38 RAS ranks 127th out of 2,033 defensive tackle prospects graded from 1987 through 2025.

DRAFT GRADES: PLAYBOOK: B … Composite: B+
ESPN: B+ … OURLADS: B … PFF: A- … SI: B

MIAMI DOLPHINS

Round 1 (13):
DT KENNETH GRANT
MICHIGAN



Round 2 (37):	
OG JONAH SAVAIINAEA	**Arizona**
Round 5 (143):	
DT JORDAN PHILLIPS	**Maryland**
Round 5 (150):	
CB JASON MARSHALL JR	**Florida**
Round 5 (155):	
S DANTE TRADER JR	**Maryland**
Round 6 (179):	
RB OLLIE GORDON II	**Oklahoma State**
Round 7 (231):	
QB QUINN EWERS	**Texas**
Round 7 (253):	
DT ZEEK BIGGERS	**Georgia Tech**

1ST ROUND

When asked to describe **GRANT**, Miami's mountain of a man, Michigan head coach Sherrone Moore said, "He's a student of the game, he studies his hair off, wants to be the best off the field. He's an absolute animal, an aggressive, physical, violent human being on the field." Moore went on to say that "He doesn't take plays off. He's gonna give you everything he's got all the time. And that motor doesn't stop. His closest friend was Mason Graham. They came in together, and they were roommates. And they pushed each other to be great."

BALANCE OF THE DRAFT

The Dolphins entered the 2025 NFL draft with 10 picks and a slew of needs. Despite needing as much ammunition as possible to fill holes on both lines and in the secondary, Miami ended up with eight picks following trades, going from three picks in the top 100 to only two. That meant that after making the 37th overall pick in Round 3, they had to wait for 106 picks to come off the board before they could select again. Not good.

STEAL OF THE DRAFT

After a turbulent junior campaign in Austin, **EWERS** eschewed the transfer portal in favor of going pro. That decision has not aged perfectly, but he wound up in a promising situation: Given Tua Tagovailoa's worrisome injury history, the window of opportunity can open at a moment's notice. Ewers brings NFL arm talent to the table; he just needs to clean up his turnovers and operate with more poise under pressure.

DRAFT GRADES: PLAYBOOK: C … Composite: C+
ESPN: C+ … OURLADS: B- … PFF: B- … SI: C+

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Round 1 (4):
OT WILL CAMPBELL
LSU



Round 2 (38): RB TREVEYON HENDERSON	Ohio State
Round 3 (69): WR KYLE WILLIAMS	Wash State
Round 3 (95): JARED WILSON	Georgia
Round 4 (106): S CRAIG WOODSON	California
Round 4 (137): DT JOSHUA FARMER	Florida State
Round 5 (146): EDGE BRADYN SWINSON	LSU
Round 6 (182): K ANDRES BORREGALES	Miami FL
Round 7 (220): OT MARCUS BRYANT	Missouri
Round 7 (251): LS JULIAN ASHBY	Vanderbilt
Round 7 (257): CB KOBEE MINOR	Memphis

1ST ROUND

The Patriots' biggest need was on the offensive line, specifically at left tackle. **CAMPBELL** was the consensus best lineman in the draft, making him a perfect fit. Combined with a mature-beyond-his-years personality and his clear desire to be part of a winning organization, it couldn't be a better fit at No. 4 overall than Will Campbell.

BALANCE OF THE DRAFT

According to The Athletic's Dane Brugler, the Pats absolutely crushed the 2025 NFL Draft. New England walked away with four offensive players who ranked in his top 100 and could turn into starters early on. The Patriots are under a new regime run by Mike Vrabel, who also brought along exec Ryan Cowden to assist in the front office. It helped that New England entered the 2025 NFL Draft with nine picks in hand. They ended the weekend with 11 players added to their roster.

STEAL OF THE DRAFT

Washington State wide receiver **WILLIAMS** and Ohio State running back **HENDERSON** finished in a dead heat for this honor. Josh Downs was Drake Maye's go-to target during Maye's best college season, and Williams can become that type of weapon (and help correct the Ladd McConkey miss). Then there is Henderson, who led the Big Ten with 7.1 yards per carry in the 2024 season, and his 6.4-yard career average is 10th all-time in the conference. More impressive is the fact that Henderson recorded zero fumbles during his college career at Ohio State, an awe-inspiring feat given his 590 carries and 667 total touches (including receptions). This ball security stat stands out for a high-usage running back in the Big Ten.

DRAFT GRADES: PLAYBOOK: A … Composite: A-
ESPN: A- … OURLADS: B … PFF: A … SI: A-

NEW YORK JETS

Round 1 (7):
OT ARMAND MEMBOU
MISSOURI



Round 2 (42):	
TE MASON TAYLOR	**LSU**
Round 3 (73):	
CB AZAREYE'H THOMAS	**Florida State**
Round 4 (110):	
WR ARIAN SMITH	**Georgia**
Round 4 (130):	
S MALACHI MOORE	**Alabama**
Round 5 (162):	
LB FRANCISCO MAUIGOA	**Miami FL**
Round 5 (176):	
EDGE TYLER BARON	**Miami FL**

1ST ROUND

A 'lights out' decision in the first round, selecting Missouri's **MEMBOU**, boosted the Jets' draft stock this season. He possesses immense talent and fills a positional need for the Jets following the departure of right tackle Mark Moses to the New England Patriots.

BALANCE OF THE DRAFT

The Jets are one of seven NFL teams entering 2025 with a new head coach, joining five other teams under the command of a first-time head ball coach. "Aaron Glenn and rookie GM Darren Mougey nicely drove the fairway on their first Gang Green tee shot," wrote USA TODAY NFL columnist Nate Davis. He went on to say that, "It was notable that they hired a defensive-minded coach – and one of the best corners in franchise history – in Glenn only to opt for an offensive-centric draft, and one that seemed modeled on the Lions blueprint Glenn saw work so well as their defensive coordinator." Second-round TE **TAYLOR**, son of former Jets OLB Jason Taylor, should provide immediate assistance to new QB Justin Fields.

STEAL OF THE DRAFT

Florida State CB **THOMAS** was just what the doctor ordered for Gang Green. With the Jets losing cornerbacks D.J. Reed and Brandin Echols to free agency, they were seeking additional help after signing Brandon Stephens and Kris Boyd in free agency. While Thomas will probably begin his rookie campaign as a backup behind Stephon Gilmore, Sauce Gardner, and Michael Carter II, he is expected to take on a more significant role in Steve Wilks' defense later in the year.

DRAFT GRADES: PLAYBOOK: B- … Composite: B
ESPN: B … OURLADS: B … PFF: B+ … SI: B+

BALTIMORE RAVENS

Round 1 (27):
S MALAKAI STARKS
GEORGIA



Round 2 (59): EDGE MIKE GREEN	Marshall
Round 3 (91): OT EMORY JONES JR	LSU
Round 4 (129): LB TEDDYE BUCHANAN	California
Round 5 (141): OT CARSON VINSON	Alabama A&M
Round 6 (178): CB BILHAL KONE	Western Michigan
Round 6 (186): K TYLER LOOP	Arizona
Round 6 (203): WR LAJOHNTAY WESTER	Colorado
Round 6 (210): DT AENEAS PEEBLES	Virginia Tech
Round 6 (212): CB ROBERT LONGERBEAM	Rutgers
Round 7 (243): OG GARRETT DELLINGER	LSU

1ST ROUND

Each year, Baltimore has a proven style in the NFL Draft that works very well or them. The Ravens simply let the board fall to them and select the best available player. Georgia S Malakai **STARKS** was a valuable pick for the Ravens with the 27th selection in the first round. He brings high-level football intelligence and great anticipation to make plays on the ball in coverage, and he possesses positional versatility that will allow Kyle Hamilton to be a movable chess piece. He won the national championship with Georgia in 2022 and has started every game since week two of his freshman season. He is clearly the highest-rated safety in Ourlads' draft book.

BALANCE OF THE DRAFT

Once again, the Ravens opted for value by selecting the top player available, making a significant gain with Marshall Edge Mike **GREEN** in the second round – a first-round talent who fell due to sexual assault allegations. LB Teddye **BUCHANAN** has one year of starting experience at Cal after four years at UC Davis. The Ravens lost both of their backup linebackers, Malik Harrison and Chris Board, in free agency, so Buchanan is projected to be their primary backup behind Roquan Smith and Trenton Simpson.

STEAL OF THE DRAFT

Many feel that **GREEN** is the best pass rusher in this year's draft. A first-round talent slipped due to off-field issues. He earned PFF grades above 90.0 in each of the past two seasons and dominated at a lower level of competition. Green recorded 17 sacks in 2024.

DRAFT GRADES: PLAYBOOK: A- … Composite: A-
ESPN: B+ … OURLADS: A … PFF: A … SI: B

CINCINNATI BENGALS

Round 1 (17):
EDGE SHEMAR STEWART
TEXAS A&M



Round 2 (49):	
LB DEMETRIUS KNIGHT II	**South Carolina**
Round 3 (81):	
OG DYLAN FAIRCHILD	**Georgia**
Round 4 (119):	
LB BARRETT CARTER	**Clemson**
Round 5 (153):	
OT JALEN RIVERS	**Miami FL**
Round 6 (193):	
RB TAHJ BROOKS	**Texas Tech**

1ST ROUND

Defensive End Shemar **STEWART** is your classic boom-or-bust prospect – how often does that work out in Cincinnati? While Stewart is an incredibly high-potential athlete off the edge, the A&M defensive end flashed top-end speed for the position, running a 4.59 40-yard dash. He recorded elite jumps (40.00 vertical, 10'11" broad) as well. However, his pass-rush production (67.2 PFF pass-rush grade) leaves something to be desired.

BALANCE OF THE DRAFT

Cincinnati had glaring defensive needs on the line and in the secondary. Somehow, the team didn't take a corner or a safety at any point while selecting multiple guards. The values were poor (a 25-year-old LB who played six years in college with three teams), and the talents don't have high ceilings. They had only six cards in this year's Draft deal, and they used one of them on Georgia guard Dylan **FAIRCHILD**, who had limited athletic testing, but was part of Georgia's two-time national championship teams as part of a highly touted offensive line, with an imposing frame and a well-proportioned build. But he has a strong wrestling background. That's good news if they need a takedown.

STEAL OF THE DRAFT

Barrett **CARTER** was the third-highest ranked linebacker in the Ourlads 'Draft Guide, right behind Jihaad Campbell and Carson Schwesinger, who were the No. 31 and 33 selections in the draft. He was a three-year starter, a first-team All-ACC selection and a consensus All-America in 2023 and 2024, and plays with a non-stop motor. Carter consistently outruns or rips through block attempts, chasing to the perimeter. He can also mirror a shifty back and the speed to take an inside receiver up the field.

DRAFT GRADES: PLAYBOOK: C- … Composite: C
ESPN: C … OURLADS: B+ … PFF: C … SI: D-

CLEVELAND BROWNS

Round 1 (5):
DT MASON GRAHAM
MICHIGAN



Round 2 (33):	
LB CARSON SCHWESINGER	**UCLA**
Round 2 (36):	
RB QUINSHON JUDKINGS	**Ohio State**
Round 3 (67):	
TE HAROLD FANNIN JR	**Bowling Green**
Round 3 (94):	
QB DILLON GABRIEL	**Oregon**
Round 4 (126):	
RB DYLAN SAMPSON	**Tennessee**
Round 5 (144):	
QB SHEDEUR SANDERS	**Colorado**

1ST ROUND

In the movie *Draft Day*, the Browns' general manager outsmarted a young Jaguars general manager during the NFL Draft. Fiction became reality this year as the Browns deceived a young Jaguars general manager in real life when they traded the rights to the No. 2 pick in the draft, Travis Hunter, for a substantial number of draft picks this season and next in exchange for the Jags' No. 4 selection. That turned out to be Mason **GRAHAM**, who is considered the best DT in the draft and is expected to pair well with NFL Defensive Player of the Year Myles Garrett.

BALANCE OF THE DRAFT

Dillon **GABRIEL** may be short in stature, but he throws the ball harder than any CFB quarterback at 75 MPH (more than Josh Allen) and started more games (63) than any QB in CFB history. Along with Sanders, they will compete against Joe Flacco and Kenny Pickett for starting honors. Carson **SCHWESINGER** (the tackling machine), Quinshon **JUDKINS** (first, second, and third team all SEC and Big Ten running back), and Dylan **SAMPSON** (led the SEC in rushing last year) are lock-tight keepers. Note: The Browns landed five players within the Top 100 picks of the draft – and that did not include Sampson or Sanders!

STEAL OF THE DRAFT

Shedeur **SANDERS** was projected as high as the No. 2 overall pick in the draft, yet fell into the Browns' lap at No. 144. That alone earned him this spot. He completed more than 70% of his passes as a 4-year career starter while throwing for 14,327 yards and 134 TD passes, with 27 INTs.

DRAFT GRADES: PLAYBOOK: A- … Composite: A
ESPN: A+ … OURLADS: A+ … PFF: C+ … SI: A-

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Round 1 (21):
DT DERRICK HARMON
OREGON



Round 3 (83): RB KALEB JOHNSON	Iowa
Round 4 (123): EDGE JACK SAWYER	Ohio State
Round 5 (164): DT YAHYA BLACK	Iowa
Round 6 (185): QB WILL HOWARD	Ohio State
Round 7 (226): LB CARSON BRUENER	Washington
Round 7 (229): CB DONTE KENT	Central Michigan

1ST ROUND

Pittsburgh wasn't bluffing with its long-running relaxed attitude toward uncertainty behind center. DL Derrick **HARMON** could be the next Cam Heyward, even while playing alongside the 36-year-old perennial All-Pro in the short term. Ourlads states he can be violent with his hands, enabling him to come off a block quickly and make a play.

BALANCE OF THE DRAFT

It was widely known that Pittsburgh had no interest in the Colorado quarterback Sanders. Thus, it was no surprise when the Steelers selected a defensive tackle with their opening-round choice. The Steelers had a great draft. The only criticism is that they didn't find a quarterback of the future sooner; yet there is no doubt that this draft class will improve the roster this upcoming season. RB Kaleb **JOHNSON** retains his team colors while providing the Steelers with an early-down force. He logged 21 touchdowns with an 86.5 PFF rushing grade in 2024, while averaging an impressive 4.42 yards after contact per attempt. Adding Edge Jack **SAWYER** to the Steelers' front feels like a cheat code in a room full of talented pass-rushers. Sawyer's 63 total pressures ranked fourth in the FBS last season, and his playmaking ability against the run makes him a good fit in Pittsburgh.

STEAL OF THE DRAFT

Quarterback Will **HOWARD** was a sixth-round steal who, during his final season in college, led the Big Ten in completion percentage, passing yards, and touchdown passes while guiding the Buckeyes to the national title.

DRAFT GRADES: PLAYBOOK: A … Composite: A-
ESPN: B+ … OURLADS: A … PFF: B+ … SI: A

HOUSTON TEXANS

Round 2 (34):
WR JAYDEN HIGGINS
IOWA STATE



Round 2 (48):	
OT AIREONTAE ERSERY	**Minnesota**
Round 3 (79):	
WR JAYLIN NOEL	**Iowa State**
Round 3 (97):	
CB JAYLIN SMITH	**USC**
Round 4 (116):	
RB WOODY MARKS	**USC**
Round 6 (187):	
S JAYLEN REED	**Penn State**
Round 6 (197):	
QB GRAHAM MERTZ	**Florida**
Round 7 (224):	
DT KYONTE HAMILTON	**Rutgers**
Round 7 (255):	
TE LUKE LACHEY	**Iowa**

1ST ROUND

No first-round pick for the Texans in this draft. They settled, instead, for two No. 2s and two No. 3s, two of them courtesy of the Laremy Tunsil trade to Washington. The focus was on helping QB C.J. Stroud after a slight sophomore slump largely beyond his control, per Nate Davis of USA TODAY. Instead, behind a new-look offensive line, Stroud will be throwing to talented former Iowa State WRs Jayden Higgins (Round 2) and Jaylin Noel (Round 3), who complete a receiver group that was depleted at times in 2024. Receivers galore are nice, but where's the OL help?

BALANCE OF THE DRAFT

Houston had plans to upgrade their offensive line in the opening round, but with Tyler Booker and Donovan Jackson off the board, they traded out of Thursday night. Houston addressed its troubled receiving corps with a pair of Iowa State receivers in Jayden **HIGGINS** and Jaylin **NOEL.** You know what they say in Iowa – one Cyclone receiver is nice. They will team with former ISU WR Xavier Hutchinson. You know what they say in Iowa: Two Cyclones are nice. Three can cause a natural disaster.

STEAL OF THE DRAFT

The Texans found a steal in the middle of the second round in Aireontae **ERSERY**, who could emerge as a starting tackle during his rookie season. Per PFF, Ersery showcased an explosive first step and quick feet over the last two seasons, allowing him to significantly impact zone-blocking schemes, where his 89.5 PFF grade charted in the 84th percentile.

DRAFT GRADES: PLAYBOOK: B … Composite: B+
ESPN: B+ … OURLADS: A … PFF: B … SI: C

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Round 1 (14):
TE TYLER WARREN
PENN STATE



Round 2 (45):	
EDGE JT TUIMOLOAU	**Ohio State**
Round 3 (80):	
CB JUSTIN WALLEY	**Minnesota**
Round 4 (127):	
OT JALEN TRAVIS	**Iowa State**
Round 5 (151):	
DJ GIDDENS	**Kansas State**
Round 6 (189):	
QB RILEY LEONARD	**Notre Dame**
Round 6 (190):	
DT TIM SMITH	**Alabama**
Round 7 (232):	
LB HUNTER WOHLER	**Wisconsin**

1ST ROUND

To quote PFF, Tyler **WARREN** is everything NFL offenses look for at tight end: a do-it-all player with day-one impact in the run and pass games. The Penn State standout caught 104 passes for 1,233 yards last season and slots in as an immediate weapon alongside receivers Michael Pittman Jr. and Alec Pierce. QBs Anthony Richardson and Daniel Jones will now have a full complement of playmakers to roll with into the 2025 campaign.

BALANCE OF THE DRAFT

In the second round, Ohio State edge rusher JT **TUIMOLOAU** was a good value, as many believed he was a first-round talent heading into the 2024 campaign. He should receive plenty of snaps opposite last year's first-rounder, Laiatu Latu. Jalen **TRAVIS,** a massive offensive tackle at 6-foot-8 and 339 pounds, was the starting left tackle for Iowa State last season after transferring from Princeton. He excelled in pass protection, never allowing three or more pressures, but he must enhance his run-blocking. Running back D.J. **GIDDENS** is a two-time All-Big 12 performer with an elusive style. He broke many tackles over the last two seasons, showcasing a combination of toughness and open-field skills that left defenders eating dirt. Former Notre Dame QB Riley **LEONARD** could provide valuable insurance should Richardson's inconsistency or injury woes persist.

STEAL OF THE DRAFT

Linebacker Hunter **WOHLER** achieved an elite 90.0 coverage grade over the past two seasons. He is a reliable tackler, with three consecutive seasons of 77.0-plus PFF tackling grades. Additionally, Wohler logged 452 career special-teams snaps and maintained an elite 90.0 coverage grade over the past two seasons.

DRAFT GRADES: PLAYBOOK: B+ … Composite: B+
ESPN: B … OURLADS: A … PFF: B+ … SI: B

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

Round 1 (2):
WR/CB TRAVIS HUNTER
COLORADO



Round 3 (88): CB CALEB RANSAW	Tulane
Round 3 (89): OG WYATT MILUM	West Virginia
Round 4 (104): RB BHAYSHUL TUTEN	Virginia Tech
Round 4 (107): LB JACK KISER	Notre Dame
Round 6 (194): LB JALEN MCLEOD	Auburn
Round 6 (200): S RAYUAN LANE III	Navy
Round 7 (221): C JONAH MONHEIM	USC
Round 7 (236): RB LEQUINT ALLEN	Syracuse

1ST ROUND

First-year general manager James Gladstone so coveted do-it-all Heisman winner Travis **HUNTER** that he relinquished two first-round picks and a second-round choice to acquire him. That's a steep price for a team in need of many pieces. He's a two-way star unlike anything the NFL has seen in the modern era.

BALANCE OF THE DRAFT

Quarterback Trevor Lawrence has struggled to finish the past two seasons, so protecting him was the highest priority. They've had one of the worst defenses in the NFL over the past couple of years (in the last five seasons), so improvement is essential at every level. So, what did they do? They traded two No. 1 picks and a No. 2 pick to move up three places in the first round to draft this year's Heisman Trophy winner, Swiss Army knife Travis Hunter. In the process, they secured two OL with their 10 draft selections. It doesn't matter what type of calculator you use; the numbers just don't add up. Hunter will need to become a safety net for Lawrence while Brian Thomas Jr. hits the home runs. Beyond Hunter, the Jaguars strengthened their secondary by selecting CB Caleb **RANSAW** with the first of back-to-back picks in the third round. Like us, Rotoworld wasn't keen on this year's draft crop. They awarded them a C+. We weren't that generous.

STEAL OF THE DRAFT

The Jaguars selected OG Wyatt **MILUM** in the third round. Milum stood out at the Senior Bowl and is expected to compete for a starting position in 2025.

DRAFT GRADES: PLAYBOOK: C … Composite: B-
ESPN: B … OURLADS: B+ … PFF: B+ … SI: B-

TENNESSEE TITANS

Round 1 (1):
QB CAM WARD
MIAMI FL



Round 2 (52): EDGE OLUWAFEMI OLADEJO	UCLA
Round 3 (82): S KEVIN WINSTON JR	Penn State
Round 4 (103): WR CHIMERE DIKE	Florida
Round 4 (120): TE GUNNAR HELM	Texas
Round 4 (136): WR ELIC AYOMANOR	Stanford
Round 5 (167): OG JACKSON SLATER	Sacramento St
Round 6 (183): CB MARCUS HARRIS	California
Round 6 (188): RB KALEL MULLING	Michigan

1ST ROUND

Tennessee has selected six quarterbacks in the first round of the draft. Cam **WARD** is its first No. 1 overall QB. Ward went from a zero-star high school recruit to the first pick of the NFL Draft. After pulling out of the 2024 draft—when he likely would have been no better than the sixth quarterback selected—he truly came into his own at the University of Miami. Thereafter, there was never any doubt that Ward would be the top pick in this year's draft. If he proves he can compete with Patrick Mahomes, Josh Allen, and Lamar Jackson, this will be a historic draft for the Titans. Ward might not be the top overall player in this draft, but he is the clear-cut top quarterback prospect in a weaker class. The good news? Ward has all the tools to become a star.

BALANCE OF THE DRAFT

Wide receiver Chimere **DIKE** was not the highest-ranked wide receiver still available on the PFF Big Board; however, Dike brings high-end speed to the Tennessee offense. He tested with a 4.3 forty during the pre-draft process and ranked in the top 25 nationally in 2024 for both receptions 20-plus yards downfield and deep receiving grade. Dike profiles as a vertical threat for new quarterback Cam Ward.

STEAL OF THE DRAFT

Kevin **WINSTON JR.** produced an excellent 2023 tape before missing nearly the entire 2024 season due to injury. He achieved an 89.3 PFF overall grade two years ago after not missing any tackles. The ball-hawking safety excels with high-level intelligence and a quick first step. Winston represents a steal here, based on his PFF Big Board rank.

DRAFT GRADES: PLAYBOOK: B … Composite: B+
ESPN: B+ … OURLADS: A … PFF: A … SI: B

DENVER BRONCOS

Round 1 (20):
CB JAHDAE BARRON
TEXAS



Round 2 (60):	
RB RJ HARVEY	**UCF**
Round 3 (74):	
WR PAT BRYANT	**Illinois**
Round 3 (101):	
EDGE SAI'VION JONES	**LSU**
Round 4 (134):	
EDGE QUE ROBINSON	**Alabama**
Round 6 (216):	
P JEREMY CRAWSHAW	**Florida**
Round 7 (241):	
TE CALEB LOHNER	**UTAH**

1ST ROUND

In a surprise, Denver decided not to upgrade its offense in the first round, opting instead to select Jahdae **BARRON**, a slot corner, who will form a tremendous trio with Patrick Surtain II, the reigning Defensive Player of the Year, and Riley Moss. PFF pegged him as the highest-graded cornerback in college football last season (91.1); he is a natural zone defender with incredible instincts and can slot in at any position in the secondary.

BALANCE OF THE DRAFT

Wide receiver Pat **BRYANT** is a large receiver at 6 feet 3 inches and 200 pounds who has a strong build, good hands, and reliable blocking, making him a valuable rotation wideout. TE CJ **LOHNER** played only 43 receiving snaps in 2024 and caught just five passes, but four resulted in touchdowns, including three contested catches. As a dual-sport athlete who played basketball, PFF suggests that Lohner provides Sean Payton with a Jimmy Graham-style tight end for the red zone. A pair of 3rd and 4th round Edge rushers from the SEC, Sai'von **JONES** of LSU and Que **ROBINSON** of Alabama, are expected to strengthen an imposing defensive unit.

STEAL OF THE DRAFT

Runninf back RJ **HARVEY** is a dynamic back who demonstrates incredible contact balance and forced 69 missed tackles as a runner in 2024. Despite being small in stature at 5'8" and 205 pounds, he possesses elite change-of-direction ability and a great first step. Harvey earned a PFF grade of 82.3 or better for three consecutive seasons while accumulating 43 touchdowns over the past two years. PFF contends he gives Sean Payton his Alvin Kamara..

DRAFT GRADES: PLAYBOOK: A- … Composite: B+
ESPN: B … OURLADS: C … PFF: B … SI: B

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

Round 1 (32):
OT JOSH SIMMONS
OHIO STATE



Round 2 (63):	
DT OMARR NORMAN-LOTT	**Tennessee**
Round 3 (66):	
EDGE ASHTON GILLOTTE	**Louisville**
Round 3 (85):	
CB NOHL WILLIAMS	**California**
Round 4 (133):	
WR JALEN ROYALS	**Utah State**
Round 5 (156):	
LB JEFFREY BASSA	**Oregon**
Round 7 (228):	
RB BRASHARD SMITH	**SMU**

1ST ROUND

First-round LT Josh **SIMMONS** was arguably the most intriguing of Andy Reid's selections. Coming off the torn patellar tendon he sustained last October, Reid hopes he'll be available ahead of schedule. Patellar tendon tears have ended many careers, and there's a chance Simmons may never be able to play effectively again. However, if Simmons recovers, he could become a franchise left tackle for the team. If that happens, the Chiefs might have committed quite the heist.

BALANCE OF THE DRAFT

After being exposed by the Eagles in the Super Bowl, Reid reinforced the trenches with his first three selections and then focused on speed, quickness, and the passing game on Day Three. Omar **NORMAN-LOTT** provided solid value in the second round. He should contribute as a rookie on pass-rushing downs next to Chris Jones. Additionally, with multiple skill-position athletes that align with what Reid emphasizes in the passing game, along with speed and quickness in the back seven, he navigated the third round like a knight slaying a dragon. LB Jeffrey **BASSA**, a three-year starter from Oregon, was second team All-Pac 12 in 2023 and an honorable mention All-Big 10 in 2024. He has a muscular build but is slightly undersized for the position. He began his career as a safety before switching to linebacker in 2022. Ultimately, the final grade on this year's Draft for the Chiefs will depend on the health and condition of top pick Simmons.

STEAL OF THE DRAFT

Wide receiver Jalen **ROYALS** looks to be the Chiefs' top value pick. Royals could have easily been taken in Round 3, so perhaps he'll be able to become a viable threat for Mahomes.

DRAFT GRADES: PLAYBOOK: B+ … Composite: B+
ESPN: B+ … OURLADS: B- … PFF: A … SI: B+

LAS VEGAS RAIDERS

Round 1 (6):
RB ASHTON JEANTY
BOISE STATE



Round 2 (58): WR JACK BECH	TCU
Round 3 (68): CB DARIEN PORTER	Iowa State
Round 3 (98): OG CALEB ROGERS	Texas Tech
Round 3 (99): OT CHARLES GRANT	William & Mary
Round 4 (108): WR DONT'E THORNTON JR	Tennessee
Round 4 (135): TONKA HEMINGWAY	South Carolina
Round 6 (180): DT JJ PEGUES	Ole Miss
Round 6 (213): WR TOMMY MELLOTT	Montana State
Round 6 (215): QB CAM MILLER	North Dakota State
Round 7 (222): LB CODY LINDENBERG	Minnesota

1ST ROUND

After finishing dead last with just 79.8 rushing yards per game last season, the Raiders' running game was badly in need of an infusion. RB Ashton **JEANTY** certainly qualifies. His 152 missed tackles forced were nearly 50 more than any other FBS running back last season, and he was the only back in college football with 10 or more touchdown runs of 20-plus yards (12). The Raiders needed a difference-maker at running back, and Jeanty is the guy.

BALANCE OF THE DRAFT

Like the Browns, the Raiders scored five players within the Top 100 picks of the draft. Five of the first six picks were used on the offensive side of the ball as the team implements more smashmouth football under the guidance of Chip Kelly, coming off a National Championship win. TCU wide receiver **JACK BECH** was the star of the Senior Bowl game, and is another weapon for newly acquired quarterback Geno Smith. He brings excellent hands, having dropped just one pass in 2024. CB Darien **PORTER** of Iowa State is a former wide receiver with an elite track background that translates to the field.

STEAL OF THE DRAFT

There aren't many wide receivers at 6-foot-5 and over 200 pounds who can run a 4.3-second 40-yard dash. WR Dont'e **THORNTON** brings size and athleticism on the outside for Las Vegas. Thornton wasn't a high-volume option in Tennessee's offense, but he made his looks count, averaging 25.5 yards per reception. That "one trick" is valuable, and he gives Geno Smith a big target on the outside with big-play ability.

DRAFT GRADES: PLAYBOOK: B- … Composite: B
ESPN: B … OURLADS: C+ … PFF: A … SI: B

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS

Round 1 (22):
RB OMARION HAMPTON
NORTH CAROLINA



Round 2 (55): WR TRE HARRIS	Ole Miss
Round 3 (86): DT JAMAREE CALDWELL	Oregon
Round 4 (125): EDGE KYLE KENNARD	S Carolina
Round 5 (158): WR KEANDRE LAMBERT-SMITH	Auburn
Round 5 (165): TE ORONDE GADSEN II	Syracuse
Round 6 (199): OG BRANSON TAYLOR	Pittsburgh
Round 6 (214): S RJ MICKENS	Clemson
Round 7 (256): CB TRIKWEZE BRIDGES	Florida

1ST ROUND

It was Christmas in April for head coach Jim Harbaugh when the Chargers filled out his roster with physical ballers. The cherry on the sundae came when Los Angeles landed RB Omarian **HAMPTON**, the leading rusher in the ACC. Although the Chargers signed Najee Harris to headline their backfield, Harbaugh values dynamic playmakers in the running game. Hampton is one of the most physically gifted backs in the class, as evidenced by his 4.29 yards after contact per attempt (97th percentile) over the past two seasons.

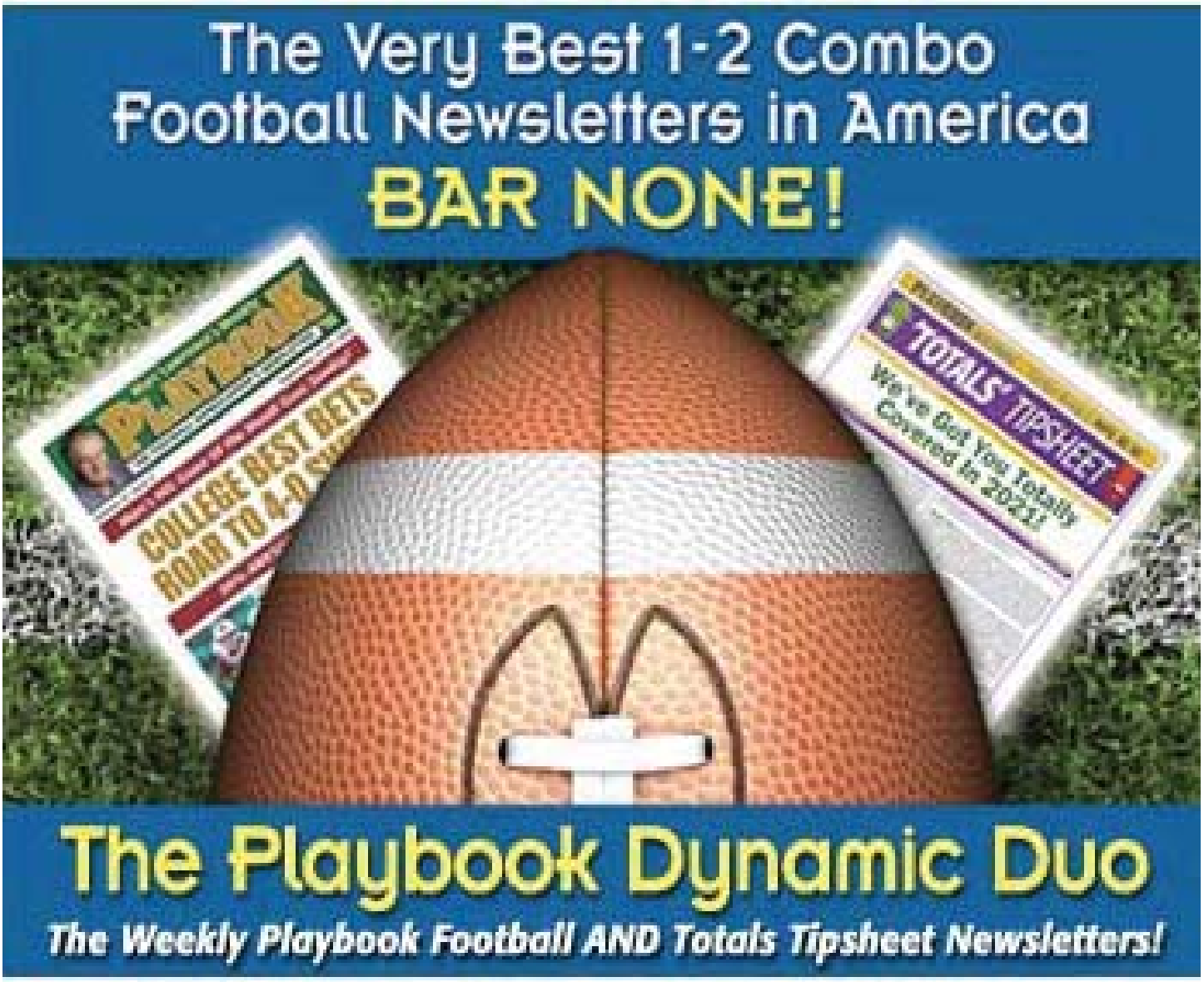
BALANCE OF THE DRAFT

Not only did the Chargers add a top-shelf running back, but they also targeted receivers – Tre **HARRIS**, Ole Miss; Keandre **LAMBERT-SMITH**, Auburn; and TE Oronde **GADSEN II**, Syracuse – for the passing game, who balance each other well. The bottom line is that it would not be a Harbaugh draft without the additions of physical linemen, with the team adding three players (one on offense, two on defense).

STEAL OF THE DRAFT

The Chargers get excellent value with RJ **MICKENS**, landing PFF's No. 108 prospect at pick No. 214. Mickens, the son of former NFL player Ray Mickens, earned an 89.8 PFF overall grade in 2024. He is a four-year starter and a two-time honorable mention All-ACC. Plays a mixture of roles, notably deep at safety and linebacker depth in the box. Elite change-of-direction skills for someone his size to take away multiple underneath routes in zone coverage. Able to carry running backs out of the backfield in man coverage. We love four-year starters with this sort of credentials.

DRAFT GRADES: PLAYBOOK: B … Composite: B+
ESPN: B+ … OURLADS: B- … PFF: A … SI: C+



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DALLAS COWBOYS

Round 1 (12):
OG TYLER BOOKER
ALABAMA



Round 2 (44):	
EDGE DONOVAN EZEIRUAKU	**Boston College**
Round 3 (76):	
CB SHAVON REVEL JR	**East Carolina**
Round 5 (149):	
RB JAYDON BLUE	**Texas**
Round 5 (152):	
LB SHEMAR JAMES	**Florida**
Round 6 (204):	
OT AJANI CORNELIUS	**Oregon**
Round 7 (217):	
DT JAY TOIA	**UCLA**
Round 7 (239):	
RB PHIL MAFAH	**Clemson**
Round 7 (247):	
DT TOMMY AKINGBESOTE	**Maryland**

1ST ROUND

It was no surprise when the Cowboys disregarded popular opinion and disrespected both the wide receiver and running back positions, instead selecting Alabama OG Tyler **BOOKER** in the first round. Aside from being a bully on the field, Booker fills a need and provides fresh leadership in the locker room. Booker is set to replace the retired Zack Martin, one of the best draft picks ever for the Jones family. Of the 46 first-round picks from Alabama since 2010, 42 have been starters in the same season. Chew on that.

BALANCE OF THE DRAFT

Situated at No. 17 on the PFF Big Board, LB Donovan **EZEIRUAKU** presents significant value for the Cowboys here. The Boston College standout maintains a solid grading profile, particularly against true pass sets, where he clocked the most snaps of any edge rusher in the 2025 class (196). The Cowboys have question marks at the linebacker position, and Shemar **JAMES** brings a wealth of experience to the table, logging over 1,000 career snaps over three seasons. He set a career high with a 68.4 PFF run-defense grade in his final year, registering 14 run stops. In addition, the Cowboys finally addressed the running back position and obtained solid value with Jaydon **BLUE**.

STEAL OF THE DRAFT

South Carolina CB Shavon **REVEL JR.** is a first-round talent with injury concerns. That's why Dallas was able to snag him in the third round. Revel is a tall outside corner with back-to-back seasons of PFF coverage grades above 80 (80.5 in 2023 and 84.0 in 2024).

DRAFT GRADES: PLAYBOOK: B+ … Composite: B+
ESPN: B … OURLADS: B- … PFF: A+ … SI: B+

NEW YORK GIANTS

Round 1 (3):
EDGE ABDUL CARTER
PENN STATE



Round 1 (25):	
QB JAXSON DART	**Ole Miss**
Round 3 (65):	
DT DARIUS ALEXANDER	**Toledo**
Round 4 (105):	
RB CAM SKATTEBO	**Arizona State**
Round 5 (154):	
OT MARCUS MBOW	**Purdue**
Round 7 (219):	
TE THOMAS FIDDONE II	**Nebraska**
Round 7 (246):	
CB KORIE BLACK	**Oklahoma State**

1ST ROUND

Big Blue secured monster Penn State Edge Abdul **CARTER** before trading up to acquire Ole Miss QB Jaxson **DART** in the first round this year. Carter has drawn comparisons to Micah Parsons and Von Miller; he is that good. In hindsight, though, Dart was an odd pick by the front office because a losing season will probably mean new people will be in charge next year. And Brian Daboll has no interest in rushing his development after he announced Russell Wilson as the starter. To trade up for Dart when the Giants could have traded down and obtained Shedeur Sanders or perhaps even Dart himself seems puzzling.

BALANCE OF THE DRAFT

After picking off Arizona State RB Cam **SKATTEBO** in the fourth round, Big Blue primarily filled needs in closing out the draft.

STEAL OF THE DRAFT

Bulldozing fourth-round RB Cam **SKATTEBO** will likely become the favorite pick of Big Blue's starved fans. And rightfully so. He was a three-year starter and the Big Sky Offensive Player of the Year in 2022 before transferring to Arizona State in 2023, where he earned first-team all-conference honors last year. He rewrote the single-season running back record book. A unique prospect, he plays with a fiery demeanor, intelligence, and versatility that is hard to find. His low-to-the-ground running style, aggression to the hole, and his never-say-die attitude are personality-changers for an offense. He breaks tackles and finds hidden yards every time he touches the ball. He brings effort and production, whether carrying the ball, catching it, blocking, or even punting. How can you not love that?

DRAFT GRADES: PLAYBOOK: B+ … Composite: A-
ESPN: A- … OURLADS: C+ … PFF: A- … SI: A+

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Round 1 (31):
LB JIHAAD CAMPBELL
ALABAMA



Round 2 (64):	
S ANDREW MUKUBA	**Texas**
Round 4 (111):	
DT TY ROBINSON	**Nebraska**
Round 5 (145):	
CB MAC MCWILLIAMS	**UCF**
Round 5 (161):	
LB SMAEL MONDON JR	**Georgia**
Round 5 (168):	
C DREW KENDALL	**Boston College**
Round 6 (181):	
QB KYLE MCCORD	**Syracuse**
Round 6 (191):	
OT MYLES HINTON	**Michigan**
Round 6 (207):	
OT CAMERON WILLIAMS	**Texas**
Round 6 (209):	
EDGE ANTWAUN POWELL-RYLAND	**Virginia Tech**

1ST ROUND

So, after leading the league in fewest yards allowed last season, the Eagles followed that up with five consecutive defensive picks to begin this year's draft. More importantly, they traded up to land Alabama LB Jihaad **CAMPBELL** with their initial selection, a position they had not drafted in Round One since 1979. PFF contends that Campbell oozes athleticism, showcasing incredible first-step quickness and speed to cover in space, and is an excellent tackler with just a 5.9% missed tackle rate while totaling 30 coverage stops. He lands in the perfect spot to learn alongside Zack Baun.

BALANCE OF THE DRAFT

General Manager Howie Roseman kept wheeling and dealing, making five trades to turn his eight picks into ten and leaning heavily into versatility to compensate for the numerous defensive personnel losses over the offseason. Like a great day on a sunny beach, he broke out more sun-blockers when he added three O-linemen: center Drew **KENDALL** from Boston College and offensive tackles Myles **HINTON** from Michigan and Cameron **WILLIAMS** from Texas, each a pair of sixth-round picks. Additionally, second-round safety Andrew **MUKUBA** from Texas checks a lot of boxes. Collectively, they help form a healthy 10-player draft, all from Power-Four conferences.

STEAL OF THE DRAFT

Some feel sixth-round QB Kyle **MCCORD** will be a solid signal caller in the league as he blossoms into a solid backup. Interestingly, McCord was named the Pennsylvania Gatorade Player of the Year as a senior, finishing his high school career with 6,887 passing yards, a Philadelphia Catholic League record, and 88 touchdown passes. He brings size, strength, and experience to the table.

DRAFT GRADES: PLAYBOOK: A … Composite: A-
ESPN: A- … OURLADS: B … PFF: A … SI: B

WASHINGTON COMMANDERS

Round 1 (29):
OT JOSH CONERLY JR
OREGON



Round 2 (61):
CB TREY AMOS — **Ole Miss**

Round 4 (128):
WR JAYLIN LANE — **Va Tech**

Round 6 (205):
LB KAIN MEDRANO — **UCLA**

Round 7 (245):
RB JACORY CROSKEY-MERRITT — **Arizona**

1ST ROUND

Say hello to Laremy Tunsill's stuntman. A two-year starter for Oregon at left tackle, Josh **CONERLY JR**., allowed just two sacks over the past two years. He graded above the 75th percentile in all grading facets, including a 78.1 true pass set pass-blocking grade in 2024. Conerly demonstrates good athleticism for the position, showcasing quick and explosive feet. His primary job will be to protect franchise QB Jayden Daniels.

BALANCE OF THE DRAFT

Overall, it was a lighter class (5 selections), partly because veteran CB Marshon Lattimore came at the cost of a third- and fourth-round pick at last year's trade deadline, a transaction that has yet to yield sufficient results. Still, GM Adam Peters did a commendable job selecting OT Conerly Jr. in the first round and CB Trey **AMOS** in the second. Fourth-round WR Jaylin **LANE** could effectively replace the departed Dyami Brown as the deep threat. He was a rotational wide receiver for Virginia Tech, primarily playing in the slot during three-receiver sets. He has been particularly impressive in avoiding tackles, finishing with 1.2 avoided tackles per game over his last three seasons. He will compete for snaps with Luke McCaffrey, who also typically plays in the slot in three-receiver sets.

STEAL OF THE DRAFT

Trey **AMOS** brings elite speed and strong movement skills to the Commanders' defense. According to PFF, he earned an 85.6 coverage grade in 2024, forcing 13 incompletions and recording three interceptions. A standout at the Senior Bowl, Amos showcases good instincts in zone coverage and possesses the size and athleticism to lock down opposing receivers in man coverage.

DRAFT GRADES: PLAYBOOK: B- … Composite: B
ESPN: B+ … OURLADS: B+ … PFF: B+ … SI: B

CHICAGO BEARS

Round 1 (10):
TE COLSTON LOVELAND
MICHIGAN



Round 2 (39): WR LUTHER BURDEN III	Missouri
Round 2 (56): OT OZZY TRAPILO	Boston College
Round 2 (62): DT SHEMAR TURNER	Texas A&M
Round 4 (132): LB RUBEN HYPPOLITE II	Maryland
Round 5 (169): CB ZAH FRAZIER	UTSA
Round 6 (195): OG LUKE NEWMAN	Michigan State
Round 7 (233): RB KYLE MONANGAI	Rutgers

1ST ROUND

New Chicago head coach Ben Johnson is doing everything in his power to set Caleb Williams up for success, giving him two pass-catching weapons with their first two selections. However, many question whether first-round TE Colston **LOVELAND** was the correct choice over Tyler Warren, but the fact of the matter is that pairing Loveland with Cole Kmet gives the Bears significant personnel flexibility. Loveland is a polished receiving tight end. And Williams now has plenty of weapons to work with in D.J. Moore, Rome Odunze, Keenan Allen, Kmet, and Loveland.

BALANCE OF THE DRAFT

Per Ourlads, the Bears wrote the book on how to support a young quarterback over the past two seasons, but they really went into overdrive mode this offseason. After beefing up the offensive line with three new starters inside, they added a swing tackle and two versatile targets with their first three selections. They stood pat at No. 39 and came away with WR Luther **BURDEN III**, who loosely compares to Deebo Samuel, but Chicago missed out on what appeared to be this draft's top running back prospects. The question is whether or not to trust a team after how badly they flopped last season with a bad offensive line.

STEAL OF THE DRAFT

Chicago did wind up with three picks in Round Two, and DT Shemar **TURNER** might have been the best of the trio. Per PFF: Turner has positional versatility, as he played all along the defensive spots in college. Turner plays with a high motor.

DRAFT GRADES: PLAYBOOK: B+ … Composite: B+
ESPN: B+ … OURLADS: C+ … PFF: B+ … SI: B-

DETROIT LIONS

Round 1 (28):
DT TYLEIK WILLIAMS
OHIO STATE



Round 2 (57):	
OG TATE RATLEDGE	**Georgia**
Round 3 (70):	
WR ISSAC TESLAA	**Arkansas**
Round 5 (171):	
OG MILES FRAZIER	**LSU**
Round 6 (196):	
EDGE AHMED HASSANEIN	**Boise State**
Round 7 (230):	
S DAN JACKSON	**Georgia**
Round 7 (244):	
WR DOMINIC LOVETT	**Georgia**

1ST ROUND

The Lions used four of their first five picks on offensive and defensive linemen, focusing on DT Tyleik **WILLIAMS** of Ohio State in the first round. It was clear that Detroit was going to bolster the defensive line, and they didn't disappoint with a run-stuffing tackle. He meets the Lions' need for pocket pushers from the interior to allow Aidan Hutchinson to excel on the edge. While he has the frame to play 3-technique, he likely fits better as a nose tackle for the Lions.

BALANCE OF THE DRAFT

Offensive guard Tate **RATLEDGE** of Georgia epitomizes Detroit's style as a powerful downhill blocker who also demonstrates good, light feet in pass protection. Ratledge allowed just two sacks over three years and conceded only seven total pressures in his senior season. Meanwhile, Issac **TESLAA** is a big-bodied wide receiver at 6-foot-4 and 217 pounds who can help round out the Lions' wide receiver room. The Arkansas product is a sure-handed receiver who didn't drop a pass in 2024. His size, explosiveness, and sure hands offer him a starting-caliber ceiling as a "big slot" option. Speaking of pass catchers, Dominic **LOVETT** of Georgia – the third Bulldog drafted by the Lions - primarily played out of the slot for Georgia in 2024, catching 59 passes for 604 yards, with 360 of those yards coming after the catch.

STEAL OF THE DRAFT

The Lions bolster their safety depth and add a valuable special-teams contributor in Georgia safety Dan **JACKSON**. He surrendered only a 56.3 passer rating in his coverage in 2024. Jackson is recognized as one of the better special-teams players in the class.

DRAFT GRADES: PLAYBOOK: B … Composite: B-
ESPN: C+ … OURLADS: C … PFF: B- … SI: B-

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Round 1 (23):
WR MATTHEW GOLDEN
TEXAS



Round 2 (54): **OT ANTHONY BELTON**	**NC State**
Round 3 (87): **WR SAVION WILLIAMS**	**TCU**
Round 4 (124): **EDGE BARRYN SORRELL**	**Texas**
Round 5 (159): **EDGE COLLIN OLIVER**	**Oklahoma State**
Round 6 (198): **DT WARREN BRINSON**	**Georgia**
Round 7 (237): **MICAH ROBINSON**	**Tulane**
Round 7 (250): **OG JOHN WILLIAMS**	**Cincinnati**

1ST ROUND

As Gomer Pyle might say, "Surprise, surprise!" That was after Green Bay used their first-round selection on a wide receiver for the first time since 2002, when they landed Texas wideout Matthew **GOLDEN** with the 23rd pick in the draft. Golden can bring game-changing speed and clutch plays to this offense. Green Bay might still lack a legitimate No. 1 wideout, but Golden is a speedy weapon and a friendly target with reliable hands.

BALANCE OF THE DRAFT

The Packers maintained a theme we have seen eight times over the last ten drafts: adding three picks to the offensive line this year after round three. OT Anthony Belton is a large and powerful offensive tackle who spent his first few seasons at the JUCO level before transferring to NC State. A three-year starter for the Wolfpack, he shows good ability to reach the second level and uses his size and strength to anchor well against bull rushes. The Packers got their speed receiver in the first round; they get their huge possession guy in Savion **WILLIAMS.** The TCU product is 6-foot-5 and a big end zone threat for Jordan Love. Oklahoma State DE Collin **OLIVER** was a highly productive player in 2023 but missed most of 2024 with an injury. If he can remain healthy, he'll fill a need in Green Bay.

STEAL OF THE DRAFT

With Edge Barryn **SORRELL**, Green Bay adds depth to its defensive front. Sorrell improved each season at Texas, and his 48 total pressures were the most on the Longhorns' defense last season.

DRAFT GRADES: PLAYBOOK: B … Composite: B
ESPN: B … OURLADS: B … PFF: B- … SI: C+

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Round 1 (24):
OG DONOVAN JACKSON
OHIO STATE



Round 3 (102):	
WR TAI FELTON	**Maryland**
Round 5 (139):	
EDGE TYRION INGRAM-DAWKINS	**Georgia**
Round 6 (201):	
LB KOBE KING	**Penn State**
Round 6 (202):	
WR GAVIN BARTHOLOMEW	**Pittsburgh**

1ST ROUND

Tied for the smallest draft class (5) in this year's crop, the Vikings wasted little time selecting Ohio State OG Donovan **JACKSON** to better protect novice QB J.J. McCarthy. Some would argue that this was too early for Jackson, but the Lions had interest four picks later. Clearly, the Vikings don't want J.J. McCarthy to see the kind of pressure that derailed Sam Darnold's breakout season last year. Thus, Minnesota signed OL Ryan Kelly and Will Fries this offseason, and now they have Jackson. Nice progress.

BALANCE OF THE DRAFT

After landing Jackson in the first round, the Vikes beefed up their front seven while overlooking a position of concern – the secondary. The main issue is acquiring at least one player in the Top 100 picks in the draft. Edge defender Tyrion **INGRAM-DAWKINS** is a large-bodied edge rusher who excels against the run. PFF reports that he achieved a 70.8 run-defense grade in 2024, while registering 18 total pressures as a pass rusher. PSU's Kobe **KING** was a run-stopping specialist at Penn State, earning an 89.2 grade in that discipline. He also recorded 15 coverage stops in 2024. Finally, Pitt WR Gavin **BARTHOLOMEW** caught 38 of 51 targets for 322 yards, 169 of which were gained after the catch. Twenty of his receptions resulted in first downs..

STEAL OF THE DRAFT

With only five draft selections, the choices were limited for the Vikes. However, Maryland WR Tai **FELTON** was a standout weapon in Maryland's offense this past season, achieving career highs in receptions (96) and yardage (1,119). He is likely to be a keeper.

DRAFT GRADES: PLAYBOOK: C- … Composite: C
ESPN: B- … OURLADS: D … PFF: D … SI: B+

ATLANTA FALCONS

Round 1 (15):
EDGE JALON WALKER
GEORGIA



Round 1 (26):	
EDGE JAMES PEARCE JR	**Tennessee**
Round 3 (96):	
S XAVIER WATTS	**Notre Dame**
Round 4 (118):	
S BILLY BOWMAN JR	**Oklahoma**
Round 7 (218):	
OT JACK NELSON	**Wisconsin**

1ST ROUND

Nate Davis of the USA TODAY put it best when he said this about the Falcons, "They're not afraid, that's for sure – and the decision to take QB Michael Penix Jr. at No. 8 a year ago has aged well despite all the handwringing at the time." After ranking last in the league in sacks over the past ten and twenty seasons, Atlanta GM Terry Fontenot doubled down with full focus when Atlanta called out the names of a pair of SEC premier edge rushers in Georgia's Jalon **WALKER** and Tennessee's James **PEARCE JR.** in the first round this year. In the process, Fontenot not only used 40% of their available picks on them but also mortgaged a 2026 first-rounder to complete the double heist. Desperate teams often resort to desperate measures.

BALANCE OF THE DRAFT

Atlanta had just five picks, but they nailed all of them. The Falcons continued dealing in doubles after the first-round takedown when they acquired safeties Xavier **WATTS** (Round 3) and Billy **BOWMAN JR.** (Round 4) to strengthen their secondary. OL Jack Nelson should provide good depth since he can play tackle and guard. The Falcons are well-positioned on the offensive side, with Michael Penix Jr. benefiting from a stout offensive line and elite playmakers. Remember, though, there is a reason Atlanta hasn't managed to claim the NFC South since 2016.

STEAL OF THE DRAFT

The burning question about the Dirty Birds' draft this year was how Atlanta found Notre Dame safety Xavier **WATTS** in the third round. Watts is a ball-hawking, dynamic playmaker. Atlanta again traded up to acquire a potential impact defender.

DRAFT GRADES: PLAYBOOK: B+ … Composite: B-
ESPN: C … OURLADS: B … PFF: C … SI: B

CAROLINA PANTHERS

Round 1 (8):
WR TETAIROA MCMILLAN
ARIZONA



Round 2 (51):	
EDGE NIC SCOURTON	**Texas A&M**
Round 3 (77):	
EDGE PRINCELY UMANMIELEN	**Ole Miss**
Round 4 (114):	
RB TREVOR ETIENNE	**Georgia**
Round 4 (122):	
S LATHAN RANSOM	**Ohio State**
Round 5 (140):	
DT CAM JACKSON	**Florida**
Round 5 (163):	
TE MITCHELL EVANS	**Notre Dame**
Round 5 (208):	
WR JIMMY HORN JR	**Colorado**

1ST ROUND

If ever QB Bryce Young (remember him?) needed an influx of talent at the wide receiver position, it was now. And the gods answered when they sent former Arizona WR Tetairoa **MCMILLAN** his way in the first round of this year's draft. McMillan will make life easier for Young because of his massive catch radius. Finally, Young may have a fair chance to succeed in 2025.

BALANCE OF THE DRAFT

Speaking of desperate measures (see Falcons above), no team had less pressure applied from their outside rushers than Carolina in 2024. This is why edge rushers Nic Scourton and Princely **UMANMIELEN** left Texas A&M and Ole Miss, respectively, to join Carolina in the 2nd and 3rd rounds of this year's draft. After adding a couple of edge defenders in previous rounds, the Panthers continued to address areas of need on their defense by selecting Ohio State safety Lathan **RANSOM** and Florida DL Cam'Ron **JACKSON**, a massive presence who can control the point of attack against the run. He posted an 80.9 run-defense grade by PFF last season along with a 9.3% run-stop rate. The Panthers ranked 31st last season in explosive pass percentage allowed at 17.6% overall, and now add to their secondary.

STEAL OF THE DRAFT

Fourth-round RB Trevor **ETIENNE** (brother of Jaguars RB Travis Etienne) is a nice player built along the same lines. Given the presence of recently extended RB Chuba Hubbard and newly signed Rico Dowdle in the backfield, the Panthers' ground game just might get underway in 2025.

DRAFT GRADES: PLAYBOOK: B … Composite: B-
ESPN: C+ … OURLADS: C+ … PFF: B- … SI: A-

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Round 1 (9):
OT KELVIN BANKS JR
TEXAS



Round 2 (40):	
QB TYLER SHOUGH	**Louisville**
Round 3 (71):	
DL VERNON BROUGHTON	**Texas**
Round 3 (93):	
S JONAS SANKER	**Virginia**
Round 4 (112):	
LB DANNY STUTSMAN	**Oklahoma**
Round 4 (131):	
CB QUINCY RILEY	**Louisville**
Round 6 (184):	
RB DEVIN NEAL	**Kansas**
Round 7 (248):	
TE MOLIKI MATAVAO	**UCLA**
Round 7 (254):	
EDGE FADIL DIGGS	**Syracuse**

1ST ROUND

After passing on all but one of the quarterbacks in the class with the ninth overall pick, Saints General Manager Mickey Loomis drafted a first-round lineman for the fourth time since 2020 by selecting OT Kevin **BANKS JR.** of Texas with this year's ninth pick in the draft.

BALANCE OF THE DRAFT

There is a good chance that Loomis married value to need with his first three selections, who might all be starters in 2025. Strangely, the Saints circled back in Round Two with Tyler **SHOUGH**, the first quarterback they've taken in rounds one or two since 1971 (Archie Manning), who is a year older than last year's draft pick, Spencer Rattler. Shough is a pro-ready quarterback who could step in right away if the team parts ways with Derek Carr. However, Shedeur Sanders and Jalen Milroe were both still available and would have offered more upside. In addition, third-rounders DL Vernon **BROUGHTON** and S Jonas **SANKER**, along with fourth-round LB Danny **STUTSMAN**, could find themselves in prominent roles in 2025.

STEAL OF THE DRAFT

Defensive end Fadil **DIGGS** looks like a steal in the seventh round. Other drafts had him as high as a fourth-round selection. He was a three-year starter, transferring from Texas A&M before the 2024 season. He was the team captain and an honorable mention All-ACC this past fall. He has a big, filled-out frame with length that makes him enticing to work with. Fires off the ball and can shed blocks. He may be a sleeper this year, but he looks to be a wide-awake mistake by those who passed on him at this stage of the draft

DRAFT GRADES: PLAYBOOK: B … Composite: B
ESPN: B- … OURLADS: B- … PFF: A+ … SI: B+

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Round 1 (19):
WR EMEKA EGBUKA
OHIO STATE



Round 2 (53):
CB BENJAMIN MORRISON — **Notre Dame**

Round 3 (84):
CB JACOB PARRISH — **Kansas State**

Round 4 (121):
EDGE DAVID WALKER — **C Arkansas**

Round 7 (157):
EDGE ELIJAH ROBERTS — **SMU**

Round 7 (235):
WR TEZ JOHNSON — **Oregon**

1ST ROUND

With Mike Evans getting long in the tooth, Ohio State WR Emeke **EGBUKA** was simply too talented to pass over with the No. 19 pick in the opening round. He drew comparisons to his former Ohio State teammate Jaxon Smith-Njigba. The recently extended Chris Godwin is coming off a tough injury, so the Buccaneers drafted an instant contributor and a future insurance policy in Egbuka. The Ohio State standout has a long track record of success, having charted in the 95th percentile in PFF's separation rate over the past three seasons.

BALANCE OF THE DRAFT

Only four teams allowed more yards through the air than the Bucs did in 2024. Four of their first five picks addressed cornerback depth and bolstered the pass rush for defensive-minded Head Coach Todd Bowles. This included cornerbacks Benjamin **MORRISON** (whose hip injury cut his 2024 season short) and Jacob Parrish in the 2nd and 3rd rounds, along with edge rushers David **WALKER** and Elijah **ROBERTS** in the following two rounds. Roberts' selection adds vital support to the Buccaneers' pass rush. He recorded consecutive elite pass-rushing seasons, achieving a 90.7 pass-rush grade in 2024 after a 91.6 mark in 2023 at SMU, having transferred from Miami (FL). The team needed reinforcements at corner, and second-round pick Morrison and third-round pick Jacob **PARRISH** should effectively fulfill that need.

STEAL OF THE DRAFT

Edge David **WALKER** posted elite pass-rushing grades during his three seasons at Central Arkansas. In addition to his ability to create pressure, Walker's production is impressive.

DRAFT GRADES: PLAYBOOK: B … Composite: B+
ESPN: B … OURLADS: A … PFF: B … SI: A-

ARIZONA CARDINALS

Round 1 (16):
DT WALTER NOLEN
OLE MISS



Round 2 (47):	
CB WILL JOHNSON	**Michigan**
Round 3 (78):	
EDGE JORDAN BURCH	**Oregon**
Round 4 (115):	
LB CODY SIMON	**Ohio State**
Round 5 (174):	
CB DENZEL BURKE	**Ohio State**
Round 6 (211):	
OG HAYDEN CONNER	**Texas**
Round 7 (225):	
S KITAN CRAWFORD	**Nevada**

1ST ROUND

Head coach Jonathan Gannon, a defensive specialist and former DC with the Eagles, wasted no time calling out DT Walter Nolen of Ole Miss with the 16th pick in the first round – and that was just the tip of the iceberg. **NOLEN** is one of the most talented players in this class and has incredible upside.

BALANCE OF THE DRAFT

Can you spell D-E-F-E-N-S-E? Now they can in Phoenix, where six of seven picks were used on that side of the ball. This is after the Cardinals added four starters to their defensive front seven in the offseason. CB Will **JOHNSON** (Michigan), Edge Jordan **BURCH** (Oregon), and LB Cody **SIMON** and CB Denzel **BURKE** (each from Ohio State) certainly paved the way for a defensive renaissance in Arizona this year. Johnson was the top cornerback in this class not named Travis Hunter. He was going to be drafted in the top 10, but then he suffered a knee injury. Simon was highly productive at Ohio State as a rotational player for much of his career. Simon took on a full-time role in 2024 and more than delivered. Through the first two rounds of the draft, the Cardinal draft sat atop the leaderboard. In the end, the gurus in the draft room did a masterful job and, with it, Arizona looks to be back in play in 2025.

STEAL OF THE DRAFT

Edge Jordan **BURCH** is an athletic performer who was on the verge of being a first-round prospect. He recorded a career-high 10 sacks last season and offers scheme versatility with excellent size and length to play multiple positions on the defensive line.

DRAFT GRADES: PLAYBOOK: A … Composite: A-
ESPN: B- … OURLADS: A … PFF: A+ … SI: B

LOS ANGELES RAMS

Round 2 (46):
TE TERRANCE FERGUSON
OREGON



Round 3 (90):	
EDGE JOSAIAH STEWART	**Michigan**
Round 4 (117):	
RB JARQUEZ HUNTER	**Auburn**
Round 5 (148):	
DT TY HAMILTON	**Ohio State**
Round 5 (172):	
LB CHRIS PAUL JR	**Ole Miss**
Round 7 (242):	
WR KONATA MUMPFIELD	**Pittsburgh**

1ST ROUND

After trading out for the Falcons' first-round pick in 2026, there was no first-round boy-toy for the Rams this season. However, tight end Terrance **FERGUSON** enters a room that produced the fewest number of yards at the position league-wide in 2024. With Tyler Higbee entering a contract year and coming off a tough injury, the Rams are making a play toward the future with Ferguson.

BALANCE OF THE DRAFT

Ourlads reports that after a trade out of the first round, which netted them an additional 2026 first-round pick, they chose to trade up for two consecutive Day 3 picks and actively pursued prospects with substantial production to address the gaps that caused shortcomings a year ago. Second-round TE Terrance **FERGUSON**, third-round OLB Josaiah **STEWART**, and fourth-round RB Jarquez **HUNTER** should all be able to secure immediate roles on a team that could pose the biggest threat to the Eagles in the NFC next season. Los Angeles is still strong enough to win the NFC West, but they have concerns at cornerback and linebacker—and they observed the Eagles select Jihaad Campbell at No. 31. Ole Miss LB Chris **PAUL JR.** was the No. 83 prospect on the PFF Big Board, making this an excellent value pick for the Rams. He had a well-rounded season for Ole Miss.

STEAL OF THE DRAFT

Per PFF, **OLB STEWART** is arguably the best pass-rushing defensive lineman in this draft class. Stewart posted a whopping 27.7% pass-rush win rate and a 92.3 PFF pass-rushing grade in 2024. He plays with violence and active hands and is an explosive athlete in a smaller, lighter frame.

DRAFT GRADES: PLAYBOOK: C … Composite: C+
ESPN: B- … OURLADS: B- … PFF: C+ … SI: C

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

Round 1 (11):
EDGE MYKELL WILLIAMS
GEORGIA



Round 2 (43): DT ALFRED COLLINS	Texas
Round 3 (75): LB NICK MARTIN	Oklahoma State
Round 3 (100): CB UPTON STOUT	Western Kentucky
Round 4 (113): DT CJ WEST	Indiana
Round 4 (138): WR JORDAN WATKINS	Ole Miss
Round 5 (147): RB JORDAN JAMES	Oregon
Round 5 (160): S MARGUES SIGLE	Kansas State
Round 7 (227): QB KURTIS ROURKE	Indiana
Round 7 (249): OG CONNOR COLBY	Iowa
Round 7 (252): WR JUNIOR BERGEN	Montana

1ST ROUND

Georgia DE Mykell **WILLIAMS** led the defensive brigade for the Niners in this year's draft as they look to help DE Nick Bosa get back to being the dominating player he once was.

BALANCE OF THE DRAFT

No team made more picks than the 11 by the Niners in this year's draft (tied with the Ravens). And, uncharacteristically, perhaps no team wasted more picks than the 11 by the Niners. The first five selections were made on the defensive side of the ball – the most since 1981 – including three defensive linemen. They used four Day Three picks to try to fill the offensive production void created by the losses of receiver Deebo Samuel and back Jordan Mason. Third-round linebacker Nick **MARTIN** ought to flourish alongside All-Pro Fred Warner. But the bottom line is they lost several starters in free agency, and there is concern that the team might not have drafted the right players to immediately fill those voids. **WILLIAMS** surprisingly went ahead of Jalon Walker, and perhaps he doesn't have the same upside as James Pearce Jr., Shemar Stewart, and Mike Green. This draft class echoes the rest of San Francisco's offseason. The 49ers disappointed their fans with what transpired in free agency, and this year's draft did the same. Sheesh.

STEAL OF THE DRAFT

This draft class reflects the overall trend of San Francisco's offseason. The 49ers disappointed their fans with what unfolded during free agency, and the draft merely continued that pattern.

DRAFT GRADES: PLAYBOOK: C- … Composite: C
ESPN: B … OURLADS: B- … PFF: D … SI: D

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

Round 1 (18):
OG GEY ZABEL
NORTH DAKOTA STATE



Round 2 (35):	
S NICK EMMANWORI	**South Carolina**
Round 2 (50):	
TE ELIJAH ARROYO	**Miami FL**
Round 3 (92):	
QB JALEN MILROE	**Alabama**
Round 5 (142):	
DL RYLIE MILLS	**Notre Dame**
Round 5 (166):	
WR TORY HORTON	**Colorado State**
Round 5 (175):	
FB ROBBIE OUZTS	**Alabama**
Round 6 (192):	
OG BRYCE CABELDUE	**Kansas**
Round 7 (223):	
RB DAMIEN MARTINEZ	**Miami FL**
Round 7 (234):	
OT MASON RICHMAN	**Iowa**
Round 7 (238):	
WR RICKY WHITE III	**UNLV**

1ST ROUND

Offensive guard Zey **GABLE** of North Dakota State (same school as Carson Wentz) addresses a clear and present need at guard. He is a versatile blocker who can play all five positions and will likely join a Seahawks interior offensive line that ranked 29th in PFF pass-blocking grade (52.3) and 24th in PFF run-blocking grade (60.1) in 2024.

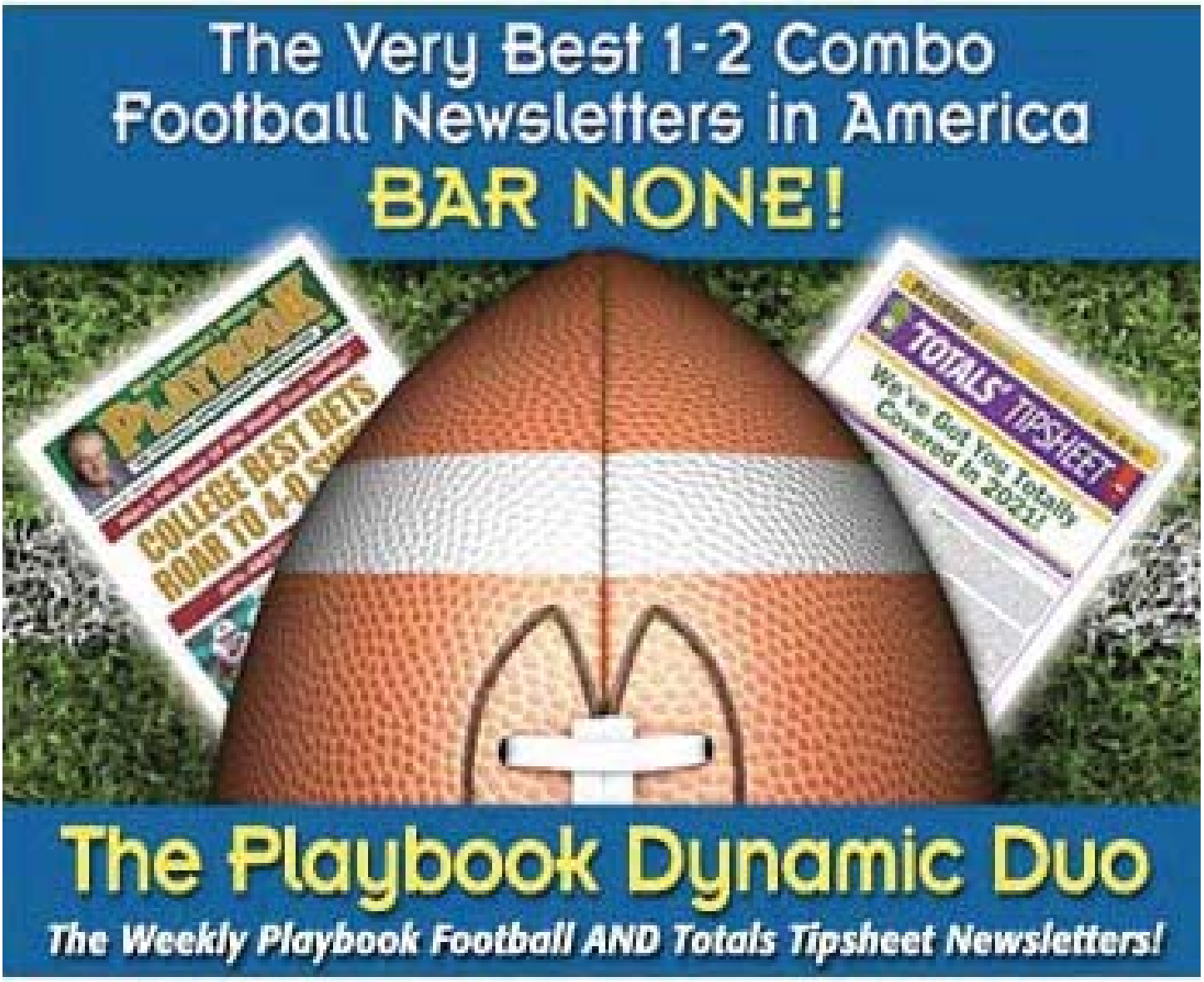
BALANCE OF THE DRAFT

Another team (of five) with 11 draft picks this year—see Baltimore, Las Vegas, New England, and San Francisco—includes Jalen Milroe and Elijah Arroyo, two of the bigger boom-or-bust offensive prospects in the class. Nick Emmanwori, for whom Schneider moved up, could be the next coming of Kam Chancellor. He graded out high due to athleticism and might be the best pick in the Seahawks' draft. Second-rounder Arroyo will also have a chance to be a significant presence in a new-look passing attack. But the obvious wild card is Milroe, a tantalizing prospect whom the Seahawks should have the luxury of developing on a reasonable timeline... especially if new QB1 Sam Darnold retains his newly found Pro Bowl form. There are fewer concerns now about the Seahawks spending on Sam Darnold and Cooper Kupp after the impressive selections they made here.

STEAL OF THE DRAFT

How can it be anyone other than Jalen Milroe, the former Alabama star quarterback? Despite signing Sam Darnold in free agency, the Seahawks couldn't pass up the opportunity to draft a quarterback with incredible physical tools. Coach Mike Macdonald saw firsthand in Baltimore how the Ravens utilized Lamar Jackson on a daily basis, and that's Milroe's most special trait

DRAFT GRADES: PLAYBOOK: A … Composite: A
ESPN: A … OURLADS: B … PFF: A … SI: A



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