

2003 NFL DRAFT



Collegian Mock Draft

A look at who's going where, and why

1st Rd. draft order	Who they'll take	Why they'll take him
1. Cincinnati	CARSON PALMER Quarterback, USC	Palmer won the Heisman by showing arm strength and poise. The Bengals were smart, signing him early.
2. Detroit	CHARLES ROGERS Wide Receiver, Michigan State	Rogers would be great for young quarterback Joey Harrington. Plus, his local ties will galvanize the fans.
3. Houston	ANDRE JOHNSON Wide Receiver, Miami	Built like a tight end, runs like a track star. Would help David Carr and add life to a toothless offense.
4. Chicago	DeWAYNE ROBERTSON Defensive Tackle, Kentucky	His postseason workouts wowed the scouts. Would help clear space for the animal Brian Urlacher.
5. Dallas	TERRANCE NEWMAN Cornerback, Kansas State	Shutdown corner and a great return man. Second coming of Deion in Big D?
6. Arizona	TERELL SUGGS Defensive End, Arizona State	Pass-rusher extraordinaire has seen his stock fall with a series of slow 40 times. Still great value for Az.
7. Minnesota	JIMMY KENNEDY Defensive Tackle, Penn State	The first Nittany Lion to go heads to a defensively starved team. Should help Vikings run defense right away.
8. Jacksonville	BYRON LEFTWICH Quarterback, Marshall	Mark Brunell is getting old and David Garrard (who?) is their backup. Strong-armed Leftwich will help.
9. Carolina	JORDAN GROSS Offensive Tackle, Utah	A dominant left tackle is a rare commodity in the NFL and teams will jump at potential.
10. Baltimore	KYLE BOLLER Quarterback, California	Why does everyone love Kyle Boller all of the sudden? We don't know, but Brian Billick is a fan.
11. Seattle	KEITH WILLIAMS Defensive Tackle, Oklahoma State	Defensive tackle is this draft's deepest position. The Seahawks need one and Williams is one of the best.
12. St. Louis	MARCUS TRUFANT Cornerback, Washington State	The Rams need someone to fill in for Dre Bly. Trufant has impressed everyone in recent workouts.
13. N.Y. Jets (From Washington)	BOSS BAILEY Linebacker, Georgia	The Jets need a 'backer and this dude is fast, strong and hits like a truck.
14. N.E. Pats (From Buffalo)	ERIC STEINBACH Guard, Iowa	Steinbach is clearly the best guard available. The Patriots need some help on the O-Line.
15. San Diego	JON SULLIVAN Defensive Tackle, Georgia	The Chargers need someone to stop the run with Seau gone. This 6-3, 313-pound beast is the man to do it.
16. Kansas City	MICHAEL HAYNES Defensive End, Penn State	The Chiefs didn't have a sack from right end last year. Haynes will surely have a few, which is good news.
17. N.O. Saints	TROY POLAMALU Safety, USC	The Saints gave up over 3,800 passing yards last season, plus Sammy Knight may leave.
18. N.O. Saints (from Miami)	JEFF FAINE Center, Notre Dame	Saints won't pass on a dominant center with the rare ability to make a major difference in the run game.
19. N.E. Pats	WILLIAM JOSEPH Defensive Tackle, Miami	The Patriots needs a defensive tackle. Joseph has been compared to Warren Sapp. Need we say more?
20. Denver	JEROME McDOUGLE Defensive End, Miami	Recent run-ins with the police won't help draft status. Pure physical strength and power will.
21. Cleveland	KWAME HARRIS Offensive Tackle, Stanford	Cleveland could use some more beef on the O-Line. At 6-7, 310, Harris provides plenty of that.
22. NY Jets	KELLY WASHINGTON Wide Receiver, Tennessee	The Jets need a receiver to replace Laveranues Coles and Washington's size and speed are NFL caliber.
23. Buffalo (from Atlanta)	CHRIS KELSAY Defensive End, Nebraska	The Bills have upgraded their defense well this year and Kelsay's pass-rush skills add to the party.
24. Indy	MIKE DOSS Safety, Ohio State	The Colts have a pressing need at safety. Doss's ability to both cover and support the run are invaluable.
25. NY Giants	RIEN LONG Defensive Tackle, Washington State	Keith Hamilton's age and health are questionable, Rien's abilities aren't.
26. San Fran	TAYLOR JACOBS Wide Receiver, Florida	San Francisco needs someone to take the pressure off Terrell Owens, and the shifty Jacobs is it.
27. Pittsburgh	REX GROSSMAN Quarterback, Florida	With Kordell gone, Steelers bite the bullet and take a signal-caller. Grossman is a solid bet as a pro.
28. Tennessee	LARRY JOHNSON Running Back, Penn State	Titans hope they found a worthy replacement for the old warrior Eddie George, Johnson's idol.
29. Green Bay	E.J. HENDERSON Linebacker, Maryland	Losing Nate Wayne and Vonnie Holiday hurt the Pack's overall talent on D. They need Henderson.
30. Philly	BRYANT JOHNSON Wide Receiver, Penn State	He just wants to catch the ball. McNabb just wants someone to catch the ball. Match made in Heaven.
31. Oakland	ANDRE WOOLFOLK Cornerback, Oklahoma	Recently switched from offense, has tremendous upside at one of the toughest positions to fill.
32. Oakland	WILLIS MCGAHEE Running Back, Miami	The Raiders use a Jon Gruden compensation pick to take a chance on 2003's ultimate risk.

Where are they now?

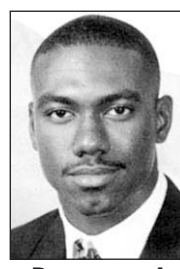
Seven former Penn Staters made the leap to the professional ranks last year. Some have found success, and some saw their NFL dreams come to an early end.



Branch

Bruce Branch

Branch spent time on three different rosters in his rookie season. He signed with Jacksonville as an undrafted free agent, but was cut on Aug. 27. He signed to the Packers' practice squad on Oct. 15. After two weeks in Green Bay, he signed with the Redskins. He saw time as a defensive back and kick returner, returning two kicks for 29 yards and two punts for three yards.



Drummond

Eddie Drummond

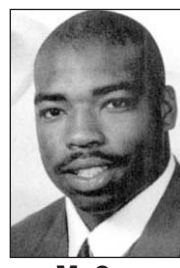
After a rocky college career, Drummond quickly found his niche in the NFL as a kick returner. He signed with the Detroit Lions as an undrafted free agent, and took the starting job at kick returner when Desmond Howard was injured seven games into last season. He returned 40 kicks for 1,039 yards and also returned a punt for a touchdown. He also had 4 rushes for 38 yards.



Jones

Bob Jones

Jones, a former defensive end, had to learn a new craft to catch on in the NFL—long snapping. He signed as an undrafted free agent with the Pittsburgh Steelers after the draft and made the first cut as a long snapper, but didn't make the final squad. However, he was immediately scooped up by the New York Giants and played 11 games before being cut before the playoffs.



McCoo

Eric McCoo

After starting or at least getting significant time in almost every game in his four years at Penn State, McCoo had to get used to not playing as a rookie in the NFL. He was signed by the Chicago Bears after the draft and cut on Sept. 2. He managed to get on the Washington Redskins roster but never got on the field. He will battle with six other backs for time in 2003.



Gilmore

John Gilmore

Inside of three months, Gilmore went from unemployed to practice squad player to starter. He was taken in the sixth round by the New Orleans Saints, was cut on Sept. 1. Two days later, the Chicago Bears signed him to the practice squad. On Oct. 25, they signed him to the team. He played in eight games at tight end, starting four. He pulled in 10 receptions for 130 yards.



Easy

Omar Easy

Easy has to wait his turn again. He was selected by the Kansas City Chiefs in the fourth round of last season's draft and found himself behind Tony Richardson at fullback and star halfback Priest Holmes. He is learning both positions, and got some time at fullback last season, pulling in three receptions for 23 yards and a touchdown. He's also played on every special team unit.



Finney

Shamar Finney

Finney managed to stay with the Washington Redskins the entire season after signing as an undrafted free agent. However, the middle linebacker who finished second among Nittany Lions in tackles in 2001 didn't see any playing time in his rookie season. However, Finney did get to learn from some of the game's best linebackers, including former teammate LaVar Arrington.

—By Dustin Doprak

Training program helps Lions' NFL hopefuls

By Chris Korman
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Sometime this weekend, they'll hear the general manager of their NFL team on the other end of the phone line, and everything will begin. Just like that, the Penn State seniors will become professionals. Football will be taken to another level. "It's not just a game anymore," says Jeremy Scott, assistant strength and condition coach for the Nittany Lions. "They've got to be prepared now."

Scott is the one who makes sure they are. He is in charge of setting up a fitness program for players continuing onto the NFL that will prepare them for the specific tests given at the

combine and to keep them in shape for mini-camps, which begin as early as a week after the draft. "You don't really have a choice but to train for the specific drills — the 40-yard dash, the shuttle runs, the 225-pound strength test," Scott said. "You need your guys to do that because that's how they'll get noticed, by putting up good numbers. But we're still committed to our original goal, and that is to make them better football players all around."

A few years ago, as the draft was evolving into its current state of hoopla and madness, physical trainers across the country realized that young men just out of college would soon be receiving a large amount of money. Like hawks, they zeroed in on

colleges around the country, offering specialized training at sky-high prices. Head strength coach John Thomas wanted to help the players who were moving on, but had his hands full with the undergraduates. Enter Scott, who was hired full-time in part to train the exiting players. From January to May he concentrates on a rigorous five-day training schedule for anyone who wants to partake. This year, every player except Jimmy Kennedy stuck around in State College for at least part of that time.

"Our facilities are second to none," said Thomas. "You can't match the one-on-one attention that Jeremy

gives them. But the real thing is that we make them stick to the schedule. We hold them responsible. We're not going to tell them what they want to hear. If they need to work on something, they're going to work on it."

Penn State players fared well at the combine this year, especially in the bench-press test, in which a player lifts 225 pounds as many times as he can. "All these years, I've been hearing that (offensive lineman) Tyler Lenda isn't strong enough to play the game," Thomas said. "Then he goes and puts up a 28, which is well above average."

Running back Larry Johnson, who has been called "soft" by some gurus,

scored a 19 on the test, four better than the average for his position. Anthony Adams shocked many observers when he scored in the low 30s.

In many ways, combine evaluations are no different than the SATs: they tell you how well a kid can do on a test but tell you nothing about how he'll fare in the world.

"People enjoy them because the results are tangible. "It's still about the ability to play football," said Scott. "Obviously, we train our guys to be as strong and as fast as possible. But we're not overly concerned with the tests. Our main focus is that our guys can step into a camp and be ready to compete for a job as a football player."



Defensive tackle Jimmy Kennedy will likely be the first Penn Stater taken in tomorrow's NFL Draft.

Word on the street

What the media's saying about Penn Staters

Jimmy Kennedy, DT

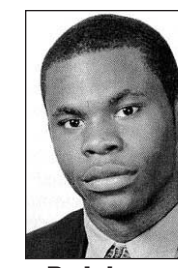


Kennedy

CBS SportsLine Says: "Has a great feel for the ball and when he keeps his pad low, he is the most dominating two-gap lineman in the game."

Collegian Says: Kennedy doesn't play with intensity on a consistent basis; if he did, he might be the top overall pick. He's not the type of guy who will be on highlight reels often; he's the type of guy you build a championship defense around.

Bryant Johnson, WR



B. Johnson

USA Today says: "Not considered a major deep threat but parlays quickness, size, positioning, jumping and hand strength to be legit go-to receiver."

Collegian Says: As stated above, he has all the tools. May never be a prime-time guy, but is capable of making difficult catches and running solid routes. Should find more room as a second or third receiver, leaving him open to use his speed.

Michael Haynes, DE



Haynes

ESPN.com Says: "He defends well against the run and should be a player who gets 8-10 sacks a year."

Collegian Says: Haynes is an extremely intelligent player who will have no trouble making the mental jump to the pros. His problem has been and will continue to be intensity. Last year, he took his game to another level at his coaches' pushing. Chances are he won't be babied as much in the NFL.

Larry Johnson, RB



L. Johnson

CBS SportsLine Says: "Gets off the ball quickly, but does not explode through the holes, as he needs time to accelerate in order to go the distance."

Collegian Says: Johnson does need room to run, but he's deceptively quick in the open field. He'll continue to surprise people in the NFL, especially with his catching ability.

Created & Designed by Jason Bartolone