

## 2017 S'FELD SCOUTING SERVICES NFL DRAFT PREVIEW

### **1. Cleveland Myles Garrett DE Texas A&M**

*Just like last year, the top pick in the draft might as well be considered signed, sealed and delivered as the Browns take the best pass rusher and likely best player in DE Myles Garrett. The Texas A&M standout more than held his own in the rugged SEC against the likes of current NFL offensive linemen Laremy Tunsil and La'el Collins, and fellow 2017 draft class tackle Cam Robinson of Alabama. Garrett can be as good as he wants to be with his combination of moves off the edge. Whether utilizing a powerful bull rush or lightening-quick inside spin move, he will keep opposing tackles off balance for four quarters. Cleveland has positioned themselves to have a very effective draft with what they have previously acquired through trades. The first step in transitioning those additional picks into proven product on the field is by solidifying their defensive line with Garrett. SSS hears the rumblings from Browns fans and the media to make a sexy QB pick at #1. What you have to remember though, is that while the Browns have historically struggled at identifying franchise QBs, they also finished 31<sup>st</sup> in the league in total defense last year. They can still get QB value with their second pick of the round at #12 if they take Garrett at #1. However, they won't be able to get an immediate-impact defensive player at pick #12 like what they will get here at #1 if they pass on Garrett.*

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – *We know as well as anyone that Cleveland's QB history is as bad as any team in the NFL has ever been, but we believe that Browns GM Sashi Brown didn't commit to stockpiling draft picks just to waste his cache on either Mitchell Trubisky or Deshaun Watson at #1. That would be absolute suicide as neither one of those signal callers even comes close to matching the value you need to get with the #1 overall pick. Plus, Cleveland has the advantage of a second selection at #12 and it is very likely that one of those two QBs and possibly a third in Pat Mahomes, will all still be waiting by the phone when Cleveland's second pick of the first round occurs. So take it from SSS, there is zero chance that the Browns let a sure-fire game-wrecker like Garrett slip through their hands to take a chance on a "project" like Trubisky, Watson or Mahomes.*

### **2. San Francisco Marshon Lattimore CB Ohio State**

*Oh boy, where do we even start with these guys? A proud franchise with so much positive history hasn't had one ounce of positivity since former coach Jim Harbaugh flew the coop for Michigan. This team has so many needs and there are so many good options here, that there really is only one way they can truly screw it up – and that is if new head coach Kyle Shanahan reverts to the ego that killed Atlanta's Super Bowl chances and drafts a QB here in an attempt to make chicken salad out of chicken... well you get the idea. There is no QB value for the 49ers here and while SSS does agree that former Chicago Bears burnouts Brian Hoyer and Matt Barkley are not the answer at QB for the 49ers, they can be placeholders for a team who obviously isn't going anywhere in 2017. After firing long-standing GM Trent Baalke and coming off back-to-back firings of coaches Jim Tomsula following the 2015 season and Chip Kelly following the 2016 season, this team needs a refresher course in how professional football works. Newly minted and highly scrutinized GM John Lynch knows he has an uphill battle to rebuild this team in the Seattle and Arizona dominated NFC West.*

*For that reason the 49ers need to play conservatively and get a contributor at any of a host of positions of need. Cornerback, wide receiver, offensive line and pass rusher are all areas of concern. While many have projected defensive lineman Solomon Thomas here, the 49ers spent their past two drafts taking defensive linemen first overall (Arik Armstead in 2015 / DeForest Buckner in 2016). I don't see them giving up that quickly on those two top picks. That's why SSS believes Lynch and Shanahan will take Ohio State corner Marshon Lattimore. With the 49ers cutting CB Tramaine Brock after he was arrested for domestic violence, San Francisco is now ultra thin at corner and Lattimore immediately takes the place of Brock as the draft's top cover man.*

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – *There are some teams that draft in the top 10 that merely had a misstep the previous season and really shouldn't be drafting this high. There are others that are just a couple players away from not drafting in the top 10. A third scenario may include a team that just had awful luck. Then there are the 49ers. The 49ers deserve to be drafting in this position and are so bad that it would take a miracle for them not be drafting in the top 10 again next year. Ringling Brothers currently ranks as the second-biggest circus in the world behind only the 49ers.*

### **3. Chicago**

**Jamal Adams**

**S**

**LSU**

*Outside of Cleveland at #1, the remaining teams in the top 10, and especially San Francisco at #2 and Chicago at #3, will be hoping beyond belief to find a trade partner at their respective slots. If Chicago can't find someone to dance with, SSS doesn't believe the Bears will be too disappointed ending up with safety Jamal Adams. The Bears haven't had a playmaking safety since the days of Nebraska standout Mike Brown. As much as QB has been an issue for Chicago, safety has been just as bad. It has been a rotating pattern of misses on either aging or past-their-prime free agents like Adam Archuleta or Antrel Rolle to mid-round draft busts on in-over-their-head safeties like Craig Steltz or Chris Conte. Since their last Super Bowl season of 2006, the Bears have invested either a first or second round pick on a safety only once (Major Wright – 2010). That lack of commitment to the deep defensive backfield has left the Bears vulnerable and violated by opposing QBs Aaron Rodgers and Matt Stafford on a regular basis. There has never been a better time to invest in a ready-for-primetime performer like Adams. Additionally, Adams may be among the safest picks in this draft, and while Solomon Thomas would bolster the defensive line, the Bears already have guys upfront who are serviceable and in some cases stellar like 2016 first round pick Leonard Floyd. The same can't be said for their secondary.*

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – *The Chicago Tribune and several other Chi-town publications have been making a case for awhile now that with Jay Cutler finally gone the Bears need to invest in a QB, especially since they may have a chance to get the pick of the litter. SSS responds to that tomfoolery by reminding everyone that no Chicago Bears head coach has ever avoided being fired in the team's history after having three straight losing seasons. John Fox has gone 6-10 and 3-13 in his first two years. A third losing season, which looks very probable is looming come September. The last thing Foxy wants entering Year 3 is a project at quarterback. He needs to win right now and while free agent QB Mike Glennon may not be the answer, he is more than a placeholder. The Bears will take a quarterback in the draft. That much is certain. But there is no way they are going to spend the #3*

overall pick on a guy who will be riding the bench behind Glennon. The Bears need plug-and-play starters right now. The Bears greatest asset on their entire team may be defensive coordinator Vic Fangio. There were rumblings that Fangio may leave the Bears after last season. Bears GM Ryan Pace gives his best assistant coach another weapon by taking Adams.

**4. Jacksonville Jonathan Allen DE Alabama**

Jacksonville finds itself in the unfortunate position where they are drafting very high, but the sort of players or needs that they should address don't line up with what is available. The offensive line needs to be addressed, but this is not a great year for offensive linemen. The same goes for quarterback. With Tom Coughlin back in Jacksonville to run football operations and controlling the final word on the draft, and with old school coach Doug Marrone getting a second lease on life as a head coach, this pick seemingly comes down to two guys – Jonathan Allen of Alabama or Leonard Fournette of LSU. SSS thinks the strategy for the Jags is to take Allen here and hope for a quality RB to still be available in the second or third round. Fournette totally fits the bill of a Coughlin-style running back that can wear you down carry-after-carry-after-carry, but I firmly believe Coughlin will model this team in the same mold of the Giants teams he led to two Super Bowl titles. Coughlin teams get to the quarterback and they arrive with bad intentions. Allen will bolster the line and SSS thinks the Jags will be willing to look past his shoulder issues. All you have to do with Allen is trust the tape when you hit play on the video and see that he was the best player on an Alabama team chock full of great players.

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – It has been a long hard road for the Jags. They haven't had a winning season since 2007 and have been a league laughingstock for quite some time. To say that the Gus Bradley experiment was an epic failure would be an understatement. Jacksonville is going back to the future with the hiring of Tom Coughlin as director of football operations and SSS thinks the best thing the Jags could have done is bring in a true football man like Coughlin. He definitely has a blueprint, and that blueprint has been successful at multiple stops. Jacksonville has some young talent and is one of the SSS sleeping giants. With Coughlin and Marrone on the same page, this is an important pick to help propel the Jags over the hump they haven't cleared for almost 10 years.

**\*\*\*TRADE\*\*\* (Tennessee trades with Cleveland to move down from 5<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>)**

**5. Cleveland Mitchell Trubisky QB North Carolina**

Cleveland will use one of its second round picks to move ahead of the New York Jets to secure UNC QB Mitchell Trubisky. The Browns have secured several picks in past drafts and here is where they can finally move up instead of moving back. This is GM Sashi Brown making a calculated risk that he can wait until the fifth pick to trade up for Trubisky. The price on the trade value chart would make a deal significantly more difficult for the Browns if they traded for the 2nd, 3rd or 4th pick, but the Browns feel like the return on a trade with Tennessee at #5 is more than worth it, and they get their top overall QB. Cleveland hopes the third time is the charm for drafting a QB in the first round after completely embarrassing themselves with Johnny Manziel at #22 overall in 2014 and shooting blanks with Brandon Weeden at #22 overall in 2012.



career short. Mike Williams is Danario Alexander 2.0 and the Chargers weren't as bad as their record indicated as injuries and close losses skewed their win-loss total. In the NFL, the difference between 5-11 and 11-5 is a missed tackle here or a dropped pass there. Williams could be the piece that helps the Chargers move closer to 11-5 than 5-11.

**8. Carolina Leonard Fournette RB LSU**

RB Christian McCaffrey may actually be a better fit for the Panthers in terms of what he could give them in the pass game, but sources tell SSS that McCaffrey is the backup plan for Carolina. McCaffrey is only the selection if safety Jamal Adams and RB Leonard Fournette are both gone. Fournette has been criticized as a guy who doesn't make defenders miss. Well SSS can confirm that the reason he doesn't make defenders miss is because he tries to run them over! Fournette seeks contact and tries to make defenders Brian Bosworth to his Bo Jackson. Fournette would be the insurance policy that the Panthers have never had as long as they have relied on RB Jonathan Stewart. Dedicating a higher percentage of plays toward the ground game can only help preserve QB Cam Newton, especially after the beating he took all last year. The Panthers still need to address offensive tackle as Matt Khalil is probably not going to make anybody measure his head size for a bust in Canton despite the fact he did sign for \$31 million guaranteed.

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – The curse of the Super Bowl loser looked to be cured as every team since the Chicago Bears in 2006 went on to win at least 10 games the year after losing the Super Bowl. That streak ended last year however as the 15-1 Carolina Panthers of 2015 fell off that pace by nine games finishing 2016 with a 6-10 record. Carolina didn't have near the swag or the dab that they had in 2015, and they never recovered from a 1-5 start.

**9. Cincinnati Reuben Foster ILB Alabama**

The word on the street is that team's aren't red-flagging Reuben Foster as much as you would think and that his failed drug test isn't moving the needle for too many teams. That's a good sign for Foster as Cincy snags him here and saves him from a free fall. Foster established himself as the top linebacker in the draft prior to his senior season at Alabama by losing 10-15 pounds and showcasing his speed to match his "hitman" philosophy of seek-and-destroy. He is not afraid to throw his body around and looks to deliver a knockout blow when he can. Offensive players are always aware of where Foster is on the field and as long as he stays healthy and can avoid future positive drug tests, this would be the kind of playmaker the Bengals were hoping to get in the top 10.

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – With one year left on his contract and not being able to work out an extension with the Bengals brass heading into this season, we may be on the verge of a swan song for the 15-year Bengals coaching icon Marvin Lewis. He is entering his 15<sup>th</sup> year still waiting to record his first playoff win and SSS believes that his future won't necessarily depend on a playoff win, but will depend on a playoff appearance. It sometimes feels as though Lewis is the owner of the team the way he seems to avoid the hotseat in Cincinnati, but those days making be coming to an end. Even Cincy's ownership can't hang on to hope for this long. It definitely feels like a make-or-break year for Lewis.

<b>10. Buffalo</b>	<b>O.J. Howard</b>	<b>TE</b>	<b>Alabama</b>
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*What is the best way to take a bad quarterback situation and make it better without getting a new quarterback? Get a great tight end! I'm not sure that the Bills expected O.J. Howard to fall to them here but in the SSS Mock Draft anything is possible. While the Bills have many other needs they could fill here like WR or CB, the best players at those positions feel like a reach as top-10 picks, while Howard feels more like a steal. The Bills are lacking great receiving threats across the board but Howard is a tight end who plays like a receiver and while his usage under Bama head man Nick Saban at Alabama was very limited considering his skill set, you can bet he will get every opportunity to show off his chops in Buffalo. And for QB Tyrod Taylor, Howard would be more than a check-down option in his progression. Howard is good enough to be a focal point of the offense alongside WR Sammy Watkins and add some life to the offense.*

***\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – SSS isn't ready to give up on Tyrod Taylor just yet. He showed signs last year of being very good. Consistency is his nemesis right now, but chances are the Bills would truly find out if he is the future or just a lame duck if he had a chance to show what he could do with a legitimate running back in Lesean McCoy, wideout in Watkins and tight end in Howard. The addition of O.J. may give the Bills the juice they have been looking for.*

<b>11. New Orleans</b>	<b>Solomon Thomas</b>	<b>DL</b>	<b>Stanford</b>
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*The Saints made a big splash in free agency this week by securing the services of RB Adrian Petersen. To cap off their week they see a potential top 3 pick in DL Solomon Thomas fall all the way to them at 11. It's not a player I'm guessing GM Mickey Loomis is anticipating being here, but he won't be able to get his player card with the name Solomon Thomas up to Roger Goodell fast enough. SSS is not a huge fan of Thomas. If you watch his film you won't have to wait long to see him take plays offs and get absorbed at the point of attack. However, at his best he is a fierce pass rusher with an array of rush moves and outstanding athleticism. You don't hear the knock of taking plays off as much with Thomas as you do with Garrett, but it's there and much like Garrett, his career will be defined by his commitment to the game. If he brings his lunch pail to work every day, he will be a force. SSS is just concerned he will be more interested in lunch breaks than bringing his lunch pail.*

***\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – It will be tempting to consider a hybrid running back like Christian McCaffrey here or to consider taking one of the top 3 overall receivers to replace the production that the Saints lost in trading WR Brandin Cooks to New England. There is a reason, however, why the Saints aren't drafting near the end of the first round any more. That reason is because their defense has been and continues to be a collection of underperformers, has-been's and never-will-be's. The Saints finished second to last in the NFL in defense in 2014 and 2015 and improved only a tick to get to 27<sup>th</sup> last season. While the Saints have addressed some of their defensive needs through free agency, they need to remember that the reason they won their last Super Bowl was because they had a playmaking defense to go along with their high-octane offense.*

**\*\*\*TRADE\*\*\* (Cleveland trades with Tennessee to move up from 12<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>)**

**12. Tennessee Haason Reddick LB Temple**

*Reddick is the winner of the annual award for the player who makes the biggest jump on the board through his performance at either the combine or the Senior Bowl. In Reddick's case it would actually be both as he wowed scouts by showing his versatility at the Senior Bowl and then blew them away by recording a 4.52 40-time and 11-feet-1-inch broad jump at the combine. His stock soared higher than Amazon's with those performances and all but assured he will be a top-15 pick. Tennessee would also love to get their hands on a top corner but they can afford to take Reddick here and wait on grabbing one of the remaining corners when they get their second pick of the first round at #18. Reuben Foster and Reddick are easily the top two linebackers in the 2017 draft, but there is a significant drop to the next tier after these two fly off the board. Tennessee doesn't want to take a chance on Reddick being selected between 13 and 17 if they don't take him here. Tennessee fans will not be disappointed to see this workout warrior up close as they follow the chronicles of Reddick.*

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – SSS was very high on Titans GM Jon Robinson last year and how he was able to fleece the Rams to move down and stockpile picks. We feel like Robinson will look to duplicate that strategy this year as the Titans have the flexibility of wanting guys who will likely be available at #12 instead of having to take them at #5. We firmly believe that the Titans are on-the-come and are closing in on making the leap their fans have been waiting for. They were a quiet 9-7 last season and SSS sees the playoffs in their future in 2017.

**13. Arizona Deshaun Watson QB Clemson**

*There has been a lot of steam in the last week about the rise of QB Pat Mahomes and many are slotting him to the Cardinals at #13. This has become the equivalent to the 12 seed being picked over the 5 seed in the NCAA Tournament that everybody jumps on because they don't want to miss out on saying they called it if it actually happens. And this alone is why your subscription to SSS Draft Preview always pays huge dividends. We do the work so you don't have to. We scour the globe to give you the best possible information at all times – not to simply give you the “trendy pick”. And folks we are here to tell you that Mahomes is nothing more than a glorified smokescreen to keep the competition away from the Cards true desire – the playmaking Deshaun Watson. Mobility – he's second to none. A gamer? Check out the national championship game. Is he a leader? Like a general! Intangibles? Measurables? Question Marks? Listen, the guy isn't afraid to sit in the pocket and stand-and-deliver. And the best part? With all that he has going for him, he STILL has a high ceiling and plenty of room for growth. And when you consider some of the best places for him to land, you probably couldn't pick a better spot than Arizona and quarterback guru Bruce Arians.*

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – SSS was very bold in their assessment last year that the Carson Palmer era was over after Carolina lambasted the Cardinals in the 2016 NFC Championship Game. It should have surprised no one that Palmer's passing yardage went down, his TD passes went down and his interceptions went up. Listen we like Carson Palmer. He's been a pretty good QB for a long time, but

*the last thing the Cardinals can afford to do is hang on to Palmer too long. You only need to look at Boston sports history to see either how good or bad this works. In the early 90's, the Boston Celtics hung on to their core group of Larry Bird, Kevin McHale, Robert Parrish and Dennis Johnson well past their primes and ended up suffering for years upon their retirement because they failed to plan for the future or more importantly, to get something in return by dealing those players. Part of what makes the Patriots so effective is their ability to properly time out when a core player is approaching decline and to get maximum return on that asset before the player's decline eliminates a return on their investment at all. That is why the time to strike for the Cardinals is while the iron is hot. And it is blazing for them to take Watson and prepare for the transition.*

**14. Philadelphia (via Minnesota)    Derek Barnett    DE    Tennessee**

*Maybe one of the most difficult assignments this year is figuring out what the Eagles will do. We will play the process of elimination to get the final answer. WR John Ross or WR Corey Davis? Can't see the Eagles drafting either after signing free agent Alshon Jeffery and still having a pretty solid WR corps with Jordan Mathews and FA acquisition Torrey Smith. Christian McCaffrey? Lot of buzz there but I think you have too much of McCaffrey-type player in Darren Sproles. CB Gareon Conley? Zero chance that the host city will take a guy who just had a rape claim brought against him. Offensive tackle? No OT at pick 14 is good enough to take here with so many other quality options. However, I do feel the Eagles will need to address OT in the second round if they don't in the first. Why? Because following LT Lane Johnson's suspension for PEDs last year the Eagles went from 5-1 with Johnson to 2-8 without him, likely costing them the playoffs. With that being said that leaves CB Marlon Humphrey or DE Derek Barnett as the remaining first round options. Humphrey feels like too much of a reach here, while Barnett seems to feel like a natural fit. The Eagles can't count on Chris Long to be the savior at DE and Barnett is proper value at this spot. And how fitting is it that Barnett broke Reggie White's record for career sacks (32) at Tennessee and he will now be following in White's footsteps being selected by the same team that White started his NFL career with.*

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – *One of the things that bothers SSS is when prognosticators can't admit when they were wrong or that their assessment was completely sub-par. Well at SSS we believe in calling a spade a spade and because of that we owe Eagles GM Howie Roseman a huge apology. We went after Roseman ultra-hard last year on trading up to get QB Carson Wentz and well, the egg is all over our face and the crow has been served to SSS. Wentz not only was more than serviceable, he looked every bit the part of a guy who has the "it" factor and who should only get better and better. SSS got their first real look at what Wentz could do in a Week 2 rout at Chicago where he completely dissected the Bears. He showed great pocket presence and the clock in his head allowed him to get rid of the ball just before Bears blitz could make contact. Needless to say, SSS realized rather quickly that our breakdown of Wentz was beyond poor and that he was indeed worth the trade up to #2 for the Eagles. The Wentz pick should pay off handsomely for the Eagles as they now have cleared the major hurdle that 65% of the league still faces – finding a QB you can hang your hat on. Mr. Roseman - your 2017 SSS Draft Preview has been comped.*

**15. Indianapolis** **Dalvin Cook** **RB** **Florida State**

*Hey look! It's cool to take running backs in the first round again! FSU standout Dalvin Cook should make sure to give a percentage of his signing bonus from the Colts to Ezekiel Elliott because Zeke's 1,631 yards rushing and 15 TDs has served notice that running backs can still change the course of a franchise. It's not that the Colts couldn't go in a variety of different directions with the 15<sup>th</sup> pick. They still need to improve an offensive line that allows QB Andrew Luck to get beaten down game-after-game. And while they addressed several defensive concerns under new GM Chris Ballard, their defense still resembles more of a bottom feeder than surface dweller. The thing with Indianapolis is that while Frank Gore has been serviceable, the Colts can't live with serviceable anymore. They need a back that can take pressure off the rest of the offense and Andrew Luck. They need a guy who will force safeties to play closer to the box. They need a weapon that can enable Luck to really challenge defenses with play action. They need a playmaker that will allow OC Ryan Kelly and the rest of the offensive line to plow people over more than just occasionally because the team can trust the run game. That man is there for the taking – and his name is Dalvin Cook. Cook is the game-breaker that the Colts need to re-energize the offense. He is a homerun hitter than Frank Gore just isn't. And really, how much longer can the Colts trust that Gore can even stay healthy. Yes, RBs are back in style, and in Indianapolis, they will be flying off the rack right around pick 15.*

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – *It was actually somewhat refreshing to see the Colts address the elephant in the room this offseason – GM Ryan Grigson. He just never seemed to be a fit and the relationships in Indianapolis were so fractured that much like a Clint Eastwood western, there wasn't enough room in Indianapolis for Grigson and head coach Chuck Pagano. So Pagano stays and Grigson goes and a very capable Chris Ballard steps in to restore some civility to the Colts operation. I know some may say that it is too soon to be talking about the window closing for Andrew Luck, but let this be said – his window could be closing at a more rapid rate than other QBs. Because of the constant shots he absorbs and the wear-and-tear on his body, Luck's playing career is in jeopardy of falling short of what it could be. Much like we are seeing with Matt Ryan in Atlanta, talent alone is never enough and winning a Super Bowl takes a GM who can address all needs and keep his team ahead of the curve. The Colts of the past few years have lost their way in that regard – time will tell if Ballard can set the train back on the tracks.*

**16. Baltimore** **Forrest Lamp** **OG** **Western Kentucky**

*There used to be a time when GM Ozzie Newsome could draft the best player available and build depth on either side of the ball. Newsome has earned a reputation for being a draft genius and if that is true he will definitely need to prove it in 2017 as his team has gone from solid like the Rock of Gibraltar to filled with holes like Sargento Swiss cheese. These Ravens no longer intimidate anyone and on top of that, it seems as though they are starting to lose a little bit of their identity. The defense is no longer a feared unit, the running game seemingly tries a new option at tailback every 3 or 4 games and QB Joe Flacco's receiving corps is just a mess. If Baltimore want to get back to Raven football than the player that can help them remember who they were in their heyday is OG Forest Lamp. I like Lamp!!! Lamp is the best OG in the draft and not only excels in run blocking, but plays with a nasty streak that the Ravens badly need. Cam Robinson may be a bigger need at OT*

but Lamp brings more to the table, and definitely plays with a motor revved higher than Robinson's. Newsome has had a pretty decent record with offensive line picks and SSS feels he will lean that way.

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – While the Ravens could also use a receiver, Newsome has missed the mark badly when he has spent his first pick on a wideout as evidenced by Travis Taylor (#10, 2000), Mark Clayton (#22, 2005) and Breshad Perriman (#26, 2015). I don't think Newsome wants to take a risk on going 0-for-4 with another WR selection.

<b>17. Washington</b>	<b>Charles Harris</b>	<b>DE</b>	<b>Missouri</b>
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And here we are with the Washington Redskins pick, which will be made by GM Scot McCloughan. Wait, what? What's that? He isn't the GM anymore? Really? Ummm. Okay. Well who replaced him? Can that person come down to make the pick? What's that? Nobody replaced him? The Redskins didn't replace their GM? Is this a joke? You're kidding right? You're not kidding. Hmmm. Okay. Well, this certainly is a first. Does Dan Snyder want SSS to make the pick? I mean Scot's a friend but we'd be happy to help out in his absence. We can? We can make the pick? Sweet! Okay. Well with the 17<sup>th</sup> pick of the 2017 NFL Draft SSS selects Charles Harris, defensive end, Missouri, to the Washington Redskins. Wow. That wasn't so hard. Is Dan Snyder interested in hiring SSS as GM? Will you at least check? Oh you did. He's not interested. Okay. Well, tell him thanks for the opportunity.

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – All kidding aside, how in the world can the Redskins continue to operate like this? I mean every time I think they have the possibility of getting out of their own way they just find more hurdles to put on the track. Their handling of the McCloughan dismissal was shameful and now team president Bruce Allen is in charge. Once again, it looks like the inmates are running the asylum and what's worse is that this team was a playoff-contending team last year. They actually have potential. It just always seems like the Redskins potential is unfulfilled.

<b>18. Tennessee</b>	<b>John Ross</b>	<b>WR</b>	<b>Washington</b>
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Conventional wisdom would tell you that if a team like Tennessee has two picks in the first 18 overall selections and their biggest need is corner, than in all likelihood one of the two picks will be a cover man. Well, SSS doesn't use conventional wisdom and we don't believe that GM Jon Robinson does either. SSS believes that Robinson trusts his gut and his own ability to make things happen and create his own opportunities in the draft. The opportunity that he sees at pick 18 is to follow up grabbing his third need (LB) with his second need (WR). But the reason that Robinson and SSS like this pick is because Tennessee doesn't just need a receiver, they need a vertical threat to take the top off the defense. Nobody in this draft fits that bill better than John Ross. Ross broke the NFL combine record for the 40-yard dash with an astounding time of 4.22. If you want to go vertical, than Ross is your man. QB Marcus Mariota hasn't had a weapon like this before and offensive coordinator Terry Robiskie is going to be in seventh heaven when the Titans war room informs the coaching staff of this selection. Tennessee may not have a Major League Baseball team, but a home run hitter is coming to Nashville in the form of John Ross.



**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – It sure didn't take long for the Broncos magical run to a Super Bowl championship in 2015 to feel like it happened 10 years ago. Gary Kubiak is gone due to health issues. New and unproven head coach Vance Joseph is taking over. Longtime defensive coordinator Wade Phillips is out and former San Diego Chargers head coach Mike McCoy takes over as offensive coordinator. And on top of all that, star DE DeMarcus Ware has retired. It looks like the road to another championship is going to be a lot longer and a lot more winding than the one in 2015. The Broncos are reinventing themselves to a degree and that isn't going to be easy in the loaded AFC West.

**21. Detroit** **Marlon Humphrey** **CB** **Alabama**

The Lions in their first year without Calvin Johnson actually looked more like a solid unit than when he was on the team. The Lions seemed to rally around each other and they found a way to pull out multiple fourth quarter victories. The issue with the Lions is the defense. They need help at all three levels and with several teams pushing off taking a corner until the second round, the Lions find Alabama corner Marlon Humphrey sitting right in their wheelhouse at #21. Humphrey helps solidify the Lions secondary and while Florida linebacker Jarrad Davis is also in play, Humphrey seems to be the choice.

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – You won't see a team ride the rollercoaster quite like the Lions did last year. They started 1-3 and looked dead in the water. Then they ran off eight wins in nine games and looked like a mortal lock to win the division and make the playoffs. However, they dropped their final three games including a gut-punch from the Packers in the season finale in a win and you're in game. That being said, the Lions did show a lot more heart last year than SSS thought they would and we will see if they can back it up in 2017.

**22. Miami** **Jarrad Davis** **LB** **Florida**

The Dolphins had one of the busiest offseasons of any NFL team. They held on to a few of their core players in WR Kenny Stills, DE Andre Branch and OG Jermon Bushrod. They acquired LB Lawrence Timmons, OG Ted Larsen, TE Anthony Fasano and S Nate Allen in free agency. They put the cherry on top by trading for TE Julius Thomas and DE William Hayes. All this movement tells me that the Dolphins are all-in and they believe in head coach Adam Gase and his vision for the team. There could be a temptation to take a guard here as Laremy Tunsil is getting kicked out from OG to OT to replace Branden Albert. But with OG Forest Lamp already off the board, a more likely choice would be Florida LB Jarrad Davis.

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – The feedback from coaches across the board on Davis is that he is a character guy, who leads by example and has an unmatched work ethic. He is a strong finisher who excels in blitz situations and will only get better in coverage. He hasn't received a lot of attention because the linebacker position isn't featured in this draft but this is a pick that few people may talk about now, but many people could be talking about in a few years.

<b>23. New York Giants</b>	<b>Garett Bolles</b>	<b>OT</b>	<b>Utah</b>
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*The Giants made a big splash in free agency by signing Brandon Marshall to play alongside Odell Beckham Jr. That will definitely be a sight to see. But that sight can only be seen if Eli Manning is standing upright. SSS is just not sold on the Giants offensive tackles and even though the G-Men inked free agent D.J. Fluker, that is not enough for us to believe the Giants don't have more to address at that position. They will be in a toss up situation between Utah tackle Garett Bolles, who is starting to move up draft boards, and Cam Robinson, the Alabama tackle that has seen his name slide down most teams boards since the end of the season. Ultimately SSS will go with Bolles because he has much more room to develop and grow into a standout tackle. With Cam Robinson, what you see now is likely what you will get.*

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – *Brandon Marshall may be one of the biggest enigmas in all of pro football but let this be known – in his first year with a new team he puts up exceptional numbers. He had 1,000 yards with Miami and 1,500 yards each with the Bears and the Jets the first year he played for those franchises. SSS really believes he may get a chance to work with his best QB yet in Manning and with Beckham working the opposite side there could be some big yardage for both Eli and Marshall in 2017.*

<b>24. Oakland</b>	<b>Kevin King</b>	<b>CB</b>	<b>Washington</b>
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*It's funny how for many years the Raiders were part of a yearly punch line when the SSS Draft Guide came out. But these times they are a changin'. The Raiders are now a team that is getting to the point they can stockpile talent as opposed to filling several holes. One of the few weaknesses that the Raiders need to shore up at this point is cornerback. The Raiders get a specimen in Kevin King as his rare combination of size (6' 3") and speed (4.43 40 time) is too hard for GM Reggie McKenzie to pass up.*

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – *Let me be among the first to say that the Las Vegas Raiders doesn't do a thing for SSS. Everything that the Raiders stand for is embodied in Oakland's Black Hole, not a town where after playing blackjack and roulette all night all you are left with in your pocket is a black hole. I know QB Derek Carr has said that real Oakland Raiders fans will support this team in Vegas but that has to be among the most asinine comments I have ever heard. Oakland fans are getting their heart ripped out. Yeah, it's a business. Just don't tell the fans of one town that have supported you through and through (and that have zero to do with the politics of NFL team movement) that they need to root for the town that is taking the team away.*

<b>25. Houston</b>	<b>Cam Robinson</b>	<b>OT</b>	<b>Alabama</b>
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*SSS knows that ever since Dallas QB Tony Romo jilted the Texans and left them hanging in the breeze, the thought has been that Houston will grab the first QB available in this year's draft. That may still be the case but Cam Robinson falling this far changes the game for the Texans, who will push their QB wishes into round 2 to make sure they lock into Robinson here. There is little doubt that the moment he walks on the stage and holds up the jersey with Roger Goodell standing by his side that he is the automatic starter at right tackle.*

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – I have to believe that Bill O’Brien has a quarterback in mind for the Texans but I’m not sold that he reaches beyond his boundaries to take Mahomes or DeShone Kizer at #25. I think it is safe to assume that he goes QB in the second round. He just needs to avoid a run on QBs that depletes the stock and leaves him empty-handed.

26. Seattle	Corey Davis	WR	Western Michigan
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This pick definitely does not follow the mantra of taking a player of need. The Seahawks based off need would be better served to take a cornerback, an offensive lineman or a defensive lineman. But the sort of physical attributes that Davis would bring to the Seattle offense could give them a new wrinkle they haven’t had before – a lanky wideout who can be a redzone target and win jump balls thrown by Russell Wilson. Davis is the sort of player that when the Seahawks find themselves swimming upstream can take over and row the boat.

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – SSS senses that things in Seattle seem to be a little less stable than in previous years and the drama surrounding Richard Sherman can’t possibly end well. Sherman is no fan of criticism and the fact that he is being shopped can’t go over well with him. On top of that, the Seahawks watched Marshawn Lynch retire only to come back and play for the Raiders while getting back basically pennies on the dollar in the trade. When the chemistry is good with a Pete Carroll team, the sky is the limit. But when things seem to get even a little sideways, they have a tendency to spin out of control rather quickly. Carroll has several big personalities on the team and that’s always fine when your front running, but SSS gets the sense that there are a few frustrated folks in the Emerald City.

27. Kansas City	Zach Cunningham	ILB	Vanderbilt
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After LB Derrick Johnson suffered an Achilles injury last season for the Chiefs, the need for a replacement became paramount. Cunningham was a primetime player for the Commodores. His ability to sniff out plays quickly and his durability make perfect sense for Kansas City here. There has been talk that one of the teams that is most interested in QB Pat Mahomes is Kansas City, but Mahomes would be a luxury pick whereas Cunningham is an absolute necessity. Watching KC play without Johnson last year, you could see that they just aren’t the same defense when he is missing. Johnson is slated to be ready for training camp, but the Chiefs need a security blanket at his position and Cunningham is all the insurance they will need.

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – Andy Reid had a reputation for stubbornness and not being able to win the big one while he was in Philly and it looks like that reputation has followed him to Kansas City. After posting three seasons of at least 11 wins in Kansas City, the Chiefs suffered another difficult playoff loss in 2016 losing at home to the Steelers. Reid doesn’t seem to have much of a problem in the regular season but the postseason has been his albatross. He has now lost five of his last six playoff games and even more worrisome is RB Jamaal Charles is gone, WR Jeremy Maclin has regressed, and we are all left wondering if QB Alex Smith can still be the one to lead KC to the promised land. It may be time to start looking to the future and a new signal caller to try to get KC over the hump.



to advance the offense. He was a sneaky red zone threat and a Ben Roethlisberger favorite. We think Pittsburgh will tweak what they want to do with their passing game and incorporate a player like Engram who can't be covered by linebackers due to his athleticism. He can also beat coverage and compete against all three levels of a defense. He has exceptional vertical speed and will more than fill the role of another red zone threat with his leaping ability and competitiveness after the catch. There will still be a place for blocking tight ends in the Pittsburgh offense but Engram would present new matchup problems for opposing defenses and allow head coach Mike Tomlin to checkmate the opposition.

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – SSS has a hard time believing that Ben Roethlisberger was really contemplating retirement. However, given the amount of shots he has taken and how his body must feel after 13 years in the league, it may actually be time for the Steelers to start thinking about the next 15 years. Teams like Green Bay and Pittsburgh have been able to bank on great quarterback play for years, while many other teams continue to trot out a new QB year after year trying to find the golden ticket.

31. Atlanta	Budda Baker	S	Washington
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There is no point worrying about the Atlanta offense. MVP quarterback in Matt Ryan. Arguably the best receiver in the game in Julio Jones. Good tight end and secondary receiver options, and a line that has a few holes, but nothing extreme. No, the Falcons game plan should be pretty simple. Draft defense over and over and over again until you get to the point where your defense somewhat approaches the level of your offense. One of the underlying stories from last year was how the Falcons defense got a pass simply because their offense was putting up points almost as often as The Greatest Show On Turf. The Falcons were able to cover up their deficiencies by always coming up with a turnover at the right time. SSS knows there can be a little luck that goes into turnovers and that is not necessarily a trait you can bank on year-in and year-out. That's why SSS feels the approach will be to get one of the few stellar safeties and come back to address the line and the backers in the second and third round. Baker plays with great passion and can go from 0-to-60 faster than a souped-up Camaro. He possesses great instincts and can close ground more like a corner than a safety. No character issues with Baker – just a guy who willingly volunteers for any seek-and-destroy mission given to him.

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – I know we are almost three months removed from the Super Bowl debacle against New England but that is a sting that is never going to subside for the Falcons. One of the greatest storylines to watch in the NFL this year will be how head coach Dan Quinn and company bounce back from having their hearts ripped out. You have to have a short memory in this league and there is no doubt that the Falcons have the talent but will they be able to mentally overcome how they let the Lombardi Trophy slip through their grasp. SSS believes that the upcoming season is going to be a tough one for the Falcons. They don't have to go far to ask the previous Super Bowl loser (Carolina) how hard it is to get back on the horse after being one game away from the ultimate goal.

**32. New Orleans****Adoree' Jackson****CB****USC**

*Much like the team picking directly in front of them, the Saints for the longest time have been identified as having an exciting offense and a porous defense. Adoree' Jackson will actually serve a two-fold purpose as not one of the draft's top corners but also one of the top return specialists as well. The Saints could probably draft corners with their first three picks and it may not be enough. They need a lot of help on the defensive side of the ball and with who SSS has them selecting with their first two picks, this would go a long way to helping the defense to start pulling their own weight.*

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – *The Saints check in with their second pick of the first round after selecting a defensive lineman in Solomon Thomas with their first pick. They could potentially address the elephant in the room, which is making a meaningful investment in the future with a top-tier quarterback. However, SSS thinks that head coach Sean Payton would prefer to stockpile talent rather than use a pick on a player that won't play. We don't think backup QB Chase Daniel is the heir apparent to Drew Brees at all, but we also don't think there is a QB at pick #32 that the Saints feel they have to have.*