

of a depleted pass rush in Oakland. While that has most assuredly been the case, SSS has longed believe that there was zero chance that by making that trade with the Bears, Oakland wouldn't do whatever they could to get their future Khalil Mack at a fraction of the cost. SSS sources say that the Raiders value Bosa and Allen, but that the price to move up to #2 to get Allen would compromise too much of the draft arsenal they have stockpiled. They can still get a dominant edge rusher at pick #3 while keeping their two other first-round picks and only giving up a 2nd rounder in 2020. New GM Mike Mayock along with Coach Gruden want players molded from a past era and Bosa and Allen would give them that. The price is right to make a deal with the Jets who can live with not getting an edge rusher to move down one spot in the draft while raiding Oakland for a few more picks.

THE EXTRA POINT – *A lot has been made about the Raiders this week and the fact that they sent their scouts home before the NFL Draft. At SSS, we see no problem with that at all. The #1 thing Mayock and Gruden need to do at this point with their draft capital is protect not only their information, but their investment. The spotlight of the upcoming draft will be placed squarely on the Raiders to see what sort of talent they can secure in exchange for departed stars Khalil Mack and WR Amari Cooper. Trust is a huge thing in NFL circles and Mayock and Gruden are definitely not done crafting the organization they want. It will be in their image, not that of Reggie McKenzie, and chances are high that several of the Raiders scouts will not be around when the 2020 draft rolls around. Like it or not, Mayock and Gruden are going to navigate this cruise to the Sinatra classic “My Way” and not leave anything to chance.*

*****TRADE*** (Oakland trades with NY Jets, giving up Picks #4, #106 and 2020 2nd Rounder to acquire Pick #3)**

4. New York Jets Quinnen Williams DT Alabama

In a perfect scenario, the Jets would be able to trade down again from the 4th overall pick since they still have a plethora of needs. SSS believes that is not very likely and they are more than happy to receive the picks they will get from Oakland and still land Quinnen Williams. From what SSS hears, the two guys at the top of most team's boards from a defensive standpoint are Bosa and Williams. While some have argued DT Ed Oliver would be the pick over Williams if the Jets are deciding between a DT, there is little doubt in our minds that Williams is the play. Williams has freakish skills and will make quite a tandem paired with Jets lineman Leonard Williams. Free agent Anthony Barr's decision to spurn the Jets to return to the Vikings was a bitter pill for the Jets to swallow, but in reality, the Jets more than any other team in the top 10 have the best opportunity to trade for assets while still landing an amazing player. However, four years into GM Mike Maccagnan's tenure, the Jets seemingly still have as many holes as they did when he took over, from offensive line to corner to playmaking wideouts and tight ends. Maccagnan has no excuses in this draft. If he can't make things happen via trade or landing a game-changing player in the top 10, then chances are high that SSS will be writing about a new GM in this space next year.

THE EXTRA POINT – *It truly is amazing how quickly fortunes can change in the NFL. Maccagnan was recognized as an Executive of the Year by a few services after the Jets went 10-6 in 2015, his and Todd Bowles first seasons with the Jets. The honeymoon would be shortlived as the Jets finished with five or fewer wins the next three seasons. The silver lining is that while the Jets did lose out on*

undervalued. In our book, Haskins has the right kind of confidence in that he isn't afraid of the moment, but he also isn't going to force the issue or try to overplay his hand. And while he may be downgraded because of his lack of mobility outside the pocket, he has very good footwork and savvy inside the pocket to avoid pressure.

THE EXTRA POINT – In the race to see which fan base hates the decision their upper management made the most, Dave Gettleman takes a close second to Jon Gruden in Oakland. Gruden made the polarizing decision to trade one of the most beloved players on the Raiders squad in Khalil Mack and after someone told Gettleman that was the most hated trade by a fan base in recent memory, he said “hold my beer.” Gettleman’s trade of Odell Beckham Jr. sent the Giants fan base into a fury and Gettleman has had to defend his position ever since. Unlike his predecessor Jerry Reese, who was passive to a fault, Gettleman has gone full frontal on the New York media essentially taking no blame for the disastrous 5-11 2018 season. While some say Gettleman may continue to play a game of chicken with the QB position by avoiding taking one at either the 6th or 17th overall picks, that move would be the only way he could sink even lower in the eyes of the Giants fans than he already is. SSS doesn’t believe Gettleman is that stubborn. If he doesn’t get the QB he likes best at #6, he might not get a chance to grab his second, third or fourth option at QB by the time he picks again at #17.

7. Jacksonville	Jawaan Taylor	OT	Florida
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There are a couple different ways the Jags can go at #7 and this is around the area where three or four consecutive teams could all be in play for a top tight end like Iowa’s T.J. Hockenson. However, SSS believes an old-schooler like Tom Coughlin is not going to draft a TE inside the top 10. As much as the outside world has been chirping that Hockenson could be to QB Nick Foles as Zach Ertz was for him in Philly, there are other tight ends that can provide value in the later rounds. No, the true value here is for Jacksonville to do exactly what they are doing. Grab the first non-QB offensive player and best available right tackle to fill your need. The rare combination of value meeting need happens right here for the Jags and the best decision they can make in the early rounds is to protect their new investment Nick Foles. Jacksonville released last year’s starting right tackle Jermei Parnell to clear \$6 million in cap space and so far outside of Foles, the Jags free agent pickups look some something out of the rummage bin. SSS believes that means the Jags will try to restock the offensive shelves in the draft with tackle first, tight end second and running back in either the 3rd or 4th Round. You don’t sign Nick Foles unless you plan on supporting him, and the draft is looking like Jacksonville’s avenue to do that.

THE EXTRA POINT – Typically SSS is not a big believer that free agent QBs that teams allow to walk away do much with their new teams, but we have a feeling that while Foles may not be spectacular, he will be solid. Jacksonville has stunted its own growth the past several years with QB play that they have “hoped” could win them meaningful games. The Blaine (Gabbert) and Blake (Bortles) show has been around for the past eight seasons and has proven to be nothing more than a wasted decade. The Jags defense has been good enough that average QB play should have been enough to either win a championship or be a consistent playoff team, but neither of those things

has happened. The good news for Jags fans is that Foles if nothing else is a true professional. He understands what he can and cannot do and will not lose games for Jacksonville. And after years of the Jags defense feeling the weight of the world on its back to get stop-after-stop-after-stop, SSS thinks Foles and the Jags could be a sneaky play in the AFC South to win the close games. With a true leader under center there is potential for a return to the playoffs in 2019 after a year hiatus.

8. Detroit T.J. Hockenson TE Iowa

Detroit is going to have the best of problems when they check out their Big Board when Pick #8 rolls around. Do they take the ultra-talented Mississippi State DE Montez Sweat and bolster their defensive line or do they grab aging QB Matt Stafford something he hasn't had in a long, long time – a top-tier tight end? We feel the Lions will see it the way SSS does and reward Stafford with Iowa tight end T.J. Hockenson. When we look at head coach Matt Patricia we see a guy who desperately wants to be like his mentor Bill Belichick, but who is failing miserably in his impression. Well this is an opportunity where mirroring "The Patriots Way" actually will benefit Patricia and the Lions. Hockenson is a poor man's Rob Gronkowski. Hockenson could easily replicate the production we have seen from Kansas City's Travis Kelce or Philly's Zach Ertz. We know we mentioned that a tight end in the top 10 is a rarity, but so is Hockenson. If he were a baseball player he would be a 5-tooler. Hockenson is rated by many to be the top offensive player on the board and with good reason. The Mackey Award winner tallied 49 catches for 760 yards with 6 TDs last year. More importantly, he is a solid in-line blocker who has both good burst and separation skills. Unlike Iowa's other star TE in this draft, Noah Fant, he won't have to come off the field because of his versatility, and he doesn't drop passes and can run crisp routes. Patricia gets his own version of Gronk in Detroit and gives Stafford a reliable outlet that can offset some of the Lions recent offensive woes.

THE EXTRA POINT – SSS thinks that it is very possible that the two teams who could most use a player like Hockenson are in the same division. Tight end will be an obvious target for Green Bay as well. While the Packers do have the ammunition to trade ahead of the Lions for Hockenson, there are just too many other areas where the Packers can use their two 1st Round picks rather than trading ahead of Detroit for a TE. Detroit may also be motivated to take Hockenson knowing that if they don't take him, they could be facing him twice a year if the Packers scoop him up.

*****TRADE*** (Buffalo trades with Tampa, giving up Picks #9, #158 and a 2020 2nd Rounder to acquire Pick #5)**

9. Tampa Bay Devin White ILB LSU

There is nothing like looking at your team's top-5 needs and seeing: LB, CB, Edge Rusher, S & DT. That's right – the Bucs top 5 needs are all defensive players. Outside of 2015, Tampa Bay has finished outside of the top 20 in total defense four of the last five years, including 27th last year and dead last in 2017. You know who isn't surprised by that at all? S'feld Services. Former head coach Dirk Koetter wasn't interested in defense. He was too busy trying to figure out whether he should play a 1st Round bust (Jameis Winston) or a journeyman placeholder in Ryan Fitzpatrick, who was just happy to be there. There is nothing like placing zero significance on defense in a division where you face QBs Drew Brees, Cam Newton and Matt Ryan twice a year. Yes, the bad news for new

coach Bruce Arians is that he is inheriting one atrocious defense. The good news? He made a terrific hire at defensive coordinator with Todd Bowles who can now focus strictly on the x's and o's after serving as Jets head coach for the past four years. The tandem of Arians and Bowles gives me confidence that while the turnaround will take time, it can be accomplished. As we have already mentioned – Tampa could go numerous ways here, but SSS believes they will select the playmaking Devin White to replace the departed Kwon Alexander on the Bucs defense. This is likely the player the Bucs would have selected at #5 anyway, so they still get their guy despite moving down four spots and pick up extra picks from the Bills.

THE EXTRA POINT – Listen, we all know which teams have a semblance of a clue of what they are doing and which teams do not. We know which teams have capable coaches guiding the ship and which do not. And I think it is safe to say that for a team known as the Buccaneers, they should have a better grasp of how to survive on the high seas than what they have shown. SSS is starting to think the only vessel the Bucs have ever captained is the Edmund Fitzgerald. SSS told you that Dirk Koetter was the equivalent of throwing the oars overboard in the middle of the ocean. But what did the Bucs expect? Are we going to play Jameis? Are we going to bench Jameis? Are we going to play Fitzpatrick? Are we going to bench Fitzpatrick? I've seen better organizational direction from the kids on Romper Room than what you get from the Bucs. That being said, if anyone can turn this organization around it is Bruce Arians. He'll figure out very quickly if Jameis Winston is the future of this team (the answer is no). He'll understand that this defense needs a ton of investment moving forward. And most importantly, he'll take the lead and others will follow. Quite frankly that hasn't happened in Tampa for quite some time.

10. Denver	Devin Bush	ILB	Michigan
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There is a lot of steam coming in that Broncos GM John Elway sees a lot of himself in Missouri QB Drew Lock, but SSS just isn't buying it. First, we have a hard time believing that Elway would let that information out if he truly felt that way. Secondly, SSS believes that Elway may really believe there is some lightning left in the bottle for QB Joe Flacco. Denver doesn't typically pick this early in the draft and it may be very tempting to take a QB if they don't think they will be in this position again in the near future. However, we believe that Elway may toss his new head coach Vic Fangio a bone and get him a show-stopping linebacker in Michigan's Devin Bush. Devin White is probably their preference between linebackers, but the Broncos won't sneeze at taking Bush.

THE EXTRA POINT – SSS found the following stat absolutely insane and a testament to the long-term success of the Broncos. If Denver doesn't trade out of this pick, it will be the first time the Broncos have picked in the top 10 in consecutive years since 1972-73. That sort of track record is unheard of in the NFL and would be hard to replicate again. As bad as things have gone for the Broncos the past couple years, they are nowhere near the level of ineptitude that other teams have endured. If the Denver Broncos were a draft prospect we would say they have an extremely high floor. Elway has maintained a solid track record with the Broncos and in order to start a new streak of that magnitude, he is going to have to figure out the QB situation soon. This will be the third time in four years his starting QB on opening day will be a different guy. His gamble on Peyton Manning

worked out brilliantly in 2015, but subsequent starters Trevor Siemian, Brock Osweiler and Case Keenum all brought Mile High to a new low. Is Flacco just another version of Keenum, and is Elway trying to get a peak performance from a player who is on the other side of the mountaintop? Flacco has no more guaranteed money remaining on his contract so the Broncos could walk away from him after one year. Odds seem high that there will be another new sheriff in town leading the Broncos next year.

11. Cincinnati	Brian Burns	OLB	Florida State
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There is a chance that new Bengals head coach Zac Taylor wants to make an immediate splash and grab a QB to not only reinvigorate the team and the fan base, but to also offset the momentum of their rivals to the northeast, who are getting all the pub with Baker Mayfield. SSS believes that if Dwayne Haskins slips here, he will slip no further. However, Haskins is already off the board and we don't believe the Bengals place a value on any of the remaining QBs when their defense was so terrible last year, ranking 30th in points per game, last in total yards per game, last in pass yards per game and last in 3rd down percentage. It's hard to improve those numbers when you take an offensive position with your first pick, and that is why the Bengals shore up their defense and wait to address offensive needs until later in the draft. The Bengals would have loved to get their hands on Devin Bush but the Broncos snatch him away a pick earlier. That leaves their other option and a different type of player in Brian Burns. Burns is more of a hybrid type OLB/Edge Rusher and is comparable to Leonard Floyd of the Bears. Similar to Floyd, Burns is a long, thin rush specialist who has amazing speed off the edge, but may lack some of the strength preferred by most teams. That being said, his potential is extremely high and Cincy can play Burns in multiple ways as they reconfigure this defense. DJs Johnny Fever and Venus Flytrap at WKRP are excited to announce this pick in between spinning some classic rock-n-roll tunes.

THE EXTRA POINT – As most people who read the SSS Draft Report know, nobody has been harder on the Cincinnati Bengals than we have. We've taken shots for years at former coach Marvin Lewis and his lack of playoff success. It's not that we thought ill of Lewis, it just seemed like the Bengals needed a change a few years ago to try a different approach. Well as we have seen a lot of teams do – the Bengals are embracing the opposite. Marvin Lewis was a defensive-minded coach from the old school. The Bengals just hired what they hope is an offensive wizard from the new school. The current trend right now is to hire anything that resembles Rams coach Sean McVay. It's offense, offense, offense and everyone wants to get their hands on the next McVay so why not hire someone from his coaching tree? Well we have seen how the hiring from the Bill Belichick coaching tree has worked so far, and all that happens is you get left with rotten wood. Taylor will have quite the challenge now that he is on his own. Just because you were hired from a successful coaching tree doesn't mean the apple is going to fall far from it.

12. Green Bay	Jonah Williams	OT/G	Alabama
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They have to help QB Aaron Rodgers in some way, shape or form don't they? Unfortunately for the Packers, T.J. Hockenson flies off the board to division rival Detroit at #8 and this spot is too early to take the second-tier tight end group of Iowa's Noah Fant or Alabama's Irv Smith. "What about

receiver, S'feld? Get the Packers a receiver!" I'm sure the Packers would love to get A-Rodg a receiver. There is only one problem. This is a terrible wide receiver draft. We've seen people slot combine-workout freak D.K. Metcalf here but this is our issue with Metcalf – when the highlights you always see of the so-called best receiver in the draft are him running his 40-yard dash at the combine over and over again, but there is no footage from his on-field performances – that is a red flag to us. There are a plethora of defensive options that the Packers could select and I'm sure most of them would be able to start immediately, but I get the feeling GM Brian Gutekunst and new head coach Matt LaFleur are going to differ, wanting to give Rodgers something he can be happy about. Since the skill position they want (Hockenson) is gone and since the rest of the TEs and WRs are reaches at #12, they grab versatile OT/G Jonah Williams to help shore up the line. Not a bad move at all considering how injury plagued this line has been the past few years. Williams will give the Packers a flex option who can play inside at guard or outside at tackle. Keeping Rodgers upright is a constant objective in Green Bay and the Pack make the most of their first 1st Round selection.

THE EXTRA POINT – If you weren't wowed by the Denver Broncos drafting stat we referenced earlier in the SSS Report, than wait for this one. The Green Bay Packers have not selected a skill position in the first round of the NFL Draft since.....wait for it.....wait for it.....Aaron Rodgers in 2005!!! And if you are talking RBs, WRs or TE's, they haven't selected one since they picked WR Javon Walker out of Florida State with the 20th overall pick of the 2002 NFL Draft. It's just hard to comprehend that in all that time since 2002 with Hall of Fame QBs as talented as Brett Favre and Aaron Rodgers, the Packers never selected a running back, wide receiver or tight end in the first round of the draft. That is also why as much as SSS thinks the Packers should trade ahead of TE-coveting teams Jacksonville (7th), Detroit (8th), Buffalo (9th), Denver (10th) and even Cincinnati (11th), there is no way that a team that has placed such little importance on skill positions in the first round would ever considering trading up to take one.

13. Miami	Rashan Gary	DE	Michigan
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We poked a little fun at the Tampa Bay Buccaneers for having 5 core needs with all of them being defensive positions. SSS doesn't even know where to start with Miami. This is an obvious rebuild from the ground up and the Dolphins need help in a lot of different areas. They aren't trying to fool anyone with Ryan Fitzpatrick currently slated as the starting QB and Jake Rudock as the backup. SSS feels the Dolphins probably won't be enamored with the available QBs here. With former Patriots Defensive Coordinator Brian Flores stepping into the head coaching position with the Fish, we have to believe he is going to want to start working on the defense ASAP. One of the things we know Flores learned while in New England is that Bill Belichick places a high value on corners and even more importantly, technically-sound heavy-set defenders who can set the edge. The Dolphins in their current form have none of that. Enter Rashan Gary who fills that void from the moment Roger Goodell announces his name to Miami. The loss of veterans Cameron Wake to Tennessee and Robert Quinn to Dallas means that the Dolphins are dead in the water if they don't reinvent themselves on the defensive front. Gary may not be the sexiest pick for Dolphins fans, but he may be the smartest.

THE EXTRA POINT – Are the Dolphins the team most likely to “Tank For Tua” or “Lose For Lawrence?” I know many believe that will be a common theme for several teams but the NFL is not the NBA, and what may seem like a good idea now, never quite ends up the way you think it will. To be honest, SSS doesn’t see a lot of ways that the Dolphins can avoid picking in the top 10 or maybe even top 5 next year, but they won’t be tanking for the next draft class. This just is what it is – a teardown and rebuild. The Dolphins need to re-establish what they want to do with their spending and in letting so many people walk this offseason, Brian Flores will have the negative of not a lot of playmakers, but the positive of building this team in exactly his image. And don’t be surprised if after Arizona takes Kyler Murray #1 overall, that the Cardinals look to deal Josh Rosen by the end of the draft. A likely destination? Right here in Miami. The value for Rosen has decreased significantly and the Dolphins may be able to take a flyer on Rosen to kick the tires and see what they get in exchange for a 2nd or 3rd rounder. I doubt anyone is going to give up more than that for Rosen, and Miami could make a low risk, high reward play on the former UCLA standout. I know what you are thinking – “S’feld, Rosen is a bum! He’s terrible!” I heard a lot of people say that about Jared Goff after his first year as well. Can someone quickly remind me who was the QB of last year’s NFC Champions?

14. Atlanta	Christian Wilkins	DT	Clemson
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We know that the Falcons like to draft defense in the early rounds and as there are way more quality defensive options than offensive options, the player that makes the most sense is Christian Wilkins. Wilkins slides inside along the recently franchised Grady Jarrett and suddenly the Falcons front four doesn’t look so bad. I know there have been criticisms of defensive ends Vic Beasley and Takk McKinley, but I have to believe the addition of Wilkins is going to give each of those edge players a boost. The other positive with Wilkins is he is a leader of men and unlike some rookies, he will be a positive presence in the locker room from Day 1. Wilkins is the sort of player that probably isn’t as talented as some guys who could go in this spot, but he brings not only great play to the table, but all the intangibles that you want from any player.

THE EXTRA POINT – In case you are just tuning in, SSS had some not so kind words to say about Dirk Koetter above in reference to his days coaching at Tampa Bay. But if you have learned anything from SSS by this point, it’s that we call them like we see them. While Koetter was a terrible head coach, we have all the confidence in the world that he is going to be a significant upgrade to Steve “Never a Last Call For Alcohol” Sarkisian as the offensive coordinator. Koetter returns to the Falcons where he previously served as their OC from 2012-14. He is one of those guys that is much better as a coordinator than a head coach and in Atlanta he can focus strictly on offense and not all the side drama that accompanies a head coach.

15. Washington	D.K. Metcalf	WR	Ole Miss
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It may be as bad of a WR crop as SSS has ever seen. There is an actual chance that no more than one WR may go in the 1st Round. If that doesn’t tell you how dry the wide receiver well is then I don’t know what will. Listen folks, Washington really could be tempted by Montez Sweat here, but SSS thinks they could get scared off by his heart condition since they have to hit a home run here at

#15. Sweat may turn out to be a player that a team of luxury selects, not a team that can't afford to miss. SSS doesn't think that Metcalf is a top-20 receiver by any means, but do you know what Skins head coach Jay Gruden sees when he looks at his current receiving corps? A nightmare. This is not a group Case Keenum can work with. Hell, it's not a group Mark Rypien, Doug Williams, Joe Theismann or Sonny Jurgensen could have worked with!!! You can't expect anybody to succeed throwing to Josh Doctson and Paul Richardson. That's why even though this may be too rich for our blood, there is no denying that Metcalf is an absolute freak. If he can put it all together he has the potential to be Josh Gordon without the drama. He has size, speed and the ability to take the top off the defense.

THE EXTRA POINT – Another reason that we are not afraid to slot Metcalf to the Redskins is that along with Miami, the Redskins are another team that will be vying for a chance to acquire Josh Rosen. You wouldn't want to bring Rosen into a situation where there was nothing to work with. Even if they don't get Rosen, you have to put Keenum in a position to have success like he did in Minnesota with Stefon Diggs, Adam Thielen and Kyle Rudolph. If the Redskins don't make a move on Rosen, SSS believes they will see what they have with Keenum and we don't believe they have completely given up on Alex Smith even as gruesome as his injury was. Washington seems more likely to build around the QB position than to draft the QB position. For Keenum, he gets one more shot after Minnesota and Denver to prove that he still has what it takes to be a starting signal caller in the NFL.

16. Carolina	Montez Sweat	DE	Mississippi State
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Wow. Simply wow. Carolina can't get the card with their selection to Goodell fast enough when they realize that Sweat has fallen all the way to the midpoint of the 1st Round. Do we think the Panthers entering draft day had any idea this could happen? Not really. I think GM Marty Hurney was considering a cornerback, possibly a wideout, an offensive tackle or maybe even a different defensive end/edge rusher. But he wasn't planning on THIS edge rusher. As we mentioned before, the heart condition that has been discussed with Sweat is the key reason that Carolina sees him fall this far. There was a time during the college football season when Sweat was a sure-fire top-5 pick. It will be significantly easier for Carolina to improve on their mere 36 sacks from last season and the odds of Sweat's heart being anything more than a false flag are low. SSS believes that the cops in Charlotte have just put an APB out on Marty Hurney, because he just pulled grand larceny in landing Sweat, the steal of the draft.

THE EXTRA POINT – We mentioned earlier that Aaron Rodgers has gone years without having the Packers invest in skill positions in the 1st Round to better equip him to succeed. Well the same cannot be said for the Panthers regime that has drafted a WR in the first or second round in four of the past five drafts. The only problem? None of those players have been able to break through as Cam's go-to guy or a difference maker that has warranted the early selection. Kelvin Benjamin (1st Round-2014) showed promise early in his career before he suffered a few injuries and ate himself out of Carolina. High praise was heaped on Devin Funchess (2nd Round-2015) as the hybrid receiver that was going to revolutionize the game. The only revolution we saw with Funchess was his head

spinning round and round trying to figure out why he couldn't separate from defensive backs. In 2017 the Panthers went to the receiver well again with Ohio State WR Curtis Samuel (2nd Round), but he has only made 12 starts in two years and appears to be more of a gadget player than Swiss army knife. Samuel was such an effective selection that the Panthers took a wide receiver (DJ Moore - 2018) in the 1st Round one year after selecting him. Moore has actually proven to be able to make plays and looks to be the most promising of the four, but so far the collection of supposedly money wide receivers that Carolina has ended up with has stunted the potential growth of the offense like a nickel holding up a dollar.

*****TRADE*** (NY Giants trade with Oakland, giving up Pick #17 to acquire Pick #24 and a 2020 3rd Rounder)**

17. Oakland Greedy Williams CB LSU

Are we having fun yet? Well I can tell you one thing – Oakland GM Mike Mayock is. The Raiders make their second trade up in the first round and it appears to many that they are getting a tad bit greedy. Greedy Williams that is! Oakland uses the extra 3rd round pick they received from Chicago for Khalil Mack to move ahead of Tennessee, and more importantly Pittsburgh, to secure the SSS top corner of the draft in Greedy Williams. And just like that – the cache that the Raiders stockpiled in trading their core players has resulted in a premier pass rushing specialist in Josh Allen and a lockdown corner who brings not just game, but a lot of swag to the Silver-&-Black. Is Greedy the best run-stopper you're ever going to see? No, he's not. But they aren't bringing him to Oakland to tackle people. This is a long, athletic, press-man cover corner who can close out and disrupt receiver's flow like no other. This type of player would be good in any situation, but will thrive even more playing for a grinder like Gruden. Of their three 1st Round picks - 2 down and 1 to go and looking very good so far. Cue the Autumn Wind.

THE EXTRA POINT – How many high fives are Mayock and Gruden going to give to themselves after these first two picks? Well we know they won't be giving high fives to anybody other than themselves because there is nobody else in their War Room after they sent everyone home! I kid. I kid. Seriously though, these two guys have to be so excited to finally get to the draft and change the narrative of what they were trying to do last year. It has been especially hard for Gruden to defend himself because when you trade away guys like Khalil Mack and Amari Cooper, fans and media are angered because at that point you can't show them what you are going to get back. It's all just potential draft picks with no names, no faces and no potential. People assume you aren't going to do well in the draft. They assume you aren't going to be able to find quality players like what you gave up. But there is so much more that goes into these decisions. There is what you are willing to pay and what your other potential needs may be that no one accounts for. Etcetera. Etcetera. But now after all this anguish and all the naysaying, Gruden and Mayock will finally be able to showcase actual players and playmakers instead of just a list of future selections.

*****TRADE*** (Minnesota trades with Pittsburgh, giving up Pick #18 to acquire Picks #20 and #122)**

18. Pittsburgh Noah Fant TE Iowa

These are the deals that Vikings GM Rick Spielman loooooooves to make. He picks up an extra 4th rounder in this year's draft and slides down a mere two spots where he will still have several

offensive linemen to choose from. Meanwhile Pittsburgh GM Kevin Colbert breaks from Steelers tradition and takes an offensive player in the 1st Round for the first time since 2012, and the first skill player in the 1st Round since Illinois RB Rashard Mendenhall in 2008. The reason he moves up two spots is that Tennessee has eyes on a stretch TE as well, and no other TE fits that exact description better than Fant so Pittsburgh jumps ahead of the Titans. Is this a bit of a stretch? Admittedly, yes. But SSS follows one simple mantra – “A life without risk is no life at all.” And listen, we have concrete evidence why this pick needs to happen. First, Big Ben Roethlisberger isn’t getting any younger and after losing Downtown Antonio Brown, the Steelers need to replenish their attack. Secondly, the Steelers are a team that utilizes and thrives on having two quality tight ends. Vance McDonald has emerged as a serviceable TE for the Steelers, but Fant would allow OC Randy Fichtner to create matchup nightmares all game long. Fant won’t be the first TE off the board, but he has without question the best offensive skills. From the seam to a go route to being a complete headache for opposing teams in the red zone, Fant would pick up the torch left by Heath Miller and run with it. He’s just on a different level offensively and with no quality wideouts available to replace Brown, the next best move is getting a TE who plays like a wide receiver. And on top of that – Fant will look right at home in Pittsburgh in black and gold again.

THE EXTRA POINT – SSS gets the feeling that with Antonio Brown in Oakland and Le’Veon Bell in New York with the Jets, the Steelers may have just achieved addition by subtraction. SSS isn’t trying to say that the Steelers didn’t lose a couple incredibly talented players, but my word, there has been more drama surrounding the Steelers the past few years than there was in 1980 when we were all trying to figure out “Who Shot J.R.?” It just seems like there will be more harmony with Pittsburgh this season and to be honest – the loss of Bell was quickly forgotten when James Connor proved he could play at an All-Pro level. Will AB be missed? Most definitely. He was as talented as any receiver in the league. But everyone’s replaceable and big-time receivers who leave via free agency or trade to chase the money elsewhere rarely maintain the level they played at with their previous team. And for the first time in a long time, these Steelers get to play in the background while everyone’s media darlings – the Cleveland Browns – get inflated heads by forgetting that they have been anointed without winning a single game yet. The Steelers may be as hungry to prove something as any team in the league this year and SSS doesn’t believe the Steel Curtain will be loosening their grip on the AFC North any time soon.

19. Tennessee

Marquise Brown

WR

Oklahoma

SSS keeps seeing that Tennessee is supposedly taking an interior defensive lineman at #19. Last time I checked this is a defense showcasing Jurrell Casey at nose tackle, newly acquired pass rushing specialist Cameron Wake and up-and-coming second-year edge rusher Harold Landry, yet we are to believe they need more on the defensive line? The Titans finished third in the NFL in points allowed and 8th in yards per game. What they didn’t finish was inside of 25th in the league in points scored or total yards. Listen, S’feld’s mother was a 3rd-grade teacher. She taught reading and writing. But where she truly excelled was arithmetic. And those numbers don’t add up to S’feld Services as a reason to draft more defensive linemen. Nobody is going to remember these Titans if they can’t score. That’s why GM Jon Robinson has to go out and get blazing fast Marquise Brown.

Edge defenders Tim Williams and Tyus Bowser have been disappointing so far, so the Ravens call an audible and draft offense selecting center Garrett Bradbury. It's not going to make the Ravens faithful scream "We're going to the Super Bowl!!!" but then again, picking centers rarely does. But here is the thing – it's a great change of strategy after missing out on the guy you wanted. Bradbury is a safe selection in a good way for the Ravens. An instant starter on the line, this Rimington Trophy award winner makes a serviceable line a pretty good one. The combination of Ronnie Staley and Orlando Brown at tackles and Bradbury inside with all-time underrated lineman Marshal Yanda gives Lamar Jackson a chance to breathe and not have to take his life in his own hands scrambling on every play. The caveat to this is that the Ravens will really need to come back with a wide receiver in Round 3 as they do not have a 2nd Round selection. Final note – the Ravens will try to trade down here if possible to add a few more bullets to the chamber, but SSS isn't sure they are going to get a deal done with so many teams already trading ahead of them. A trade partner here would have to come from a team desperate to sneak back into the Round to grab a QB.

THE EXTRA POINT – It is not uncommon to see the face of a franchise leave a team after his skills start to diminish or even if he just wants to seek greener pastures. It is rather rare however, that you see three players that have been the lifeblood of a team depart in one season. That is the gut-punch that Ravens fans are feeling after losing Terrell Suggs to Arizona, C.J. Mosley to the NY Jets and trading Super Bowl- winning QB Joe Flacco to Denver. All three of those players will go down as legendary Ravens and don't think for a second that their loss won't be felt in some way in the locker room. Flacco brought a quiet confidence and while his numbers have dropped in recent years, so has the reliability of playmakers that surrounded him. Suggs was the brash, take-no-prisoners and leave-no-doubt star that took his cue from Ray Lewis both in intensity and drive. Suggs filled the on-field swagger role that Lewis relinquished when he retired. Mosley was the quarterback of the defense - smart, hard-nosed and a leader by example. The three of them served as Ravens leaders with different styles yet the same overarching goal. It will be interesting to see who can or will fill these huge leadership voids moving forward for a Baltimore team that appears to be at a crossroads.

23. Houston

Andre Dillard

OT

Washington State

As the #23 position finally creeps closer to the Texans they cross their fingers hoping to have an opportunity to buy Boardwalk or Park Place instead of being stuck owning Baltic or Oriental Avenue. The board looks as though it is playing out in their favor and when the Texans draw their chance card and it says "Select OT Andre Dillard," they know the breaks of the game are going their way. It is no secret to anyone in the league that the Texans need as much help on the offensive line as anybody. Even with ultra-mobile QB Deshaun Watson, the Texans allowed a league-high 62 sacks. Watson has replaced Andrew Luck as the QB who wonders each week when he steps on the field if he will be carried off it. Houston has two picks back-to-back in the 2nd Round and SSS is pleading for them to treat those picks like a can of Pringles and "once you pop you can't stop" by selecting another offensive lineman to go along with Dillard. There is too much riding on the health of Watson for the Texans to mess around grabbing a defensive need like corner or defensive end. They should take note of what happened in Indy when someone finally realized former GM Ryan Grigson

was clueless and brought in a true professional to actually help Luck. It doesn't take Jerry Maguire to realize that helping Watson, helps you!

THE EXTRA POINT – S'feld Services has always been a huge fan of the one and only Wayne Fontes. "Wait? What? S'feld, why are you talking about Wayne Fontes in a Houston Texans write-up?" Patience please, I'll get to that. Nobody was able to dig themselves out of a grave better than Fontes. His Detroit teams were infamous for getting off to slow starts and being dead in the water and then getting hot in the second half of the season and running the table to backdoor their way into the playoffs. And it wasn't a one-time thing with Fontes. It was almost every year. And as soon as everyone got excited about the Lions restoring the roar to get in the playoffs, they would fall flat on their faces and almost always lose their first game in the Wild Card Round. Why do I bring this up? Because SSS would like to hand out the first annual Wayne "Rasputin" Fontes Award to Bill O'Brien. O'Brien did his best Fontes impression last year, starting 0-3 with rumors swirling that he might not make it to October. The pitchforks were out. The good people of Houston were angry! They wanted heads!!! How did O'Brien respond? His team ran off nine straight wins! Fontesque!!! But to ensure that he would win the award in a landslide, O'Brien followed the Fontes playbook to perfection by crumbling at home in the Wild Card Round to Indianapolis. This marked the third time O'Brien has been to the playoffs and he is 1-3 with his only win coming against a depleted Oakland team in 2016 that started something called Connor Cook at QB because there were no other chefs in the kitchen. So on behalf of S'feld Services, we would like to say congratulations to Bill O'Brien – this generation's Wayne Fontes.

*****TRADE*** (Oakland trades with NY Giants, giving up Pick #24 and a 2020 3rd Rounder to acquire Pick #17)**

24. New York Giants	Jeffery Simmons	DT	Mississippi State
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Typically a player who is injured and may not be available in their rookie year slides and then is selected by a team who can afford to take the player as a luxury selection. Said team is already well established and has few holes and has the benefit of waiting on the player to get healthy when they will then recoup the lost time in exchange for a dominant player at a low cost. SSS is going to play devil's advocate here and say that with the Giants in rebuild mode and having traded away one of their top assets in Odell Beckham Jr., the Giants can afford to take a player of Jeffery Simmons caliber because they know they are not going to compete in 2019 anyway. Simmons without the injury is a top-5 pick and that is not open for debate. The Giants having traded with Oakland earlier to earn additional picks, now have an opportunity to take a flyer on a guy who five years from now may be the best overall defensive player in this draft. SSS has seen grading scales that have Simmons as high as #2 overall in the draft when healthy. Having the chance to get that sort of player at #24? It's a chance worth taking for GM Dave Gettleman.

THE EXTRA POINT – With the Giants identifying their QB of the future in Dwayne Haskins at #6 and landing a player of Simmons caliber at #24, you can best believe that a run on corners will be coming for the Giants in rounds 2 and 3. The Giants have been lucky so far that other teams haven't viewed the corners in this draft as top-20 picks, because while New York is now moving on to

corners, so will most of the other teams that have utilized the same strategy. SSS feels that the late 1st Round and early to mid 2nd Round will see the quality corners of this draft fly off the board.

25. Philadelphia

Dexter Lawrence

DT

Clemson

We've reached the team that SSS feels is the most misunderstood in terms of how gurus project players to them in the entire draft. All the supposed draft experts say the Eagles corners are so bad they have to take a corner. Well they have taken a corner. They took Avonte Maddox (4th Rd) last year, they took Sidney Jones (2nd Rd) and Rasul Douglas (3rd Rd) in 2017 and they selected Jalen Mills (7th Rd) in 2016. All four of these fine gentlemen are still on the roster. So no, they aren't taking another corner in the 1st Round. "But S'feld! They need a wideout!" They may, just not this year, and not in this round. The Eagles can easily find a pass catcher in the subsequent rounds that equals what they would get reaching for someone like A.J. Brown this early. GM Howie Roseman is kicking that can down the road to later rounds. "They need an offensive tackle S'feld! They have to get one here!" It's true, the Eagles are lucky that Jason Peters took a pay cut to come back or Philly would be starting the always-fun-to-pronounce Halapoulivaati Vaitai at tackle. But who would they take? The top-flight tackles Jawaan Taylor and Andre Dillard are gone and Dalton Risner, Kaleb McGary and Greg Little are not 1st Round material. A running back could be an option, but there are better complements to newly acquired tailback Jordan Howard that the Eagles can get later than taking Josh Jacobs as the first back selected here. No the inner psychic in SSS feels as though we have made a connection to Howie Roseman in past years and his angle at #25 is best player available and that means grabbing the final tier-1 graded defensive lineman/edge rusher remaining – Dexter Lawrence. Lawrence is a guy who has been overshadowed in hype by Quinnen Williams, Josh Allen, Nick Bosa, Montez Sweat, among others. But we'll let you in on a little secret. Lawrence is very, very good - like Ndamukong Suh good. Had he not been suspended for Clemson's playoff run, his name would likely not be sent to the podium this late in the draft. His frame is enormous and no one handled more double-teams among the Clemson Big 3 defensive linemen than this dude. When he gets his big mitts on you, it's game, set, match. The Eagles didn't exercise their option on Timmy Jernigan and Haloti Ngata retired. Newly acquired Malik Jackson and long-time stalwart Fletcher Cox are a fine tandem, but Lawrence gives them silly depth and potential added to that rotation.

THE EXTRA POINT – *One of the things that has elevated Howie Roseman to revered status as a talent evaluator is that he charts his own course and plays by his own set of rules. SSS is a big believer that when trying to figure out what Roseman is going to do, you almost have to become Neo-like and put yourself in the matrix. Left is right. Up is down. Do I take the blue pill and just go along to get along with every other draft guru's non-descript take? Or do I take the red pill and go down the rabbit hole of Roseman's mind and try to avoid Mr. Anderson in search of Philly's true pick? Well if the above selection made by SSS doesn't answer that question for you, then you're already lost. SSS knows a guy like Roseman watches Saquon Barkley & Ezekial Elliott play the Eagles four times last year and rush for over 100 yards in all four games. He then asks himself – "Who do we know that we can add to our defensive interior as a dominant run-stopper?" The answer is*

Lawrence. Final thought – Not only does SSS believe Lawrence is in play, but if it isn't Lawrence, we think Roseman will roll the dice on Jeffery Simmons should he fall to them.

*****TRADE*** (Indianapolis trades with Seattle, giving up Picks #26, #89 & #164 to acquire Picks #21 & #124)**

26. Seattle Jaylon Ferguson DE Louisiana Tech

Well SSS has to give credit where credit is due. We like what GM John Schneider was able to get back in his trade of DE Frank Clark to Kansas City. Schneider probably needs to keep the coffee pot brewing on perma-cycle though because between the holes on this roster and the finances he needs to figure out after signing QB Russell Wilson to an epic deal, he will be earning every penny he makes from the Allen family. The vaunted Legion of Boom has completely disintegrated leaving nothing more than Legionnaires disease on a defense that flirted with finishing in the bottom half of NFL total defense last season. Now with Frank Clark on his way out and Earl Thomas just a memory, the rebuilding begins. Seattle is armed with two first-round picks but they will be trying to turn those two into four if they can, as Schneider has a track record of continually trading out. He may be tempted to take a wideout here considering the fact that Doug Baldwin looked like a shell of himself fighting through injuries last season and the Seahawks don't have a legitimate threat at TE either. And you know how we mentioned above how Philly got the second-to-last tier-1 edge rusher/defensive lineman? Well Seattle grabs the final one to help replace Frank Clark in Jaylon Ferguson. You aren't going to see Ferguson projected in many other 1st Round mocks – but he is here, and Seattle will have enough in their cache of picks to address receiver and safety next.

THE EXTRA POINT – Schneider has traded out of his 1st Round pick each of the last seven drafts so there is no reason to believe he's going to stay put. It seems as though the teams that continually trade down have the most success. And why is that? For the most part because they have already established themselves and have depth, and don't have to chase picks like a gambler chases bad bets. These teams understand that the more assets you have the better your chances on hitting on one or two more players per draft. And that little edge can mean all the difference in the world between 10-6 and 6-10.

27. Oakland (from DAL) Josh Jacobs RB Alabama

The Raiders would absolutely love for Iowa's TE Noah Fant to fall here. There is no team in the draft that would best accommodate Fant's skill set than the Raiders. Gruden loved to split the now departed TE Jared Cook out wide on the weak side with multiple receivers on the opposite side and find unique ways to get Cook involved. Fant is similar in size to Cook, but an upgrade in skill set and would create matchup problems the Raiders could exploit. But alas, Fant is not available and while Irv Smith from Alabama is a very talented TE, he can't mirror what Fant would do. With other skill position needs to address, the Raiders simply pass on last year's Alabama TE in Smith and take the Crimson Tide RB Josh Jacobs instead. Another Gruden Grinder, Jacobs doesn't have a lot of wear-and-tear on his body since he was in a rotation with other backs at Bama. Along with his punishing style and never-die-easy rushing approach, Jacobs is also effective out of the backfield and very instinctive. As we mentioned before, Oakland will have an abundance of options in order to fill their

roster and it is really a matter of grabbing the biggest difference maker at each pick location. For our money, they have done this on three straight occasions in the SSS Draft Guide.

THE EXTRA POINT – They've added Antonio Brown at wide receiver through free agency and they've now selected Josh Allen, Greedy Williams and Josh Jacobs. The talent has been significantly upgraded for the Raiders since before the draft began so now the burning question is – are the Raiders going to grab a QB? SSS doesn't feel like it is a huge priority on Mayock's list, but if top guys continue to slip, SSS feels like Oakland could reformulate their plan and take a flyer on whomever they have at the top of their list.

28. Los Angeles Chargers	Jerry Tillery	DT	Notre Dame
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The Chargers really don't have a choice and can't dare trade down because even in a loaded defensive line draft, they are already picking from the beginning of the second tier by taking Notre Dame defensive tackle Jerry Tillery. Tillery isn't a bad player, you would just much rather have him as your pick in the second round than the first. The Chargers are so depleted on their defensive line that we are not figuratively saying they have no depth, we are literally saying it. Pull up a depth chart of the LA Chargers defensive tackles and it looks like a satellite view of North Korea at night. There's just nothing there. A big gaping hole of nothingness. The Chargers lost Damion Square, Corey Liuget and Darius Philon in the offseason. There is no waiting to address this situation in Round 2 because if they think it's slim pickens now, they'd hate to see how limited their options are when their next pick rolls around at #60.

THE EXTRA POINT – The good news for the Chargers after being somewhat locked into taking Tillery is that their needs in the 2nd Round should see plenty of supply to meet their demand. Interior offensive linemen, defensive backs and even potentially a backup to Philip Rivers could all be staring them in the face, presenting the fortunate problem of just figuring out what one item you will choose off a loaded smorgasbord. The Chargers still have a ton going for them and the only shame of the whole situation is that they have such a terrible environment to play in. This team essentially plays 16 road games, which makes you wonder if they almost prefer playing on the road as opposed to the glorified soccer stadium they currently call home. The NFL has been truly embarrassed by the city of San Diego, who made the firm and unprecedented move of really giving the middle finger to the NFL and saying we won't be held hostage anymore.

****TRADE**** (Seattle trades with Denver, giving up Pick #29 to acquire Picks #41, #125 & 2020 3rd Rounder)

29. Denver	Daniel Jones	QB	Duke
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And there goes Seattle again making their second trade of the 1st Round by giving up the #29th overall pick to get back Denver's 2nd Round pick, 4th Round pick and next year's 3rd Round pick. It's a steep price to pay for the Broncos but wait too much longer to get the guy you want and he'll disappear like David Copperfield. There are potentially 5-to-7 teams that SSS feels could trade back up to grab either QB Daniel Jones or Drew Lock and SSS believes GM John Elway's supposed love for Lock is a smokescreen. Lock compiled fantastic numbers in college – but not against Alabama, Georgia or Kentucky – the three best teams he faced. Against those three, Lock threw a grand total

of 1 TD pass. And those three teams have what we call elite-level defenses. Piling up numbers against bad teams doesn't make you a 1st Round QB, it makes you David Klinger. And if you don't know who David Klinger is, than we've made our point. Jones has more of the qualities that Elway needs and that translate into a guy with a chance to be good. His height, touch on intermediate throws and recognition of defenses mean a lot more to most than piling up passing yards against Tennessee-Martin.

THE EXTRA POINT – Before making the trade with Kansas City to send Frank Clark away for additional picks, the Seahawks had only four total picks in the draft. Now through multiple deals they have restored almost a full slate of picks to work with and that is another important thing to understand in how deals get made and which picks get shipped. The Seahawks want more picks to work with in this year's draft so when they make a deal they want picks returned to them in this year's draft. However, teams who could be in the market for a quarterback next year or who simply value the draft class next year more than this one are trying to get 2020 picks in return. In that way, they will have the ammunition to potentially trade up next year to get guys they think they will like better than this year. That is why if you see a team who doesn't take a QB this year, but who will obviously need one next year make a trade, they will likely be trying to secure 2020 assets over 2019.

30. Green Bay (from NO)	N'Keal Harry	WR	Arizona State
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SSS is about to do something that we absolutely hate to do - completely contradict ourselves. Remember in the previous Packer write up when we discussed how Green Bay never selects skill players in the 1st Round? Remember how we told you that this organization almost always selects a defensive player in the 1st Round? Well SSS told you the Packers were going to take Jonah Williams with their first pick and now we are prepared to tell you that they are going to take.....oh boy.....a skill position with their second 1st Round pick. It's just too hard to deny, and trust me when we say that SSS tried to find a defensive player to give to Green Bay but none of them make sense. We know that the top safety in the draft is on the board in Johnathan Abram, but here is the problem – Abram is great against the run but average against the pass, which matches exactly what they Pack already have in free agent acquisition Adrian Amos. And Taylor Rapp, who is good against the pass, is not worthy of a 1st Round pick. The best linebacker on the board for Green Bay is Mack Wilson, but that just feels too early. Maybe you could take Wilson in the 2nd Round, but not here. Defensive linemen? All the marquee ones are gone. You can't chase a position like that at pick #30. So lo and behold, Coach LaFleur sends up a plume of white smoke to signal to Aaron Rodgers that he has selected another offensive player, and this time it's even a skill position in Arizona State's N'Keal Harry. If there is a perfect wide receiver for A-Rodg, it's Harry. He fights for balls, is ultra-competitive, is good after the catch and more than holds his own as a run blocker. When we look at the current Pack receiving corps, it just seems like Davante Adams and a bunch of dudes. Well Davante gets a guy who can help split the work in Harry.

THE EXTRA POINT – The Packers enter 2019 in the uncomfortable position of realizing that the assumption that they will just win the NFC North no longer exists. And that isn't the claim from SSS.

That is the claim from Las Vegas, who currently has the Packers, Bears and Vikings all on a regular season win total of 9 or 9.5. With all apologies to the Lions, this division is going to be a free-for-all with the Packers trying to remind everyone they are still the best in the division, the Bears trying to put together back-to-back winning seasons for the first time since 2005-06, and the Vikings trying to prove that last year they were just working out the kinks and that they are ready to take back the division like they did in 2017. Regardless of how it shapes up, there is little doubt that the NFC North is going to be a bloodbath from September through December.

31. Los Angeles Rams	Erik McCoy	C/G	Texas A&M
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Center and guard seem like the most pressing areas of concern for the Rams and for the most part their need is not too far outside the boundaries of who the best remaining players are when they see they are on the clock. Erik McCoy is no slouch and while Chris Lindstrom may be better suited at the guard position, SSS likes the potential flexibility that McCoy can give at guard or center better. And that is important because free agent departure Rodger Saffold needs to be replaced at OG and last year's starting center John Sullivan saw the Rams decline his option. That means the offensive line is like Swiss cheese right now and McCoy can help fill those holes with his versatility.

THE EXTRA POINT – *The most difficult thing the Rams are going to have to face moving forward is one of the hardest things in all of sports to overcome – your own success. The Rams storybook season was one quarter away from the ultimate prize in sports. Now is when the real work begins, however. The Rams first-place schedule isn't going to make things any easier, and the Rams have spent money to win now, which means that if they can't regain their form again in 2019, they could be in trouble as several of their deals could restrict them spending money on more pressing needs. But most intriguing will be the decision that will be made on Jared Goff in the next few years. Will the Rams pay him the big money or try to go on the cheap with a younger quarterback that will allow coach Sean McVay to spend freely elsewhere to preserve his core. All these issues and the parity that comes from them in the NFL is what makes it so incredible to watch how New England continues to dominate at the level they do.*

32. New England	Johnathan Abram	S	Mississippi State
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And here we are again like clockwork. Death, taxes and the New England Patriots picking at #32. Coach Belichick would like to grab a defensive lineman here to make up for the key losses of Trey Flowers and Malcolm Brown but the value is nowhere close to what he would like. And don't get us wrong – Belichick pretty much sees where he can find the best of what's left when he picks (if he doesn't trade down), and the best he sees at #32 is Johnathan Abram from Mississippi State. Is there a place for him to play immediately? No, not really. Not with Devin McCourty and Patrick Chung manning the safety spots. But the Patriots don't view their players by if they can play immediately or not. They see long-term value and with the success they have had, they never have to rush into anything.

THE EXTRA POINT – *If you've ever wondered why it seems like the Patriots have about 15 draft picks every year, SSS can explain. First, the Patriots have a tendency to trade back and not up most*

of the time, so they typically get more picks than they give in most of their trades. Secondly, the team has mastered the art of manipulating how compensatory picks work and how through loopholes in how they set up their contracts, they can regularly earn multiple 3rd-7th Round compensatory picks (picks at the end of those rounds). Those compensatory picks are given to offset their supposed losses in free agency. It's a bit of a convoluted game, but much like anything else Bill Belichick does, he's one step ahead of others on how to use this system to benefit his team. If you think that the games are all won between the white lines, SSS is hear to tell you there is so much more going on than that to stay on top in this league.