

PRO FOOTBALL DRAFTOLOGY 2009

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**FantasyDrafthelp.com, The FDH Lounge,
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April 16, 2009

Jason Jones/Rick Morris/Ken Becks/Russ Cohen



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2009 NFL Draft Class: Wildly Underwhelming

The modern NFL Draft spectacle demands each year that players materialize each year to tantalize us with thoughts of franchise turn-arounds and multiple Pro Bowl appearances. Well, by that lofty standard, this year is certain to come up short.

Think solid, not sexy. Think serviceable, not spectacular.

In terms of guaranteed star power, the 2009 NFL Draft (April 25-26 at Radio City Music Hall in New York) easily ranks as one of the weakest since the event became a national obsession in the late 1980s. The few really strong areas are mostly unglamorous and at the exterior of the front lines: offensive tackle, defensive end and outside linebacker.

It's even impossible to speak of the top names in this draft without sounding like a spoilsport. Georgia QB Matthew Stafford is the closest thing to a highly-touted glamour position player this year, but the consensus is that he would be rated lower in any year not as thin as this one. Texas Tech WR Michael Crabtree is rated higher than most wideouts coming into the league, but the stress fracture in his foot has dimmed his amazing stock just a tad. Wake Forest OLB Aaron Curry is commonly thought of as the "safest pick in the draft," which is another matter entirely from being designated "Likely to Make the Most Pro Bowls."

So while this draft has decent depth overall in terms of players who can perform functional roles in the NFL, it is woefully short on prospects who bring the "Wow Factor." Fans should dream accordingly on Draft Day.

Fortunately, this guide helps you sort through players at all levels. With almost 300 players being rated, you will find information about all players likely to be drafted, as well as those who will comprise the free agent class. We know you will enjoy!

The Scout Ken Becks & FDH Senior Editor Jason Jones Chat About Defensive Prospects

11:38amJason

Now we could start by posting our respective mock drafts and defending it pick by pick...but that would just be tedious. So I'd like to go in a different direction. I'd like to start by stating a series of players we really like, followed by players we really do not like, to help add perspective to why we may say what we are about to say. For now, we'll try to limit it to the first-day players as we see it.

11:39amJason

I'll start and say Brian Orakpo, not only because I want my Cleveland Browns to draft him, but also because I think he could be the most dynamic defensive player in this draft if used properly.

11:41amJason

Ken, now be gentle...not everyone is ready for the brutal truth yet...that will come with the players we don't like

11:45amKen

When it comes to Orakpo, I do need a bit more evaluation time on him. But he shows good overall athleticism as he showcased at the combine. From what I have seen of him, I am not so sure he will be able to live up to expectations by most. Though I feel he is best suited as a 4-3 DE/ or 3-4 OLB, I have to reserve my enthusiasm on Orakpo 'til further analysis.

11:58amKen

When it comes to a dynamic player on defense for me, my personal sleeper and possible defensive rookie of the year when he enters the league would DE Robert Ayers of Tennessee!

12:00pmJason

I'll just say that Orakpo is one of a handful of players in this draft that just jumps off the film to me. Not to mention that he is openly regarded by his teammates and his coaching staff as the strongest player to come from Texas in over a decade and maybe two. Most people believe Aaron Curry is the safest pick in this draft. I put Orakpo in that discussion of safest picks...just my opinion.

12:00pmKen

I know to most, Ayers may not be on their radar since this past year has really only been his only productive year at the collegiate level.

12:04pmKen

At about 6-3, 275lbs, Ayers shows the athleticism, speed, strength, and burst to make things happen both as a 3-4 or 4-3 DE at the NFL level! His quickness and burst off the edge on his first step is the best in the draft. The intensity he possesses to play through from snap to whistle is unmatched in this year's draft.

12:05pmJason

I really like Robert Ayers for all of the same reasons I like Orakpo, just on a different value level. Five years from now, I think we will look back and say "Why did Ayers go so late?" I say that knowing that Ayers is moving up the board. I have seen him as high as the low 20s.

12:07pmJason

You mentioned his name before the Senior Bowl, but it wasn't until then that I really perked up after seeing how he played off the line (i.e. from an OLB position).

12:07pmKen

Some may say he is a bit light in the pants to play an effective 3-4 DE, but he consistently shows the physical toughness & competitive nature to beat most across from him at any level of play! Then, even at 275lbs, he shows the ability to drop back and actually play effective OLB as he was occasionally employed by his collegiate coaching staff.

12:08pmKen

Well, not only do I feel he is the best DE in this year's draft, I will go on record as saying he is my highest rated defensive player period!

12:09pmJason

That is what I'm talkin' about! Eat that, big haired Four Letter Network Hack.

12:10pmKen

There you go.....You might not be talking about the guy known for his sterling hair are ya?????????

12:12pmKen

Since we're talking on the defensive end of the ball, my second-rated defensive end would be LSU's Tyson Jackson.

Here is another versatile DE who can play in either the 3-4 or 4-3 defensive from the end position effectively. What do you think of Jackson, Jason?

12:14pmJason

Ahh, Tyson Jackson. I always enjoy bringing up names that were on my top prospects by position from a previous year. (I don't wait for that undeclared crap...no fear).

12:17pmJason

Tyson Jackson in my opinion is the ONLY first day 3-4 specific DE in draft. He's built for it and has the skills for it. I say "specific" because most people believe a 4-3 DE and 3-4 DE are the same thing. They are not. Tyson Jackson is the only real 3-4 DE in the first day.

12:17pmKen

Yes, I remember you mentioning Jackson some time ago as well, Jason. What is it you like about Jackson?

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The Scout Ken Becks & FDH Senior Editor Jason Jones Chat About Defensive Prospects

(Continued from Page 9)

12:21pmKen

I will respect your opinion as Jackson being the only 1st day DE in this year's draft. But I feel Mr. Ayers will have something to say about that.

12:23pmJason

6-4, 295... in most cases that is a respectable DT in a 4-3. Don't think of Jackson from LSU 2008, think of LSU 2007. He was integral in allowing the linebackers to do what they were able to do. He was the rarely-mentioned defensive player who did not stack up sacks but caused havoc against the run and helped collapse the pocket...A 3-4 DE.

12:23pmKen

At DT/NG, I have Boston College BJ Raji as my #1 DT and or NG. Not only is he tough and physical at the point of attack, but his quickness for a man of his girth is exceptional. His unique quickness along with attacking style of play is what separates him from most at either position.

He is the ideal 3-4 NG for any NFL team. And with the resurgence of the 3-4 defense that will make his services that much more sought-after!

12:25pmJason

I live in a prototype world. I like my (speaking of the 3-4) DEs to be 6'3+, 285+, I like my OLBs to be converted DEs, I like my ILBs to be thumpers. I think Ayers as a 3-4 DE would be a waste of talent. Ayers could get 15 sacks as an OLB or 4-3 DE as a rookie.

Raji may be the most intriguing prospect of the first round.

12:27pmJason

Raji could be the one guy in this draft that teams would consider drafting even if they were not considering a NT that early. It is the classic Best Available vs. Team Need argument.

12:29pmJason

I don't really know if Raji is Vince Wilfork or Casey Hampton...but I do know that he is the best player at that position in a while. There may only be 1 or 2 teams in the top half of the first round that would really target a NT, but there are about 5 or 6 teams who like him enough to take him in the top 15.

12:31 Ken

I am in total agreement when it comes to what you look for from DE, OLB, ILB, etc.....but Ayers is another story.

But B.J. Raji, no question, is the real deal -- with the skill sets to demand a top 5 overall selection!

12:32pmKen

Larry English of Northern Illinois may be my top rated OLB in this year's draft. At about 6-2, 255lbs, he shows the all-around game you look for. He is one of the quicker first-step burst defenders in this year's draft (along with Robert Ayers) to bring a ton of pressure off the edge versus signal-callers in or out of the pocket. And he shows the strength and snap to whistle consistency to man the edges of a NFL defense.

12:32pmJason

If he is the next Casey Hampton, for instance, he is worthy of a top 5 pick without question.

Gotta love those snap-to-whistle guys.

12:35pmJason

I love Larry English, and it is no secret that I have a negative bias toward small school players. Larry English has gone above and beyond my expectations regardless of school or competition

12:37pmKen

Lawrence Sidbury of Richmond, more and more as time goes on, is starting to shed his sleeper tag. He is one of my sleeper OLBs that you can get on the second day, and depending on the NFL team, he can come right in and give you considerable snaps his rookie year! He is ideal as weakside OLB where he can roam and use his athleticism and speed versus opponents.

12:37pmJason

The one thing I hate is the Belichick bump. This guy could have won defensive rookie of the year from the second round. Now that Belichick has come out and said how much he likes English, it will be no surprise if English goes as high as 8.

I will admit, I have not given Sidbury the attention that I probably should have by now.

12:42pmKen

To me, there is no question that Rey Maua of USC is the #1 rated ILB, and he should be. The physical toughness he exhibits and dishes out to opposing players is legendary.

He is the type of player that can come right in and be the catalyst/leader on that side of the ball.

12:42pmJason

I will say on paper, he definitely fits the bill. My only question on him is: where does he fit among the hybrids? Is he a good/great value in the second or even the third round? Absolutely! I still put him behind Orakpo, Everette Brown, Michael Johnson, Aaron Maybin, Larry

(Continued on Page 11)

The Scout Ken Becks & FDH Senior Editor Jason Jones Chat About Defensive Prospects

(Continued From Page 10)

English, Robert Ayers (in no particular order).

12:45pmJason

Oh, Rey Maua-Maua-Mauluga! He is easily one of my top 5 players...that is top 5 favorite players as opposed to top 5 best players.

12:48pmJason

This guy won me over when a colleague sent me a link to a YouTube video of Mauluga damn near decapitating a UCLA QB with a legal hit. Especially in a 3-4, it is imperative that you have a thumper. Mauluga is a thumper. The funny thing is the top 2 ILBs in this draft (the second of which is debatable) added together would create a superhero quality ILB.

Mauluga is everything Laurinautis is not and vice versa.

12:50Jason

Let's go the other way and ruffle some Ohio St feathers. Is Malcolm Jenkins indeed the best CB? Is he a shutdown corner? Is he worthy of a top 15 pick? I say, emphatically NO.

12:51pmKen

Who is it on paper that fits the bill but gives you only one question: where does he fit among the hybrids?

12:51pmJason

Sidbury.

12:53pmKen

Gotcha. No, Sidbury has to refine his game a bit before he can be considered a top tier prospect. But in a few years, his impact will be felt!

12:54pmKen

I feel Rey Mauluga is the #1 ILB coming out in this years draft, but the sleeper to look for at the same position is South Carolina's Jasper Brinkley!

12:55pmJason

Jasper Brinkley?!?!?!?

12:57pmJason

Some of the ILBs in the top 10 of the prospect breakdowns, I admit are suspect, but I don't see any ILB outside of Mauluga or Laurinautis being selected in the first 60 picks. After that, I could understand your Brinkley.

I do like him better than Jason Phillips and Darry Beckwith.

12:58pmKen

No doubt you will hear from Jasper Brinkley before it's over. He suffered an ACL injury that set his collegiate career backwards. But if he's 6-2, 250lbs, he can bring the wood. But he has to have a clean bill of health!

Mr. Jenkins is not considered a top CB whatsoever in my mind. I have moved him to safety and he is nowhere the top safety either on my board!

1:01pmKen

Either Darius Butler of Connecticut or early-entry Vontae Davis of Illinois would be my top CB in this year's draft.

1:01pmJason

As much as I personally want CBs to be 6'0, 200, more than that I want them to run 4.3...but I don't think the league is moving in that direction. The future feels more like Dominique Rogers-Cromartie than Antonio Cromartie. Smaller, quicker, but not necessarily faster. Malcolm Jenkins is neither of those things.

1:04pmKen

Both Dominique & Antonio Cromartie are 4.3 corners. And the league will always look for 4.3 and below 40-time corners, because the league is hung up more on speed than true ball players.

1:05pmJason

I like Vontae Davis as the undisputed #1 CB; for me the jury is still out on whether it's Darius Butler or Alphonso Smith at #2. And down the list a little, especially if your team needs a CB but won't take one until the second, I like Macho Harris, D.J. Moore and Mark Parsons (you hear that Rick Morris---an Ohio U player mentioned in the mix!).

1:09pmKen

In the later rounds of the draft, there is good value at CB with players as Bruce Johnson of Miami, Joe Burnett of Central Florida (also looked at safety), DeAngelo Smith of Cincinnati, Sherrod Martin of Troy, and Morgan Trent of Michigan.

Draft Priorities By Team

NOTE: When two or more positions are lumped together (i.e. "OL" instead of "OT" or "OG" or "C"), then all needs under that heading are deemed to be more or less equal.

- 1 Detroit Lions: QB, LB, S, OG, DL, WR, TE
- 2 St. Louis Rams: OT, WR, MLB, OG, DL, DB, RB
- 3 Kansas City Chiefs: DE, OLB, RB, OL, WR, DT
- 4 Seattle Seahawks: OL, DE, RB, CB, OLB, QB
- 5 Cleveland Browns: LB, CB, WR, S, DE, OL
- 6 Cincinnati Bengals: OT, DE, C, RB, DT, CB
- 7 Oakland Raiders: OT, WR, DT, S, TE, OLB
- 8 Jacksonville Jaguars: WR, OL, RB, DT, MLB
- 9 Green Bay Packers: DL, OT, LB, S
- 10 San Francisco 49ers: OT, WR, OLB, DL, DB, QB
- 11 Buffalo Bills: DE, OLB, TE, C, FS
- 12 Denver Broncos: DL, ILB
- 13 Washington Redskins: DE, OLB, OL, WR
- 14 New Orleans Saints: DB, OLB, RB, DE
- 15 Houston Texans: DB, DT, RB, LB
- 16 San Diego Chargers: OL, S, DE, MLB
- 17 New York Jets: QB, WR, OT, DE
- 18 Chicago Bears: WR, DE, OL, DB
- 19 Tampa Bay Buccaneers: DE, LB, WR, DB, QB, DT
- 20 Dallas Cowboys: DE, DB, OLB, OL
- 21 Philadelphia Eagles: RB, OL, WR, TE
- 22 Minnesota Vikings: OT, WR, QB
- 23 New England Patriots: OLB, OT, CB, TE, ILB
- 24 Atlanta Falcons: DL, DB, OLB, TE
- 25 Miami Dolphins: CB, WR, OLB, TE, C, OG
- 26 Baltimore Ravens: OLB, WR, DL, TE, ILB
- 27 Indianapolis Colts: WR, DT, LB, OT, RB
- 28 Carolina Panthers: DL, OL, WR
- 29 New York Giants: WR, OT, MLB, DB
- 30 Tennessee Titans: WR, CB, DT, QB, C, OG
- 31 Arizona Cardinals: OLB, RB, CB, OL, TE, DL
- 32 Pittsburgh Steelers: OL, DL, CB

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Russ's Rants: Maybe the Jets Should Draft a Quarterback

By Russ Cohen

I came up with a list of 28 quarterbacks that have played for the New York Jets while I have been watching the team. These are the guys I could remember in my many years of following this franchise. The names are in no particular order, and yet looking at the list makes me realize that this team is no closer to getting back to the Super Bowl now than when they won it when I was five years old back in January of 1969.

Joe Namath
Richard Todd
Bob Avellini
Matt Robinson
Pat Ryan
Glenn Foley
Ray Lucas
Browning Nagle
Brooks Bollinger
Neil O'Donnell
Boomer Esiason
Chad Pennington
Ken O'Brien
Kellen Clemens
Vinny Testaverde
Brad Smith
Tom Tupa
Jay Fieldler
Bubby Brister
Frank Reich
Rick Mirer
Marques Tuiasosopo
Quincy Carter
Chuck Clements
Kyle Mackey
Patrick Ramsey
Al Woodall
Brett Favre

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I won't even pretend to tell Jets fans who the team should take. I was right about Chad Pennington, but otherwise Jay Cutler and Joe Flacco are the only other slingers that come to mind that I liked for this franchise. I am at a loss and we'll see if they put some emphasis in this area because when the season starts, this will be the weakest part of the team.

OK, because you asked, here is a list of some of the worst Jets draft picks since I have been a fan:

1. Blair Thomas – 2nd overall pick in 1990 out of Penn State - Scored a touchdown for Dallas in the Super Bowl as a third running back in a blow out. That is his career highlight.
2. Mike Haight – 22nd overall pick in 1986 out of Iowa – He was an Iron Man in college and he played just two games in his first season as a pro and he averaged 9.3 games per season in his Jets career.
3. Russell Carter – 10th overall pick in 1984 out of SMU – He was a DB for four seasons with Gang Green and he had four picks, and he got them all in his first season.
4. Bob Crable – 23rd overall pick in 1982 out of Notre Dame – He was a very forgettable player on some good teams.
5. Johnny "Lam" Jones – 2nd overall pick in the 1980 draft out of Texas – 13 TD's in five seasons and he never had a punt or kickoff return for a score. He was a speedster who dropped more balls than he caught.
6. Browning Nagle – Jets first pick (2nd round) in 1991 out of Louisville – A quarterback picked ahead of Favre. He had three terrible seasons for the Jets where he threw for 7 TD's and 17 INT's.

Who will they select this year?

Fun Fact - Jake Gyllenhaal will be playing Namath in an upcoming biopic. From "Brokeback Mountain" to Broadway Joe. I'm sure there is a joke in there somewhere.

Quarterbacks	School	Ht	Wt	40 Time	Projected Pick
1 Matt Stafford	Georgia	6*3	237	4.75	_Top 3
2 Mark Sanchez	USC	6*3	225	4.71	_Top 10
3 Josh Freeman	Kansas St	6*6	249	4.83	_Rd 1
4 Pat White	W. Virginia	6*0	190	4.43	_Rd 2
5 Rhett Bomar	Sam Houston	6*2	224	4.72	_Rd 3
6 Nate Davis	Ball St	6*2	217	4.77	_Rd 3-4
7 Rudy Carpenter	Arizona St	6*2	200	4.81	_Rd 3-4
8 Cullen Harper	Clemson	6*2	227	4.79	_Rd 4
9 Willie Tuitama	Arizona	6*3	211	4.78	_Rd 5
10 Curtis Painter	Purdue	6*4	223	4.85	_Rd 5-6
11 Hunter Cantwell	Louisville	6*5	230	4.79	_Rd 6
12 Chase Daniel	Missouri	6*0	223	4.58	_Rd 6
13 John Parker Wilson	Alabama	6*1	215	4.72	_Rd 6
14 Nathan Brown	Cen Arkansas	6*0	217	4.77	_Rd 6-7
15 Graham Harrell	Texas Tech	6*2	217	4.73	_Rd 6-7
16 David Johnson	Tulsa	6*3	220	4.75	_Rd 7
17 Tom Brandstater	Fresno St	6*5	220	4.77	_Rd 7
18 Drew Willy	Buffalo	6*3	214	4.87	_Rd 7
19 Brian Hoyer	Michigan St	6*3	215	4.83	_Rd 7-FA
20 Chris Pizzotti	Harvard	6*6	225	4.92	_Rd 7-FA
21 Brian Johnson	Utah	6*1	200	4.84	_Rd 7-FA
22 Mike Reilly	Cen Wash	6*3	215	4.81	_FA
23 Mike Teel	Rutgers	6*4	220	4.83	_FA
24 Joe Ganz	Nebraska	6*1	200	4.65	_FA
25 Todd Boeckman	Ohio St	6*5	243	4.76	_FA

Jason Jones Draft Notes

^ If I were in the war room, I would have Sanchez over Stafford. I'm really not sold on Stafford. I think he's an over-hyped improvement on Derek Anderson (throw it a mile but not five yards, lacks the nfl throws in the intermediate nor the savvy to roll with the punches). I'm not saying Sanchez has all of that, but the potential is there to acquire it all. I don't think its too much to say that with the right coaching, Sanchez could be Tony Romo with mobility.

^ Do not underestimate Freeman and White. A month ago, Freeman was a chalk 2nd rounder by default and no one was considering White as a QB (3rd roundd if he was lucky). Both have moved up about 100% since then. Freeman will probably be everything Tavaris Jackson was supposed to be, a successful starter who may or may not ever reach the Pro Bowl. Very low risk/reward, safe bet for any team with an aging starting QB (attention Carolinal). Pat White will get drafted and make someone's team as a QB.

^ Rhett Bomar, Nate Davis, Rudy Carpenter, Cullen Harper, Curtis Painter, Chase Daniel, Hunter Cantwell are really all that's left of the noteworthies. ...(dunt-dun-duh...) EXCEPT...Willie Tuitama! "He's no Tuiasopo". I saw this kid. He is the 2009 idea of what a prototype QB should look like in this day and age, he just needs a little grooming. Five years from now he could be considered the steal of the draft.

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Fullbacks	School	Ht	Wt	40 Time	Projected Pick
1 Quinn Johnson	LSU	6*0	251	4.69	Rd 3
2 Brannan Southerland	Georgia	6*0	240	4.58	Rd 5
3 Travis McCall	Alabama	6*0	260	4.71	Rd 6-7
4 Jorvorskie Lane	Texas A&M	6*0	285	4.76	Rd 6
5 Eric Kettani	Navy	5*11	231	4.56	Rd 6
6 Conredge Collins	Pitt	6*0	230	4.56	Rd 7
7 Mark Hafner	Houston	6*2	235	4.74	Rd 7
8 Tony Fiammetta	Syracuse	5*11	246	4.65	Rd 7
9 Fui Vakapuna	BYU	6*1	254	4.73	Rd 7
10 Brock Bolen	Louisville	6*0	239	4.69	FA

Jason Jones Draft Notes

^ If this were broken down into tiers, it would be Quinn Johnson, a big fat line and then everyone else.

Tight Ends	School	Ht	Wt	40 Time	Projected Pick
1 Brandon Pettigrew	Oklahoma St	6*5	257	4.75	Top 25
2 Chase Coffman	Missouri	6*6	249	4.78	Rd 2
3 Jared Cook	S. Carolina	6*5	242	4.61	Rd 2-3
4 James Casey	Rice	6*4	240	4.66	Rd 3
5 Shawn Nelson	Southern Miss	6*4	238	4.61	Rd 3-4
6 Travis Beckum	Wisconsin	6*4	236	4.59	Rd 4
7 Davon Drew	East Carolina	6*4	256	4.74	Rd 4-5
8 Cornelius Ingram	Florida	6*4	230	4.71	Rd 4-5
9 Ryan Purvis	BC	6*4	260	4.79	Rd 5
10 Bear Pascoe	Fresno St	6*5	260	4.83	Rd 5
11 John Phillips	Virginia	6*5	251	4.81	Rd 5-6
12 Marquez Branson	Cen Arkansas	6*2	245	4.54	Rd 6
13 Kory Sperry	Colorado St	6*5	258	4.83	Rd 6-7
14 Dan Gronkowski	Maryland	6*6	255	4.81	Rd 6-7
15 Cameron Morrah	California	6*4	250	4.69	Rd 7

Jason Jones Draft Notes

^ Brandon Pettigrew is the class of this group, period. I personally wouldn't take anyone else on the first day and probably not until the 4th round.

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fun outside of
sports

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on different
platforms

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Running Backs	School	Ht	Wt	40 Time	Projected Pick
1 Knowshon Moreno	Georgia	5*11	207	4.59	Top 20
2 Chris Wells	Ohio St	6*1	235	4.59	Top 20
3 LeSean McCoy	Pitt	5*11	207	4.44*	Rd 1
4 Donald Brown	Uconn	5*10	210	4.51	Rd 2
5 Shonn Greene	Iowa	5*11	235	4.63	Rd 2-3
6 Javon Ringer	Michigan St	5*9	203	4.59	Rd 2-3
7 DeMarco Murray	Oklahoma	6*0	205	4.44*	Rd 2-3
8 Rashad Jennings	Liberty	6*1	234	4.64	Rd 3
9 Andre Brown	N.C. State	6*0	224	4.49	Rd 3
10 James Davis	Clemson	5*9	207	4.61	Rd 4
11 Jeremiah Johnson	Oregon	5*8	198	4.61	Rd 4-5
12 Tyrell Sutton	Northwestern	5*9	203	4.66	Rd 4-5
13 Kory Sheets	Purdue	5*11	203	4.47	Rd 5
14 Glen Coffee	Alabama	6*1	205	4.58	Rd 5
15 Marlon Lucky	Nebraska	6*0	215	4.59	Rd 5
16 Arian Foster	Tennessee	6*0	232	4.54*	Rd 5-6
17 P.J. Hill	Wisconsin	5*11	233	4.64*	Rd 5-6
18 Ian Johnson	Boise St	5*11	200	4.46	Rd 5-6
19 Mike Goodson	Texas A&M	6*0	195	4.45	Rd 6
20 Curtis Brinkley	Syracuse	5*9	203	4.48*	Rd 6
21 Javarris Williams	Tenn St	5*10	215	4.52	Rd 6-7
22 Cedric Peerman	Virginia	5*9	210	4.45	Rd 6-7
23 Javarris James	Miami	6*0	215	4.54*	Rd 6-7
24 Keegan Herring	Arizona St	5*10	193	4.39*	Rd 7
25 Devin Moore	Wyoming	5*9	192	4.32*	Rd 7

Jason Jones Draft Notes

^ RBs are just like the QBs ... #1 and #2 are literally divided by hairs of the viewer's subconscious. Either you buy the hype that Moreno is the next Brian Westbrook, or you believe that Beanie won't have injury issues and is a young Jerome Bettis with better break-away speed.

^ Bang for your buck: I would sit on it and consider LeSean McCoy then Donald Brown. Much less hype for what I believe will be more steady long-term success. If you want more value, Shonn Greene probably on the second day could be great! ^ Jennings is intriguing because he looks like the real deal on film, but he did play at Liberty. Huge risk/reward, but damn he looks the part.

^ After Jennings, everyone else is fighting for carries, provided they make the team that drafts them. Notables: James Davis, Tyrell Sutton, Kory Sheets (The Scout Ken Becks likes him a lot), Glen Coffee, Marlon Lucky, P.J. Hill, Ian Johnson.

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Centers	School	Ht	Wt	40 Time	Projected Pick
1 Alex Mack	California	6*4	312	5.13	Rd 1
2 Eric Wood	Louisville	6*4	304	5.09	Rd 1-2
3 Max Unger	Oregon	6*4	299	5.19	Rd 2
4 A.O. Shipley	Penn St	6*1	298	5.11	Rd 2
5 Antoine Caldwell	Alabama	6*3	307	5.13	Rd 2-3
6 Jonathan Luigs	Arkansas	6*3	302	5.14	Rd 3
7 Cecil Newton	Tennessee St	6*2	297	5.15	Rd 5
8 Jon Cooper	Oklahoma	6*2	291	5.09	Rd 6
9 Dallas Reynolds	BYU	6*5	328	5.29	Rd 7
10 Brett Helms	LSU	6*2	287	5.05	Rd 7

Jason Jones Draft Notes

^ As this position goes, versatility is the word. Alex Mack, Eric Wood, and Max Unger are all very quality centers, and the beauty is, they would probably make the top ten among guards as well. I don't like any of the others at all. Let someone else pick them.

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- ^ presidential election
- ^ hot dog eating contest

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When we say that "nothing is off-topic" in The FDH Lounge, how can we prove that's true? It's quite simple, actually: by publishing a breakdown of our content by category. From our debut on August 14, 2007 to February 8, 2009, here is the number of features per category and the percentage of the whole that the number represents.

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Wide Receivers	School	Ht	Wt	40 Time	Projected Pick
1 Michael Crabtree	Texas Tech	6*1	210	4.48*	Top 5
2 Jeremy Maclin	Missouri	6*1	200	4.45	Top 20
3 Percy Harvin	Florida	5*11	196	4.41	Rd 1-2
4 Hakeem Nicks	UNC	6*1	210	4.49	Rd 1-2
5 Darrius Heyward-Bey	Maryland	6*2	205	4.29	Rd 1-2
6 Kenny Britt	Rutgers	6*4	205	4.48	Rd 1-2
7 Brian Robiskie	Ohio St	6*2	207	4.49	Rd 2
8 Derrick Williams	Penn St	5*11	197	4.58	Rd 2-3
9 Austin Collie	BYU	6*2	206	4.55	Rd 2-3
10 Juaquin Iglesias	Oklahoma	6*0	205	4.51	Rd 2-3
11 Louis Murphy	Florida	6*3	205	4.43	Rd 3
12 Quan Cosby	Texas	5*8	191	4.48	Rd 3-4
13 Patrick Turner	USC	6*5	221	4.59*	Rd 3-4
14 Jaison Williams	Oregon	6*5	240	4.53	Rd 4
15 Darius Passmore	Marshall	6*3	186	4.48	Rd 4-5
16 Demetrius Byrd	LSU	6*2	195	4.45	Rd 4-5
17 Brandon Gibson	Wash St	6*0	204	4.47*	Rd 5
18 Mohamed Massaquoi	Georgia	6*1	210	4.57*	Rd 5
19 Ramses Barden	Cal Poly-SLO	6*6	227	4.55	Rd 5-6
20 Kevin Ogletree	Virginia	6*2	190	4.47	Rd 6
21 Mike Wallace	Ole Miss	6*0	189	4.35	Rd 6
22 Brandon Tate	UNC	6*1	195	4.51	Rd 6
23 Brennan Marion	Tulsa	6*1	185	4.49	Rd 6-7
24 Michael Jones	Arizona St	6*4	203	4.51	Rd 7
25 Deon Butler	Penn St	5*10	175	4.43	Rd 7-FA

Jason Jones Draft Notes

^ Crabtree, Crabtree, Crabtree...who the hell knows. He'd be perfect as a Michigan WR. He definitely plays big at times and disappears at times, oh and by the way, he's not 6'3 like we all thought he was. And who knows how fast or not he is.

^ Maclin is starting to look just as good as Crabtree, whatever that means. There is no Calvin Johnson or Randy Moss in this draft. Value-wise, Harvin through Heyward-Bey are all much safer picks, especially when considering bonus money.

^ Kenny Britt and Brian Robiskie are climbing up the board as very safe picks who could be productive as early as the second quarter of their rookie season.

^ I personally don't think very highly of Derrick Williams but others do. However, The Scout and I think very highly of Austin Collie. Collie is nice, all around.

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Offensive Tackles	School	Ht	Wt	40 Time	Projected Pick
1 Jason Smith	Baylor	6*5	300	5.11	Top 5
2 Eugene Monroe	Virginia	6*6	315	5.15	Top 5
3 Andre Smith	Alabama	6*5	339	5.26	Top 15
4 Michael Oher	Ole Miss	6*5	310	5.19	Top 20
5 Eben Britton	Arizona	6*6	310	5.05	Top 25
6 William Beatty	Uconn	6*6	291	5.02	Rd 1-2
7 Alex Boone	Ohio St	6*8	315	5.23	Rd 1-2
8 Phil Loadholt	Oklahoma	6*8	343	5.36	Rd 2
9 Troy Kropog	Tulane	6*5	316	5.02	Rd 2-3
10 Fenuki Tupou	Oregon	6*5	333	5.28	Rd 3
11 Jamon Meredith	S. Carolina	6*5	302	5.04	Rd 3-4
12 Augustus Parrish	Kent St	6*6	308	5.13	Rd 4
13 Xavier Fulton	Illinois	6*4	301	4.95	Rd 4
14 Jason Watkins	Florida	6*6	317	5.21	Rd 4-5
15 Joel Bell	Furman	6*7	317	5.13	Rd 5
16 Eric VandenHeuvel	Wisconsin	6*7	323	5.25	Rd 5
17 Andrew Gardner	Georgia Tech	6*6	298	5.18	Rd 5
18 Selvish Caspers	W. Virginia	6*6	291	4.92	Rd 5-6
19 Garrett Reynolds	UNC	6*7	310	5.23	Rd 6
20 Ryan Stanchek	W. Virginia	6*4	301	5.22	Rd 6
21 Phil Trautwein	Florida	6*6	310	5.25	Rd 6
22 Andrew Hartline	Gen. Michigan	6*5	294	5.08	Rd 6-7
23 Robert Brewster	Ball St	6*5	311	5.05	Rd 6-7
24 Cornelius Lewis	Tennessee St	6*4	315	5.21	Rd 7
25 Scott Burley	Maryland	6*5	335	5.37	Rd 7-FA

Jason Jones Draft Notes

^ In my opinion, Jason Smith and Eugene Monroe are almost interchangeable, in the top five. Andre Smith could be very good, maybe even a Pro Bowler, but his combine fiasco lost him some serious money.

^ Oher is nice, but much better at run blocking than pass blocking and Britton has good value as a starter. Beatty and Boone would/should go somewhere in the 2nd-3rd, anything after that is probably asking for a project.

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Offensive Guards	School	Ht	Wt	40 Time	Projected Pick
1 Duke Robinson	Oklahoma	6*5	330	5.28	Rd 1-2
2 Herman Johnson	LSU	6*7	382	5.45	Rd 2
3 Andy Levitre	Oregon St	6*2	306	5.22	Rd 3
4 Trevor Canfield	Cincinnati	6*4	311	5.11	Rd 3-4
5 Kraig Urbik	Wisconsin	6*5	323	5.22	Rd 3-4
6 Anthony Parker	Tennessee	6*3	305	5.12	Rd 3-4
7 Andy Kemp	Wisconsin	6*5	318	5.14	Rd 4-5
8 Rich Ohrnberger	Penn St	6*2	296	5.16	Rd 4-5
9 Ray Feinga	BYU	6*5	329	5.23	Rd 4-5
10 Louis Vasquez	Texas Tech	6*6	335	5.24	Rd 5
11 Travis Bright	BYU	6*5	328	5.29	Rd 5-6
12 George Bussey	Louisville	6*2	304	5.21	Rd 5-6
13 Roland Martin	Michigan St	6*5	325	5.39	Rd 5-6
14 Paul Fanaika	Arizona St	6*6	337	5.41	Rd 6
15 Cedric Dockery	Texas	6*4	320	5.24	Rd 6
16 Tyronne Green	Auburn	6*1	305	5.19	Rd 6
17 C.J. Davis`	Pitt	6*2	314	5.21	Rd 6-7
18 Greg Isdaner	W. Virginia	6*4	315	5.16	Rd 6-7
19 Ramon Foster	Tennessee	6*6	325	5.24	Rd 6-7
20 Jaimie Thomas	Maryland	6*4	330	5.24	Rd 7

Jason Jones Draft Notes

^ Duke Robinson, awesome football name aside, is the class of the this position and probably the only guy even sniffing the first round. H. Johnson and Levitre are decent 2nd rounders. Anything after that is a crapshoot.

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Defensive Tackles	School	Ht	Wt	40 Time	Projected Pick
1 B.J. Raji	B.C.	6*1	334	5.12	Top 15
2 Peria Jeria	Ole Miss	6*1	295	4.94	Rd 1
3 Evander Hood	Missouri	6*3	298	4.94	Rd 2
4 Sen'Derrick Marks	Auburn	6*1	291	4.89	Rd 2
5 Fili Moala	USC	6*4	303	5.05	Rd 2
6 Ron Brace	B.C.	6*3	329	5.25	Rd 2-3
7 Terrence Taylor	Michigan	6*0	317	5.11	Rd 3
8 Chris Baker	Hampton	6*2	310	5.03	Rd 3
9 Ricky Jean-Francois	LSU	6*3	290	4.83	Rd 3-4
10 Dorell Scott	Clemson	6*4	313	5.04	Rd 3-4
11 Myron Pryor	Kentucky	6*1	310	5.05	Rd 3-4
12 Jarron Gilbert	San Jose St	6*5	280	5.15	Rd 3-4
13 Vance Walker	Georgia Tech	6*2	295	4.99	Rd 4
14 Alex Magee	Purdue	6*3	295	4.91	Rd 4
15 Roy Miller	Texas	6*2	299	5.04	Rd 4-5
16 George Hypolite	Colorado	6*1	287	4.93	Rd 4-5
17 Darryl Richard	Georgia Tech	6*4	290	4.96	Rd 4-5
18 Corvey Irvin	Georgia	6*3	296	5.02	Rd 5
19 Clinton McDonald	Memphis	6*2	285	4.79	Rd 5
20 Sammie Lee Hill	Stillman	6*4	330	5.23	Rd 5-6
21 John Faletose	Cal Davis	6*3	295	4.94	Rd 6
22 Jake Visser	Ferris St	6*2	283	4.91	Rd 6
23 Nader Abdallah	Ohio St	6*5	310	4.96	Rd 6-7
24 Ra'Shon Harris	Oregon	6*4	300	5.05	Rd 7
25 Will Johnson	Michigan	6*5	290	4.88	Rd 7

Jason Jones Draft Notes

^ B.J. Raji is the best of the DTs and the only guy who could step in and start immediately. No one else really impresses me all that much. Peria Jeria is going to be a very effective in a 4-3. Evander Hood and Ron Brace (Raji's teammate at BC) are catching steam.

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Defensive Ends	School	Ht	Wt	40 Time	Projected Pick
1 Brian Orakpo	Texas	6*4	260	4.56	Top 10
2 Everette Brown	Florida St	6*4	250	4.59	Top 20
3 Tyson Jackson	LSU	6*5	292	4.85	Rd 1
4 Robert Ayers	Tennessee	6*3	273	4.73	Rd 1-2
5 Michael Johnson	Georgia Tech	6*7	257	4.63	Rd 1-2
6 Aaron Maybin	Penn St	6*4	245	4.61	Rd 1-2
7 Connor Barwin	Cincinnati	6*3	253	4.61	Rd 2
8 Clint Sintim	Virginia	6*3	254	4.66	Rd 3
9 Paul Kruger	Utah	6*5	260	4.64	Rd 3
10 Mitch King	Iowa	6*1	275	4.72	Rd 3
11 Matt Shaughnessy	Wisconsin	6*6	251	4.66	Rd 3-4
12 Brandon Williams	Texas Tech	6*5	245	4.72	Rd 3-4
13 Phillip Hunt	Houston	6*2	260	4.65	Rd 4
14 Cody Brown	Uconn	6*2	245	4.65	Rd 4
15 Derek Walker	Illinois	6*4	275	4.74	Rd 4
16 Orion Martin	Virginia Tech	6*2	252	4.71	Rd 4-5
17 Tim Jamison	Michigan	6*2	265	4.75	Rd 4-5
18 David Veikune	Hawaii	6*2	260	4.84	Rd 5
19 Pannel Egboh	Stanford	6*6	280	4.82	Rd 5
20 Maurice Evans	Penn St	6*2	265	4.72	Rd 5-6

Jason Jones Draft Notes

^ Brian Orakpo is a beast like we may have not seen before. Imagine Clubber Lang (Mr. T from Rocky III) playing OLB!

^ I think Everette Brown is slightly overrated. I think Robert Ayers is vastly underrated. Ayers seriously plays like he is a top 15 pick overall.

^ Tyson Jackson is THE ONLY 3-4 DE in this draft. Any team looking to upgrade their starting defensive line should seriously consider him in the first.

^ Michael Johnson and Aaron Maybin: I think they have no choice but to convert to OLB.

^ Connor Barwin is the big climber of this position. The guy literally could play three positions at the NFL level. Everyone else is situational or a project.

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Outside Linebackers	School	Ht	Wt	40 Time	Projected Pick
1 Aaron Curry	Wake Forest	6*3	241	4.58	Top 10
2 Brian Cushing	USC	6*3	254	4.69	Rd 1-2
3 Larry English	N. Illinois	6*2	255	4.65	Rd 2
4 Clay Matthews	USC	6*3	246	4.72	Rd 2
5 Gerald McRath	Southern Miss	6*3	220	4.56	Rd 2
6 Marcus Freeman	Ohio St	6*2	242	4.59	Rd 2-3
7 Victor Butler	Oregon St	6*2	237	4.61	Rd 3
8 Tyrone McKenzie	South Florida	6*1	245	4.59	Rd 3-4
9 Kaluka Maiava	USC	6*0	230	4.63	Rd 4
10 Jason Williams	W. Illinois	6*1	235	4.55	Rd 5
11 Zack Follet	California	6*1	231	4.61	Rd 5
12 Jonathan Casillas	Wisconsin	6*2	227	4.51	Rd 6
13 DeAndre Levy	Wisconsin	6*3	236	4.53	Rd 6
14 Lee Robinson	Alcorn St	6*2	243	4.63	Rd 6
15 Braxton Kelley	Kentucky	6*0	227	4.69	Rd 6
16 Mortty Ivy	W. Virginia	6*1	236	4.71	Rd 6
17 Corey Smith	Cincinnati	6*1	225	4.62	Rd 6-7
18 Anthony Heygood	Purdue	6*2	230	4.64	Rd 6-7
19 Solomon Elimimian	Hawaii	6*0	225	4.68	Rd 7
20 Robert Francois	B.C.	6*3	250	4.65	Rd 7

Jason Jones Draft Notes

^ As much as I've fought it, Aaron Curry is the #1 OLB, LB, and Defensive player in this draft.

^ Brian Cushing is next not simply by virtue, but by utter lack of options at the position.

^ I personally would prefer to put Larry English #2 behind Curry. As a matter of opinion, there is not a lot holding me back from saying English is Curry from a smaller competition pool.

^ Regardless of scheme, Curry, Cushing, English, Matthews, McRath, and Freeman are the only OLBs worth a damn unless you are looking for rotation depth.

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Inside Linebackers	School	Ht	Wt	40 Time	Projected Pick
1 Rey Mauluga	USC	6*3	255	4.62	Top 10
2 James Laurinautis	Ohio St	6*3	243	4.54	Top 20
3 Darry Beckwith	LSU	6*0	235	4.55	Rd 2-3
4 Dannell Ellerbe	Georgia	6*1	235	4.58	Rd 3-4
5 Jason Phillips	TCU	6*1	234	4.55	Rd 4
6 Worrell Williams	California	6*2	249	4.68	Rd 4
7 Daniel Holtzclaw	E. Michigan	6*1	245	4.65	Rd 4-5
8 Scott McKillop	Pitt	6*1	243	4.69	Rd 4-5
9 Frantz Joseph	Florida Atlantic	6*3	235	4.62	Rd 5-6
10 Antonio Appleby	Virginia	6*4	248	4.74	Rd 5-6
11 Josh Mauga	Nevada	6*2	246	4.61	Rd 6
12 Dave Philistin	Maryland	6*2	231	4.68	Rd 6
13 Maurice Crum Jr	Notre Dame	6*0	237	4.71	Rd 6-7
14 Jasper Brinkley	S. Carolina	6*2	267	4.69	Rd 6-7
15 Anthony Felder	California	6*4	241	4.71	Rd 6-7
16 Dominic Douglas	Mississippi St	6*1	235	4.73	Rd 7
17 Joey Hudson	Miami of OH	6*2	235	4.75	Rd 7
18 Derek Nicholson	Florida St	6*2	234	4.77	Rd 7
19 Ronnie Palmer	Arizona	6*3	245	4.72	Rd 7
20 Michael Tauillili	Duke	5*11	238	4.71	Rd 7-FA

Jason Jones Draft Notes

^ Rey Mauluga and James Laurinautis, if combined into one player would be the most perfect ILB prospect we've seen in over a decade. Mauluga is a freight train with a vendetta. Laurinautis is a more heady, smart and rangy LB. One's flaw is the other's strong suit. And thats about where the interesting part of this discussion ends...abruptly.

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Cornerbacks	School	Ht	Wt	40 Time	Projected Pick
1 Vontae Davis	Illinois	6*0	200	4.39	Top 15
2 Malcolm Jenkins	Ohio St	6*1	202	4.41	Top 20
3 Alphonso Smith	Wake Forest	5*8	193	4.41	Top 25
4 Darius Butler	Uconn	5*10	178	4.36	Rd 2
5 D.J. Moore	Vanderbilt	5*10	183	4.41	Rd 2-3
6 Victor "Macho" Harris	Virginia Tech	5*10	186	4.52	Rd 2-3
7 Domonique Johnson	Jackson St	6*1	192	4.34	Rd 2-3
8 Asher Allen	Georgia	5*10	197	4.44	Rd 2-3
9 Mark Parson	Ohio U	5*10	193	4.38	Rd 3
10 DeAngelo Smith	Cincinnati	5*10	194	4.48	Rd 3
11 Mike Mickens	Cincinnati	5*11	176	4.43	Rd 3
12 Jairus Byrd	Oregon	6*0	205	4.53	Rd 3
13 Captain Munnerlyn	S. Carolina	5*9	185	4.35	Rd 3-4
14 Morgan Trent	Michigan	6*1	188	4.47	Rd 3-4
15 Cary Harris	USC	6*0	184	4.47	Rd 3-4
16 Bruce Johnson	Miami	5*11	182	4.38	Rd 4
17 Jason McCourty	Rutgers	5*11	190	4.44	Rd 4
18 Donald Washington	Ohio St	6*1	189	4.46	Rd 4-5
19 Keenan Lewis	Oregon St	6*0	198	4.46	Rd 4-5
20 Coye Francies	San Jose St	6*0	179	4.42	Rd 5
21 Kevin Barnes	Maryland	6*1	188	4.43	Rd 5
22 Jerraud Powers	Auburn	5*9	188	4.46	Rd 5
23 Glover Quin	New Mexico	6*0	200	4.49	Rd 5-6
24 Brandon Hughes	Oregon St	5*10	184	4.43	Rd 5-6
25 Joe Burnett	Gen. Florida	5*11	184	4.49	Rd 6

Jason Jones Draft Notes

^ Vontae Davis is the man in this category by leaps and bounds. Malcolm Jenkins should be right there, but most clubs think he will convert to safety.

^ Alphonso Smith may be small, but he's got skills. For anyone looking to draft CB in the second round, they should be very comfortable with Darius Butler, D.J. Moore, and Victor Harris. Anything else after that, immediate contributions are just speculation.

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Free Safeties		School	Ht	Wt	40 Time	Projected Pick
1	Louis Delmas	W. Michigan	5*11	197	4.47	Rd 1-2
2	Sean Smith	Utah	6*3	214	4.49	Rd 2
3	Derek Pegues	Mississippi St	5*9	193	4.45	Rd 2
4	Emanuel Cook	S. Carolina	5*10	203	4.49	Rd 2-3
5	Rashad Johnson	Alabama	5*11	195	4.44	Rd 3
6	Courtney Greene	Rutgers	6*1	215	4.51	Rd 4
7	Sherrod Martin	Troy St	6*0	197	4.41	Rd 4-5
8	Curtis Taylor	LSU	6*3	210	4.48	Rd 5-6
9	C.J. Spillman	Marshall	6*0	194	4.46	Rd 5-6
10	David Bruton	Notre Dame	6*1	210	4.49	Rd 6
11	Troy Nolas	Arizona St	6*2	204	4.56	Rd 6
12	Trimane Goddard	UNC	6*0	195	4.53	Rd 6
13	Brandon Underwood	Cincinnati	6*1	190	4.49	Rd 6-7
14	Darcel McBath	Texas Tech	6*1	198	4.45	Rd 6-7
15	Stephen Hodge	TCU	6*0	212	4.55	Rd 7
Strong Safeties		School	Ht	Wt	40 Time	Projected Pick
1	Patrick Chung	Oregon	5*11	208	4.43	Rd 2
2	William Moore	Missouri	6*0	223	4.45	Rd 2
3	Emanuel Cook	S. Carolina	5*10	203	4.49	Rd 3
4	Michael Hamlin	Clemson	6*2	207	4.51	Rd 3
5	Nic Harris	Oklahoma	6*2	233	4.55	Rd 3
6	Kevin Ellison	USC	6*1	225	4.55	Rd 4-5
7	Chip Vaughn	Wake Forest	6*1	218	4.51	Rd 4-5
8	Otis Wiley	Michigan St	6*2	210	4.53	Rd 5
9	Troy Nolan	Arizona St	6*2	205	4.56	Rd 5
10	Courtney Greene	Rutgers	6*1	215	4.51	Rd 5-6
11	Stephen Hodge	TCU	6*0	212	4.55	Rd 6-7
12	Chris Clemons	Clemson	6*1	210	4.56	Rd 7
13	Terrence Moore	Troy St	6*2	216	4.58	Rd 7
14	Reshard Langford	Vanderbilt	6*2	212	4.56	Rd 7-FA
15	Al Afalava	Oregon St	5*11	215	4.54	Rd 7-FA

Jason Jones Draft Notes

^ #1 is Louis Delmas and he's clearly holding that spot with room for error.

^ I like Patrick Chung next. He's a thumper. If you're looking for the next Ed Reed or Brian Dawkins, you can forget it. Delmas is the closest by far, and he's not really that close.

^ Emanuel Cook, Michael Hamlin, Sean Smith are very solid, but their games are seriously lacking in one regard or another.

DRAFTOLOGY GUIDES

We publish a series of guides such as this through the year as a partnership between Sportsology, The FDH Lounge and FantasyDrafthelp.com.

^ Fantasy NASCAR (late January)

^ Fantasy Baseball (late February)

^ NFL Draft (mid April)

^ NHL Entry Draft (mid June)

^ NBA Draft (mid June)

^ Fantasy Football (late July)

^ Fantasy Hockey (early September)

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Assessment of Strength by Draft Position

Outstanding: none

Very Good: Offensive Tackle, Defensive End, Outside Linebacker

Good: Wide Receiver, Tight End, Center, Defensive Tackle, Cornerback, Punter

Average: Running Back, Fullback, Inside Linebacker, Safety

Not So Good: Kicker

Poor: Quarterback, Offensive Guard

Horrible: none

First Look Ahead to 2010 Pro Football Draft

While this year's NFL Draft is lackluster at best in terms of "franchise player" upside, 2010 will be quite the opposite. This is fairly unsurprising, because draft classes like anything else in life are cyclical.

At the marquee position of quarterback, Sam Bradford and Colt McCoy, either of whom would have easily contended for the top overall spot had they come out this year, should do so next spring. Fellow slinger Tim Tebow will also likely go somewhere in the first round in '10, but he's one of the biggest wild cards out there. He may go very high if somebody looks at him and sees Steve Young or he might slip if more teams look at him and see what Tavares Jackson has been so far.

Running back looks to be a weak crop for the second consecutive year. Joe McKnight of USC offers some intrigue, but could suffer with comparisons to the last prominent Trojan scatback in '05 – teams will want a full-time back this time if they pay a full-time price. Other prominent offensive players at this point look to be Oklahoma TE Jermain Gresham, Oklahoma State WR Dez Bryant, USC WR Damien Williams and Georgia Tech WR DeMaryius Thomas and LSU WR Brandon LaFell. Offensive line may not be highly represented in the higher spots as it stands now.

Defensively, Tennessee S Eric Berry looks like the big prize. He's one of the elite all-around talents at that position in recent years. Others who could be perennial Pro Bowl players are Florida ILB Brandon Spikes, Oklahoma DT Gerald McCoy, Alabama DT Terrence Cody, USC S Taylor Mays and Mississippi DE/OLB Greg Hardy.

Biggest Sleepers of 2009 Pro Football Draft

QB: Willie Tuitama, Pat White

WR: Austin Collie

OT: Alex Boone

S: Emanuel Cook

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2009 Rookie Class Fantasy Analysis

The lackluster nature of the 2009 NFL Draft class will certainly trickle down to the rookie fantasy class. Even if this were not the case, it would still be unlikely to have a great number of breakthrough stars right off the bat because of a trend we have been noting since 2005: the fact that teams are moving away from having a singular franchise back and towards a combo model. We at FDH have referred to it in some ways as a “2/3, 1/3” model, as lead backs for teams are for the most part rarely toting the rock on an absolute full-time basis.

Since even Matt Ryan and Joe Flacco — wildly successful rookie QBs by anybody’s standards — still didn’t move past fantasy backup status last year, it proved yet again that players at that position never make an impact in their first year. So don’t be sucked in by Matt Stafford and Mark Sanchez under any circumstances.

Additionally, rookie tight ends rarely matter in fantasy football and this year will be no different as Brandon Pettigrew should not be counted on to start for your team this year. So ultimately, running back and wide receiver are the only

positions left to discuss.

All of the RBs with any fantasy value whatsoever fit the aforementioned picture. Chris “Beanie” Wells doesn’t project as an absolute full-time back, but he’ll rack up enough “power back” carries to merit #2 fantasy RB status. Knowshon Moreno is the smaller-back equivalent of Wells in that regard. Donald Brown and LeSean McCoy are smaller backs who probably profile as #3 fantasy backs in the NFL next year.

There are a couple of decent options at fantasy wideout, although the caveat about how no rook should rate higher than an #2 option still applies. Michael Crabtree would probably be slotted at that ceiling, however. From there, Hakeem Nicks, Jeremy Maclin, Darrius Heyward-Bey and Kenny Britt are likely to contribute as #3 or #4 wideouts, in that order. Beware of Percy Harvin, yet another gadget player coming into the league without a fully defined offensive position. Let somebody else pay for his elusiveness in the open field while you scoop up somebody who can contribute in varied ways.

NFL Draft Play-Along Game (No Drinking Involved)

We at FantasyDrafthelp.com have devised a contest to help you and your friends measure your acumen on Draft Day. It’s the FantasyDrafthelp.com Mock Draft Game (credit to FantasyDrafthelp.com contributor Bob Benak for inventing the game). Each participant submits a mock draft before the proceedings ... and then all parties compete in a separate “live draft competition.” Each board is scored separately, but the scores of the two are compiled to crown the Grand Champion of Draft Day.

Here’s the scoring system:

Picks #1-4 are weighted at one point apiece.
Picks #5-8 are weighted at two points apiece.
Picks #9-12 are weighted at three points apiece.
Picks #13-16 are weighted at four points apiece.
Picks #17-20 are weighted at five points apiece.
Picks #21-24 are weighted at six points apiece.
Picks #25-28 are weighted at seven points apiece.
Picks #29-32 are weighted at eight points apiece

Players may “roll over” their picks from the completed mock draft to the live draft if a player remains on the board ... or they may cover themselves with another pick. Example: a player has Kansas City taking Aaron Curry with the #3 pick on the mock draft they turned in at the outset. That would count for two points if the pick is correct. If Long is still on the board when the Chiefs are on the clock, the player is not obligated to pick Long during the live draft.

That would count for two points if the pick is correct. If Long is still on the board when the Chiefs are on the clock,

the player is not obligated to pick Long during the live draft. He may “roll over” the pick, choosing to try to win two points in both the live and completed mock draft categories. Or he may try to cover himself with another pick. For example, should he correctly pick Ryan Clady in the live draft part of the competition, he would gain the two points in the live draft but win no points in the completed mock draft part of the competition, in which he incorrectly picked Long. So strategy is at a premium during this competition. This game also puts great emphasis on correctly making picks later in the first round, when chances for success are the most difficult. Picking a player accurately in the later part of the first round on both the completed mock draft and the live mock draft can ensure a thrilling, come-from-behind victory. If you and your friends want to take your enjoyment of Draft Day to the next level by competing and strategizing along with the wizards of the NFL, try our game and utilize our mock draft for your best chance of victory.

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Jason Jones Mock Draft

Team	Player	Pos	School
1 DET	Jason Smith	OT	Baylor
2 STL	Eugene Monroe	OT	Virginia
3 KC	Aaron Curry	OLB	Wake
4 SEA	Michael Crabtree	WR	Texas Tech
5 CLE	Brian Orakpo	DE	Texas
6 CIN	Andre Smith	OT	Alabama
7 OAK	Jeremy Maclin	WR	Missouri
8 JAX	Rey Mauluga	ILB	USC
9 GB	Everette Brown	DE	Florida St
10 SF	Matthew Stafford	QB	Georgia
11 BUF	Brandon Pettigrew	TE	Okla St
12 DEN	B.J. Raji	DT	BC
13 WAS	Robert Ayers	DE	Tennessee
14 NO	Vontae Davis	CB	Illinois
15 HOU	Knowshon Moreno	RB	Georgia
16 SD	Micheal Oher	OT	Ole Miss
17 NYJ	Mark Sanchez	QB	USC
18 DEN	Tyson Jackson	DE	LSU
19 TB	Michael Johnson	DE	Georgia Tech
20 DET	Josh Freeman	QB	Kansas St
21 PHI	Beanie Wells	RB	Ohio St
22 MIN	Percy Harvin	WR	Florida
23 NE	Larry English	OLB	N. Illinois
24 ATL	Malcolm Jenkins	CB	Ohio St
25 MIA	Alphonso Smith	CB	Wake
26 BAL	Brian Cushing	OLB	USC
27 IND	James Laurinautis	ILB	Ohio St
28 PHI	Hakeem Nicks	WR	UNC
29 NYG	Eben Britton	OT	Arizona
30 TEN	Darrius Heyward-Bey	WR	Maryland
31 ARI	Aaron Maybin	OLB	Penn St
32 PIT	Duke Robinson	OG	Oklahoma

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Rick Morris Mock Draft

Team	Player	Pos	School
1 DET	Matthew Stafford	QB	Georgia
2 STL	Jason Smith	OT	Baylor
3 KC	Aaron Curry	OLB	Wake
4 SEA	Eugene Monroe	OT	Virginia
5 CLE	Brian Orakpo	DE	Texas
6 CIN	Andre Smith	OT	Alabama
7 OAK	Michael Crabtree	WR	Texas Tech
8 JAX	Jeremy Maclin	WR	Missouri
9 GB	Everette Brown	DE	Florida St
10 SF	Mark Sanchez	QB	USC
11 BUF	Robert Ayers	DE	Tennessee
12 DEN	B.J. Raji	DT	BC
13 WAS	Tyson Jackson	DE	LSU
14 NO	Malcolm Jenkins	CB	Ohio St
15 HOU	Vontae Davis	CB	Illinois
16 SD	Rey Mauluga	ILB	USC
17 NYJ	Josh Freeman	QB	Kansas St
18 DEN	James Laurinaitis	ILB	Ohio St
19 TB	Aaron Maybin	OLB	Penn St
20 DET	Peria Jerry	DT	Mississippi
21 PHI	Beanie Wells	RB	Ohio St
22 MIN	Percy Harvin	WR	Florida
23 NE	Larry English	OLB	N. Illinois
24 ATL	Brandon Pettigrew	TE	Okla St
25 MIA	Brian Cushing	OLB	USC
26 BAL	Darrius Heyward-Bey	WR	Maryland
27 IND	Ziggy Hood	DT	Missouri
28 PHI	Micheal Oher	OT	Ole Miss
29 NYG	Eben Britton	OT	Arizona
30 TEN	Darius Butler	CB	Connecticut
31 ARI	Knowshon Moreno	RB	Georgia
32 PIT	Duke Robinson	OG	Oklahoma

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Blank Draft Tracking Worksheet

- 1 Detroit Lions:
- 2 St. Louis Rams:
- 3 Kansas City Chiefs:
- 4 Seattle Seahawks:
- 5 Cleveland Browns:
- 6 Cincinnati Bengals:
- 7 Oakland Raiders:
- 8 Jacksonville Jaguars:
- 9 Green Bay Packers:
- 10 San Francisco 49ers:
- 11 Buffalo Bills:
- 12 Denver Broncos:
- 13 Washington Redskins:
- 14 New Orleans Saints:
- 15 Houston Texans:
- 16 San Diego Chargers:
- 17 New York Jets:
- 18 Denver Broncos:
- 19 Tampa Bay Buccaneers:
- 20 Detroit Lions:
- 21 Philadelphia Eagles:
- 22 Minnesota Vikings:
- 23 New England Patriots:
- 24 Atlanta Falcons:
- 25 Miami Dolphins:
- 26 Baltimore Ravens:
- 27 Indianapolis Colts:
- 28 Philadelphia Eagles:
- 29 New York Giants:
- 30 Tennessee Titans:
- 31 Arizona Cardinals:
- 32 Pittsburgh Steelers:

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A Highly Unorthodox Franchise-Building Case Study

by Jason Jones

We are on the heels of the 2009 NFL Draft. As I have crunched every logical scenario for most, if not all, of the 32 teams, I find myself looking at the not-so-logical. This year's rumors have not lived up to the foolery of previous year thus far, so I let my mind wander. I personally am not a Dolphins fan, however, you had to marvel at the success of the worst team in the NFL in 2007. Just by adding in a new formation (the WILDCAT) this team was very entertaining to watch. So let's take a gander and what could be if they took the wildcat to the next level. I've mapped out a way to become an offensive juggernaut as well as improving and adding depth to their young defense (Joey Porter excluded from "young").

-First and foremost, the threat of Ronnie Brown and Ricky Williams only remains a threat if the defensive coordinator is deathly afraid of the passing game. Ted Ginn will probably evolve into a wonderful wildcat WR. But after him, that's where the discussion ends.

-For some strange reason, Al Davis seems to be backing off Jeremy Maclin in the first round due to his 4.5+ 40 time. And if projections are to be taken as mandate, so is the rest of the league. So, suspending reality (at least in my mind) we draft WR Jeremy Maclin with 25th overall pick in 2009. Also in 2009, on his shiftiness and reliability catching the ball in traffic, we take a flyer on WR Quan Cosby. On the high side he might prove to be a poor man's Wes Welker. Moving on to the 2010 draft, WRs keep getting picked. In the first round again, we select RB (but in this scheme better utilized as a kick returner and WR) Joe McKnight from USC. Like Ginn, McKnight is not a prototype at WR or RB for that matter, but could be huge in the wildcat formation. To counter things so that it doesn't seem like the entire offense is predicated on trick plays, we add another conventional WR, Brandon LaFell from LSU. Now, when you look at the depth chart, you would have one conventional WR and one Wildcat WR paired up. Jeremy Maclin and Ted Ginn, then Brandon LaFell and Joe McKnight.

-Next would be QB. Chad Pennington did more than was expected in 2008, however, for the sake of this discussion, we are considering a full-time wildcat formation. Threats of all possibilities from almost all positions. Wait for it...with the second of two picks in the third round, Miami selects QB Pat White from West Virginia, to...yes...play QB. Then just slide the other two QBs down a spot. White starts, Pennington backs him up and Henne backs up Pennington.

-Tight End is not a huge and sexy position even in the wildcat. However unimpressive it is, clearly it is important to get a guy who can block as well as catch. So let's skip any draft picks and go straight to the 2010 free agency period. Josh McDaniels feels so strongly in his system no one person is irreplaceable. So, in 2010, the Dolphins acquire TE Tony Scheffler. Again, slide everyone down one spot.

-The offensive line is important, but for the sake of discussion, let's assume they just draft for depth and an occasional sleeper to improve the o-line.

-Defensive line...the lifeblood of any 3-4 defense (assuming they continue with that evolution). Kendall Langford was a typical Parcels draft pick. He was considered a slight reach, but has stepped in and performed like a starter...where he will remain. Jason Ferguson is ok, but no real stud NT. And there doesn't seem to be one on the horizon. Just for insurance sake, in 2010 the Dolphins select Kellen Heard late. Heard is 330+ pounds and outside of the elite NT's, size is most important. Technique can be learned. Also in 2010, they sign Derrick Burgess from Oakland. He is a fringe Pro Bowl talent. And if this wasn't unconventional enough, we will put him at weak side DE in a 3-4. Risky move, I know. Adding depth on the line, in 2009 they draft Paul Kruger and DeMarcus Granger in 2010.

-Linebacking core is where the majority of the defensive pressure will come from and Miami has a very good start. Joey Porter (for now) and Phillip Merling will be the mainstays at OLB. We will also add Chike Okeafor from Arizona in 2010 free agency and move Matt Roth to OLB in a rotational capacity. On the inside, a little experimentation. Start Channing Crowder on the strong side and start Reggie Torbor somewhat out of position, backing them up rotationally with key special teamers, Williams Kershaw and Darry Beckwith (2009 second-day draft pick).

-The secondary doesn't really change much. Will Allen at the #1 CB spot and Gibril Wilson at the FS spot are the class of this aspect of the defense. Draft Patrick Chung in 2009 and sign Nick Harper in 2010, which leaves the depth to Jeremiah Bell, Tyrone Culver, Jason Allen, and Mark Parson.

-Now keep in mind, this exercise was done in all seriousness. The drafted players mentioned are all attainable according to projections relative to where the Dolphins should be drafting. In addition, the free agent signings are realistic. None of them are top-flight free agents that will demand a large contract.

Key Players On Miami Roster After Completion of Moves

QB1 Pat White
QB2 Chad Pennington
FB Brannan Southerland
RB1 Ronnie Brown
RB2 Ricky Williams
TE1 Tony Scheffler
TE2 Anthony Fasano
WR1 Jeremy Maclin
WR2 Ted Ginn Jr
WR3 Joe McKnight
WR4 Brandon LaFell
LT Jake Long
LG Andy Kemp
C Jake Grove
RG Ikechuku Ndukwe
RT Vernon Carey

DE Kendall Langford
NT Jason Ferguson
DE Derrick Burgess
OLB Joey Porter
ILB Reggie Torbor
ILB Channing Crowder
OLB Phillip Merling
SS Patrick Chung
FS Gibril Wilson
CB Will Allen
CB Nick Harper

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Jason Jones Big Board with Stylistic Comparisons

	Player	Pos	School	Comparison
1	Aaron Curry	OLB	Wake	Joey Porter in his prime
2	Brian Orakpo	DE/OLB	Texas	Shawne Merriman
3	Jason Smith	OT	Baylor	Ryan Clady
4	B.J. Raji	NT	Boston College	Vince Wilfork
5	Andre Smith	OT	Alabama	Levi Jones
6	Michael Crabtree	WR	Texas Tech	Braylon Edwards+Plaxico Burress divided by 2, then -4 inches
7	Tyson Jackson	DE	LSU	Richard Seymour
8	Eugene Monroe	OT	Virginia	D'Brickashaw Ferguson
9	Rey Maualuga	ILB	USC	Ray Lewis
10	Mark Sanchez	QB	USC	Phillip Rivers
11	Matt Stafford	QB	Georgia	Mark Bulger
12	Robert Ayers	DE/OLB	Tennessee	Jared Allen
13	Aaron Maybin	DE/OLB	Penn St	Jason Taylor
14	Everette Brown	DE/OLB	Florida St	Simeon Rice
15	Knowshon Moreno	RB	Georgia	Poor Man's Marshall Faulk
16	Micheal Oher	OT	Ole Miss	Khalif Barnes
17	Brandon Pettigrew	TE	Oklahoma St	Kellen Winslow
18	Brian Cushing	OLB	USC	D.J. Williams
19	Jeremy Maclin	WR	Missouri	Reggie Wayne
20	Larry English	DE/OLB	Northern Illinois	LaMarr Woodley
21	Percy Harvin	WR	Florida	Santonio Holmes, Santana Moss hybrid
22	Vontae Davis	CB	Illinois	Asante Samuel
23	Chris Wells	RB	Ohio St	Michael Turner if healthy
24	Derrius Heyward-Bey	WR	Maryland	Speedy Marques Colston
25	Clay Matthews Jr	OLB	USC	Mike Vrabel
26	Josh Freeman	QB	Kansas St	Young Daunte Culpepper but lighter in the pants
27	Alphonso Smith	CB	Wake	Ronde Barber
28	Malcolm Jenkins	CB/S	Ohio St	Nnamdi Asomugha if he were a safety
29	Michael Johnson	DE/OLB	Georgia Tech	John Abraham
30	James Laurinatis	ILB	Ohio St	Jonathan Vilma
31	LeSean McCoy	RB	Pitt	DeMeco Ryans
32	Kenny Britt	WR	Rutgers	Poor Man's Brandon Marshall
33	Darius Butler	CB	Uconn	Darrelle Revis
34	Evander Hood	DT	Missouri	Broderick Bunkley
35	Donald Brown	RB	Uconn	Marshawn Lynch
36	Hakeem Nicks	WR	UNC	Poor Man's Andre Johnson
37	Ebon Britton	OT	Arizona	Jamaal Brown
38	Lawrence Sidbury	DE/OLB	Richmond	Derrick Burgess

Jason Jones Big Board with Stylistic Comparisons

	Player	Pos	School	Comparison
39	Clint Sintim	OLB	Virginia	Keith Brooking
40	Louis Delmas	S	Western Mich	Gibril Wilson
41	William Beatty	OT	Uconn	Jon Runyan
42	Connon Barwin	DE/LB/TE	Cincinnati	Jamaal Anderson-Jonathan Vilma-Tony Scheffler
43	Alex Mack	C	California	Jeff Saturday
44	Sean Smith	CB/S	Utah	Quentin Jammer
45	Peria Jerry	DT	Ole Miss	Trevor Laws
46	Victor Harris	CB	Virginia Tech	Dunta Robinson
47	Austin Collie	WR	BYU	Hines Ward
48	Eric Wood	C	Louisville	Olin Kreutz
49	D.J. Moore	CB	Vanderbilt	Carlos Rogers
50	Darry Beckwith	ILB	LSU	Tedy Bruschi
51	Patrick Chung	S	Oregon	Adrian Wilson
52	Ron Brace	NT	Boston College	Poor Man's Marcus Strud
53	Brian Robiskie	WR	Ohio St	Javon Walker in Green Bay on the high side
54	Phil Loadholt	OT	Oklahoma	Tarik Glenn
55	Shawn Nelson	TE	Southern Miss	Vernon Davis
56	Rashad Jennings	RB	Liberty	Tiki Barber
57	Duke Robinson	OG	Oklahoma	Young Larry Allen
58	Emanuel Cook	S	South Carolina	Antoine Bethea
59	Max Unger	C	Oregon	Kevin Mawae
60	Pat White	QB	West Virginia	Young Donovan McNabb but smaller
61	Sen'Derrick Marks	DT	Auburn	Luis Castillo
62	Fili Moala	DT	USC	Kelly Gregg
63	Paul Kruger	DE	Utah	Aaron Smith
64	Derrick Williams	WR	Penn St	Justin McCareins

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