

2021 S'FELD SCOUTING SERVICES NFL DRAFT PREVIEW

1. Jacksonville Trevor Lawrence QB Clemson

This selection is a mere formality and has been a given since Jacksonville locked up the #1 pick late last season. It would have been hard to envision a few years ago when they traded for Philly QB Nick Foles that the Jaguars would eventually end up not only with Urban Meyer, but with a talent as rich in skills as Lawrence. It's not as if Jacksonville hasn't had success before as they have been to the AFC Championship three times in their 25+ years as a franchise, but the chance to be a force for years to come is now firmly on the card they will submit to Commissioner Roger Goodell on Thursday night. SSS believes that Lawrence has the strongest chance to be the best #1 overall draft pick since Peyton Manning was selected in 1998. Lawrence just has the "it" factor and the swagger that you want to see from a #1 pick. To a degree, Lawrence has Peyton Manning's intelligence mixed with Ryan Leaf's ferocity. You just don't find weaknesses with his game. He possesses elite size and athleticism while having deft footwork, tremendous poise and pinpoint accuracy. Lawrence has a fantastic internal clock but is also willing to take a hit to extend a play. The Jaguars, much like the Dolphins, have positioned themselves nicely through the draft to surround their signal-caller with a host of other playmakers so that they aren't in the position of drafting in the top 10 again for years to come.

THE EXTRA POINT – *Former Ohio State head coach Urban Meyer to the Jaguars may just be the most intriguing college to pro coaching move SSS has seen this century. It certainly ranks right alongside Steve Spurrier to Washington in 2002 and Nick Saban to the Dolphins in 2005. While Spurrier and Saban only lasted two years as head coaches in the NFL, SSS believes that Meyer should easily be able to surpass that mark, however, we are not so sure if Meyer's can't miss success rate on the college level will extend to his time in the NFL. Lawrence comes gift-wrapped as a sure-thing QB and Meyer was keen enough to realize he should never take a pro job without a pro-grade QB, but the management of personnel on a more even playing field at the pro ranks will be must-see TV each and every week. There are no recruiting advantages in Jacksonville like there were at OSU and Florida. If reports of "health concerns" or "missing time with family" start rearing their ugly heads for Urban early in the process, you can assume that things may not be going well for the Jaguars.*

2. New York Jets Zach Wilson QB BYU

At SSS we give you honesty above all else. And while we are slotting QB Zach Wilson to the Jets, we actually don't think this is a great fit for Wilson. The BYU standout has a tendency to play hero ball a little too much for our liking and while his numbers were off the charts last year, he wasn't exactly facing the world-beaters of the Power 5. Wilson was 2-4 against top-25 competition during his career and his biggest struggle last year was in BYU's biggest game when they faced off with Coastal Carolina. Wilson would be better served with a head coach with an offensive background but all signs point to new head coach Robert Saleh and the Jets brain trust taking him here. While the experts love to compare his game to gunslingers like Brett Favre, SSS sees more Johnny Manziel. Our comparison for Wilson would be that of Carson Wentz, who SSS was not high on in the draft

several years ago and who burned us early on in his career, but who is now trying to reinvent himself in Indianapolis. The advantage Wentz had early on was that he was with great offensive minds in Philly like Doug Pederson and Frank Reich. Wilson is going to be heading to a team looking to build on defense. Can the Jets rein Wilson in to play a more conservative style? Time will tell. But SSS feels that for success to occur with Wilson in New York the supporting cast is going to have to improve quickly and Wilson is going to need offensive coordinator Mike LaFleur to light his path.

THE EXTRA POINT – Every draft is filled with those crazy moments that no draft expert (SSS included) sees coming. What if by chance that first moment is here at Pick #2? No player prior to a football season has had as meteoric of a rise as Zach Wilson. His movement up the board throughout last year's football season was like Tesla stock before the split. From the 2nd Round to the 20's to the top 10 and finally firmly entrenched at Pick #2, Wilson made a ton of money beating the likes of North Alabama, Texas State and UT-San Antonio. And while it would be hard to believe that a team could keep a secret for this long with really no other projection than this player to them at #2 for months, stranger things have happened and SSS is always game for an early shakeup that devalues a mock draft faster than a new car driven off the lot.

3. San Francisco (from MIA)	Justin Fields	QB	Ohio State
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SSS has a very, very important announcement to make – we do not and have not believed for one second that the 49ers were interested in Bama QB Mac Jones. Why in the world would the 49ers draft Mac Jones when they already have Jimmy Garoppolo. They would be drafting roughly the same guy! The same kind of player! It just doesn't add up. Now, could they be interested in NDSU QB Trey Lance? Maybe. But let's look at the hard facts. Justin Fields is the best QB in this draft not named Trevor Lawrence and his style of play is better suited for what head coach Kyle Shanahan wants to do. The current knocks on Fields are a smokescreen that I guess only S'feld Services sees. The 49ers paid a big price to get to #3 and they are taking a player that has answered the bell numerous times against top competition. Trey Lance played at NDSU and missed basically the entire last season. Fields can not only play right away, SSS believes he can win right away. There has been way too much harping on his work ethic, health and Big Ten Championship Game against Northwestern, and not enough focus on his National Semifinal Game against Clemson and how he really stacks up against Lawrence, Wilson, Lance and Jones in the important metrics. Fields downfield throwing is the best of the class and he didn't pad his stats on screen passes. What SSS likes about Fields is that there are running QBs and then there are "smart" running QBs. Russell Wilson is the latter. Pat Mahomes is the latter. They run at optimal times and only when their downfield options have been exhausted. Fields is that kind of player, and that kind of player (with 4.43 speed by the way) is coveted in today's NFL. Fields is the proven commodity in this class while Lance will still have something to prove.

THE EXTRA POINT – The craziest part of all the mock drafts, the Pro Days, the combine (prior to 2021) and all the talking heads from the end of the football season until Draft Day is that their opinions change so rapidly between what they saw on the field during the fall and what they hear and see off the field in the spring. SSS is going to let you in on a little secret though. The best

evaluations and predictions on the draft are the ones made before the timing of the 40, the bench press, the squats, the agility drills, etc. The best players you see during the college football season are the best players the GMs and the coaches see as well. SSS thought Trevor Lawrence and Justin Fields were worthy of top 3 picks in the 2021 Draft in January. We still do in late April. And that's no foolin'.

4. Atlanta Kyle Pitts TE Florida

Options will be aplenty for the Falcons when we get to Pick #4, and while the #3 pick isn't a given, it truly feels as though Pick #4 is where the draft will be shaped. The Falcons will get a crack at a tight end in Kyle Pitts that is being heralded as one of the best in ages, and while their phones will be ringing with potential trade offers for the QB not taken among the top 3, SSS suspects the Falcons will play the hand they're dealt and stand pat with Pitts. Is 4th overall too high to take a tight end? Probably. However, tight ends taken early in a few of the recent drafts have panned out well and the league is getting back to placing a high value on mismatch tight ends which makes Pitts at Pick #4 a legitimate selection and not a reach. If you get to the core of it, Pitts is even more valuable on a team that from an offensive skill position standpoint is already the apple of league's eye. And while Falcons QB Matt Ryan is always in need of more offensive line help, the Falcons have more needs at center and guard than at tackle and Atlanta is not taking an interior lineman at #4. SSS believes that Pitts will be so effective getting open and creating winning routes that Ryan won't be holding the ball as long as in previous seasons anyway. SSS is a big believer that with this selection, Falcons opponents will realize very quickly that Pitts can't be stopped.

THE EXTRA POINT – The steam coming from Hotlanta is that the Falcons aren't going to have enough cap room to sign their draft picks this year. That's obviously problematic but nothing that can't be solved past the draft. However, trading WR Julio Jones to ease that financial situation doesn't make sense to S'feld Services and it definitely isn't happening before or during the draft. The Falcons have an opportunity to take a generational talent in Pitts and team him with Jones and Calvin Ridley to saddle up for what may be the last ride for the Matt Ryan Gang in Atlanta. Three QBs are going to be taken to start the draft and we just don't think it will be a Wendy's 4-for-4 when new Falcons GM Terry Fontenot turns in the card. The window of success for the Falcons is on the wrong side of the house right now, but Pitts could be the shot in the arm that ends the recent ailments facing Atlanta.

5. Cincinnati Ja'Marr Chase WR LSU

One of the themes you will find in this year's S'feld Services Draft edition is that there are several teams that are going to go above and beyond to keep their quarterbacks happy. The first example of this comes at #5 with Cincinnati. In a horse race, SSS would favor Bama WR Devonta Smith by a head over LSU's Ja'Marr Chase, but it's really splitting hairs. Chase opted out of the 2020 season, but the last time we saw him in action he racked up 1,780 yards on 84 receptions with 20 touchdowns in helping lead LSU to the national title. And we think that the guy throwing him all those passes two years ago might have a little something to say about the 5th pick. If the Falcons would happen to take a QB, then the Bengals will essentially get the best non-QB player in the draft.

While there are fantastic offensive line options that could really move the needle for Cincinnati such as Oregon's Penei Sewell, head coach Zac Taylor wants and needs to make last year's #1 overall pick Joe Burrow feel more comfortable and to fall in love again with a guy he made a connection with down on the Bayou. And the fact that the Bengals have Jonah Williams playing at a high level at offensive tackle negates the absolute need of an OT here.

THE EXTRA POINT – *Don't look now but if Chase is indeed the pick here for "Who Dey" nation then the Bengals have hit home runs in three straight drafts. OT Jonah Williams, QB Joe Burrow and WR Ja'Marr Chase would give the Bengals a youth infusion that could finally end the drought of not having won a playoff game since Ickey was doing the shuffle back in 1990. The beauty of the past few drafts is that the Bengals are giving Coach Taylor the weapons he needs to prove why they hired him in the first place, and while Cleveland made a significant step up in class last year, it could be Cincy that is eyeing finally knocking the Steelers off their perennial playoff perch in a changing of the guard.*

6. Miami (from PHI)	Devonta Smith	WR	Alabama
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If you think that Joe Burrow is going to be excited about getting former LSU teammate Ja'Marr Chase to throw to again, then wait until you see Tua Tagovailoa's reaction when Heisman Trophy winner Devonta Smith's name is announced to the Dolphins. There were times last year when Tua appeared like a fish out of water but while many were calling for the Dolphins to move Tua and try to get another QB in this draft, SSS was standing our ground that Tua was not the problem, he just hasn't had enough time to come up with the solution. Well all equations get considerably easier when a player of Smith's caliber are added. Smith turned every Saturday last autumn into his own personal Pro Day, obliterating records and totaling 1,856 yards on 117 receptions with 23 scores. In seven games he had at least 2 TDs and he had at least 130 yards and 2 TDs in the SEC Championship, National Semifinal and National Championship. The only thing that Smith has had to contend with are the questions about his lack of prototypical size leading up to the draft, but as S'feld Services always says - it is all about the "Triple T" (Trust The Tape). And all the tape shows is a guy who will help Tua's progression as a QB and give him an outlet to prove he was worth the high pick last year. Smith led the NCAA in yards after contact last year and was in the top 5 the past two years in yards against press coverage. That means he is what we call in the business a Hall & Oates player. "Oh, oh, here he comes, watch out boy he'll chew you up! Oh, oh here he comes, he's a man-beater!" Along with that, Smith is one of the best route runners that SSS has ever seen. Smith teamed with the underrated DeVante Parker and Miami's new addition Will Fuller could present a world of hurt for the AFC East.

THE EXTRA POINT – *This team is going places. SSS is thoroughly convinced of it. We told you a few years back that Tennessee was starting to figure things out and we were right. Well we are telling you now that Miami is going to start being a vice once again for those addicted to quality football. SSS finds head coach Brian Flores to be the perfect fit for this organization and the way the Dolphins have accumulated picks and lessened the load with some of their dead weight on the roster has shown that they are making efficient and effective decisions from the top down. The fly-*

be around past Pick 10. Carolina currently features offensive tackles Greg Little and Cameron Erving and that isn't exactly what you would call a dynamic duo. So for Carolina, the best move is to stay here and get a plug-and-play tackle for the next 7-10 years. Plus, if you truly want to see what Sam Darnold can give you, protecting his blindside with a player many graded as their best when he last played as a true sophomore in 2019 is a good start. Sewell combines size with tremendous foot quickness and balance. His readiness off the snap is exceptional and he can run and pass block with the best of them. On top of that, he was considered a team leader while at Oregon and has the right characteristics to be a positive and infectious influence on the team. While some have questioned his work ethic, SSS doesn't find that to be an issue. For a guy who hasn't played a ton of football, he will also get paired with a former college coach in Matt Rhule, who will be a good nurturer along the way.

THE EXTRA POINT – Well, things just got a whole heck of a lot more interesting in Carolina. With the Panthers trading away QB Teddy Bridgewater for a 6th Round pick and picking up a majority of his remaining guarantee, it is easy to speculate that with no true backup behind Sam Darnold that the Panthers are going QB here. SSS isn't buying it. Why would Carolina open itself up to making it known they were in the market for a QB hours before the draft? If you are a team who wants a QB, you now feel that you need to get in front of Carolina to get him, whereas before the trade you probably didn't feel that way. Carolina may have their eyes on a QB outside of the 1st Round too. Just because the so-called experts have 5 QBs slated to go in the 1st Round doesn't mean that other teams don't have higher grades on other QBs not projected in the 1st Round. And we are also not saying that if the right QB slips to Carolina here that they wouldn't take them. It just seems that if the Panthers did want a QB they sure as heck wouldn't give away their leverage or lean by trading away a competent QB like Bridgewater.

*****TRADE*** (Denver trades with Detroit, giving up Pick #9, #71 and 2022 4th Rounder to acquire Pick #7)**

9. Detroit

Jaylen Waddle

WR

Alabama

Brad Holmes was hired as Detroit's General Manager in January of this year and hadn't been on the job longer than a few weeks before making a deal with his old team, the L.A. Rams, to secure QB Jared Goff, a 2021 3rd Round pick and 1st Round picks in 2022 and 2023 in exchange for QB Matt Stafford. Let's just say that the new Lion GM's first act is going to be darn near impossible to follow. S'feld Services gives the Lions an A+ for the exchange with the Rams and believes that not only did Holmes set up his team for the next few years, but he gets to kick the tires on a Super Bowl QB from a few years back with little to no risk. SSS sees Detroit continuing to wheel and deal in the 2021 edition of the draft trading down with Denver to add more to their arsenal while still getting one of the three elite receivers. The one SSS believes they actually want the most is Bama WR Jaylen Waddle. Waddle immediately fills the void left by former Lion Kenny Golladay and will give Goff a Brandin Cooks type receiver from Day 1. Waddle is coming off a serious ankle injury that caused him to miss most of Bama's championship season, but had he been healthy, he may have posted numbers that trumped Devonta Smith's. In his four regular season games last year Waddle had at least a 45-yard catch in each, including TDs of 87 and 90 yards. Waddle is a superfreak with a game that closely mirrors Tyreek Hill's. A human cheat code, Waddle can take the top off the defense and

will be a “mission impossible” for corners trying to cover him on crossing routes. Detroit knows they are in rebuild mode right now and they have this year to set the table for the future as they likely will be staring down a last-place finish in the NFC North. That doesn’t mean they are a world away from the Packers, Vikings and Bears though. To the contrary, life in the NFL comes at you fast, but Waddle is a step in the right direction and seems to be able to slow things down like Neo in the Matrix. Lions fans have wanted to take the blue pill for years to get away from having to face the real-life struggles this Lions organization has regularly saddled them with, but Waddle won’t duck any pressure he faces as a top-10 pick and looks to be the perfect engine to jumpstart the Motor City.

THE EXTRA POINT – SSS has never been more confused in our lives than when we watched the Dan Campbell introductory press conference as the new head coach of the Lions earlier this year. We felt like we were watching a crazy man trying to motivate not only his new team, but the media, the fans and maybe even the municipal workers of Detroit. Campbell made Mike Ditka look like George McFly. The Lions don’t have much recent history to fall back on so maybe heading back to the future is the best bet for this team and while SSS has no idea if the Dan Campbell experiment will work, it already looks like it might be a whole lot of fun.

10. Dallas

Patrick Surtain II

CB

Alabama

The good news for Cowboys fans and for the rest of the world is that the Dak Prescott contract situation is finally behind us all and more importantly for Dallas, they sit in the catbird seat here at #10. With five QBs considered elite in this class, there is a very good chance that one and maybe even two of them will still be available here. While the Cowboys don’t need a QB, the trading options for Dallas could be significant from teams like New England, Chicago, Washington and maybe even New Orleans. Dallas should be in a position to call their shot and get significant return on any deal. Even better, if they don’t feel confident with any package offered to them, they are sitting in a position to select the draft’s top corner, top defensive tackle, top safety or top linebacker as all of their top needs align with the top available positions. Ideally the Cowboys would love to fall back anywhere between 5-6 slots to gain picks while still getting one of the top players on their board. Bama CB Patrick Surtain comes from good stock (his father was a Pro Bowl corner) and is the call here. Surtain has the highest floor of any defensive back in this draft and his worst day is better than most corners’ best. The Saban standout may not have played a game in the NFL yet, but he is a true professional and easily grades out as the draft’s best DB according to SSS. His technique and timing are second-to-none and he excels in press coverage or off-man. He is not easily beaten even on comeback routes and has a combination of fluidness and explosiveness. Surtain rejoins Bama teammate Trevon Diggs on the outside of the Cowboys defense and gives Dallas two young playmakers at corner for years to come. The Cowboys won’t be reminding anyone of their Doomsday defenses of the 70’s, but by drafting Surtain they avoid a doomsday scenario of another season ranked in the bottom 5 of the league in points allowed. The Cowboys earn this year’s award for “Team Least Likely To Screw Up The Draft Even If They Try.” And we can tell you this – that is a great award to win.

THE EXTRA POINT – 2020 is a year that most of us would like to forget. Highlights were few and far between and everything just seemed to come off the rails. That being said, as bad as 2020 was, nobody had it worse than the Dallas Cowboys. If it could go wrong for the Cowboys last season, it did. A team with a lot of hope and promise just sunk deeper and deeper into a black hole that not even Matthew McConaughey could get them out of. Not only was the Cowboys play far from interstellar, it never had a chance from the moment Dak Prescott went down for the season. But do you know what two entities believe in the Cowboys in 2021? Las Vegas and SSS. My good friends in the desert have installed Dallas as favorites to win the NFC East and have their over/under for season wins at 9.5. That is ahead of Washington's season win total of 8.5, and Philly's and New York's at 7. That's a significant number and SSS isn't doubting it for one second. Second-year head coach Mike McCarthy is eager for a bounce back season and with the three other NFC East teams trotting out Ryan Fitzpatrick, Jalen Hurts and Daniel Jones at QB, the Cowboys will have no excuses if they can't win the division against that trifecta.

11. New York Giants	Rashawn Slater	OT	Northwestern
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The Giants have a plethora of options here at Pick #11 and while SSS is very confident in Dallas going with Surtain a pick earlier, we admit, the Giants could be one of the toughest teams to handicap through the first half of the 1st Round. While many are projecting a wide receiver here or a defensive standout, SSS sees a need for GM Dave Gettleman to continue to protect his investment in QB Daniel Jones in what is looking more and more like a make-or-break year for him. In fairness, Jones hasn't been surrounded with a ton of weapons and the ones he has had have either been traded, let go or gotten injured. With S'feld's top 3 wideouts already gone (Chase, D. Smith & Waddle), taking any of the other wide receivers here would be a reach. Edge rusher is a more likely option, but outside of Penei Sewell, Rashawn Slater is the next best thing. He would be a huge addition literally and figuratively, and just seems like a no-brainer here. Slater did opt out of the 2020 season, but in 2019 he was extraordinary, allowing only five pressures for the entire season. He has played left and right tackle, showcasing his versatility, and he more than held his own vs. former Ohio State pass rusher Chase Young when the two matched up. Slater is uber-confident and trusts his feet while making adjustments very quickly along the line. Daniel will be jonesing when he sees his GM give him the protection he needs at quarterback by selecting Slater.

THE EXTRA POINT – The Giants are one of many teams that will benefit from this QB happy draft. It is not very often standout OTs like Slater would be available here but with so many QBs going early, the value within the first 17 to 18 picks is incredible. This is not the draft to reach for a player and it seems pretty clear from weighing their options that the Giants won't do that. Gettleman has given Jones a significantly better chance to succeed this year by adding former Detroit WR Kenny Golladay and Viking TE Kyle Rudolph to the current arsenal of RB Saquon Barkley and TE Evan Engram. Giant WRs Darius Slayton and Sterling Shepard are better players in subsidiary roles and if the Giants happen to see value in a wide receiver in the 2nd or 3rd Round this offense will be much improved.

*****TRADE*** (Philadelphia trades with Chicago, giving up Pick #12 to acquire Picks #20, #83 and a 2022 1st Rounder)**

12. Chicago Mac Jones QB Alabama

They just can't help themselves. They just...can't...help themselves. General Manager Ryan Pace and head coach Matt Nagy are so lucky that they even have another draft to preside over, but yet, here they are after backdooring into the first-ever 7-team NFC playoff last year as the....yes.....7th seed. But fear not my friends, if this disastrous duo has anything to say about it they will trade draft capital one more time – this time for Bama QB Mac Jones who SSS believes could fall to #12. The Bears traded away a fortune to San Francisco in the early 1st Round of 2017 to move up one spot, they dealt their 2018 and 2019 1st Rounders to get Khalil Mack three years ago and you can bet your bottom dollar that with journeyman QB Andy Dalton slated as their current starter they are going to hand over a treasure trove of picks like a department store Santa Claus to the Philadelphia Eagles, who will gleefully scoop up the goodies. I'm not sure Pace trusts himself enough to find the next QB without grabbing one in this class and the Eagles know that teams will be at their mercy to acquire this pick. The Bears will have to pay beyond a premium to get ahead of New England to get the last of the "Big 5" QBs. And please hear us out – SSS doesn't believe this is a bad play for the Bears, it's just that this team is like a degenerate gambler that has to keep chasing its own tail and doubling down in the hopes that maybe once, just once, they will get it right. SSS is a big fan of Jones and while his supporting cast played a major role in success, Jones is very good at sliding to avoid pressure in the pocket, has a feathery touch and terrific placement, especially on deep balls, and can find the open read very quickly. He is the anti-Trubisky to say the least. Mitch was athletic and a good scrambler while Jones is not. Jones can survey the field, find the right read and deliver, while Tru could not.

THE EXTRA POINT – *Who knew that when the Chicago Bears lost a coin flip to the Pittsburgh Steelers for the right to draft first and select Terry Bradshaw in the 1970 NFL Draft that it would set in motion one of the longest jinxed positions in NFL history. The Bears lost that coin flip and Bradshaw proceeded to lead the Steelers to four Super Bowl victories. Ah yes, the Bears did have Jim McMahon from 1982-1988, but for as good as he was, Jimmy Mac could never stay healthy and was never really close to full strength past 1985. The Bears have tried trading in the hope of success at the position before as they gave up quality picks for Rick Mirer in 1997, Jay Cutler in 2009, Mitch Trubisky in 2017 and Nick Foles in 2020. They have failed spectacularly in free-agent QBs over the years (Kordell Stewart, Chris Chandler, Mike Glennon) and have had flame outs with 1st Round picks such as Cade McNown and Rex Grossman. If a broken clock is right twice a day, then that is still two times too many for a team that can't seem to figure out that getting a quality QB sometime this millennium is time-sensitive.*

13. L.A. Chargers Christian Darrisaw OT Virginia Tech

SSS is sure that there are going to be a few options that the Chargers hope will fall to them at #13 but in all honesty, Darrisaw is a fantastic fit and perfect combination of top need and best available player all at the same time. QB Justin Herbert was the NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year last season and really looked the part in his first year with the Chargers. In order for him to continue to flourish

in L.A. he needs to feel protected, and relying on current tackles Bryan Bulaga and Trey Pipkins isn't enough to make anyone feel comfortable. It's no secret that the Chargers had one of the worst offensive lines in 2020 and still managed to finish 7-9 with several heartbreaking losses that would have pushed them into the postseason had they gone the other way. Defensive needs for L.A. are important too, but Herbert is riding a wave of positive momentum right now so the Chargers should want to continue to build on the offensive line to prevent Herbert from taking a header. SSS does realize that we are bucking a trend here as the Chargers organization has not a big believer in offensive tackles in early rounds. Under General Manager Tom Telesco the Chargers haven't taken a tackle in the first two rounds for the past seven years. That is a concerning stat, but also showcases why the Chargers haven't had a great offensive line for several years and always put former QB Philip Rivers in pressure situations every season. Darrisaw would be a huge get in several ways with Telesco moving to defensive needs in later rounds.

THE EXTRA POINT – *For some reason there are some teams that just refuse to take certain players or positions in the first round of a draft. The Packers refuse to take skill players in the first round, while the Chargers don't draft offensive linemen there. SSS points to these two examples mostly because they are just so hard to fathom and extreme outliers compared to the rest of NFL teams. Offensive linemen are almost impossible NOT to draft in the 1st Round over many years, but the Chargers take it to a whole different level in that they have only drafted one offensive lineman in the 1st Round since 1987 (D.J. Fluker, 2013). That's not crazy. That's embarrassing. Here is hoping the Chargers finally stop picking up linemen off the scrap heap and realize that doing the same thing over and over while expecting different results is the definition of insanity. Don't say that S'feld Services didn't warn you.*

*****TRADE*** (Minnesota trades with Las Vegas, giving up Pick #14 to acquire Picks #17, #79 and a 2022 4th Rounder)**

14. Las Vegas	Micah Parsons	ILB	Penn State
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If any team in this draft knows when to push all their chips to the center of the table to go "all-in" it's Las Vegas. The Raiders decide not to stand on a soft 17 and trade their #17 pick to the Vikings along with future picks to move ahead of New England and snag PSU all-everything linebacker Micah Parsons. The autumn wind is a pirate and head coach Jon Gruden and General Manager Mike Mayock snatch the booty away from Bill Belichick before their prized possession can even think about playing football in Foxborough next fall. Parsons opted out of the 2020 season and had he played there is a good chance he may have been the first defensive player off the board. It has been a few years since the Raider faithful have had a defensive player that could even touch what they had when Khalil Mack donned the silver and black, but lo and behold here comes Micah Parsons to reignite the roar of the Black Hole with his devastating play. Parsons is not only the best run defender in the draft, he is also the best tackler and blitzer as well. His pass-rushing abilities are off the charts and that is after only two years of playing at the collegiate level. The Raiders get aggressive here in moving up with the Vikings and secure a defensive difference-maker.

THE EXTRA POINT – In all the talk about Atlanta needing to move Julio Jones, the place that would seem to make the most sense could be Las Vegas. Right now the Raiders offense seems as though they are one veteran receiver away from taking the next step. They have young talent across the skill positions with running back Josh Jacobs, wide receiver Henry Ruggs and tight end Darren Waller. The only missing piece is that veteran presence to bring it all together. On top of that, Derek Carr may be one of the most underappreciated QBs in the game. His numbers are consistent year in and year out. The Raiders at one point made a move to get Antonio Brown, but that deal was DOA due to Brown's attitude. It does show that GM Mike Mayock would like to get a veteran playmaker at the position so that the slots read all 7's.

15. New England	Jaycee Horn	CB	South Carolina
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Good grief S'feld. Jaycee Horn? Jaycee Horn is who the Pats are taking? That's not very sexy. Nothing is more subjective than sexiness. And at S'feld Services we break out the cat calls and feel the temperature get hotter when Jaycee Horn is mentioned. Why? Because not only does Horn make beautiful music when he brings his symphony to the field, he also runs a 4.4 40 with a 41 ½ vertical leap and loves to get physical like Olivia Newton-John. You think it is easy being a shutdown corner at South Carolina? Do you have any idea the star-studded receivers that Horn had to face and how he locked them up? Only one receiver had more than 50 yards against Horn and that was Devonta Smith with 60. When matched up 1-on-1, Horn held Jerry Jeudy to 1 catch for 7 yards, Jaylen Waddle to 1 catch for 12 yards, Kyle Pitts to 1 catch for 20 yards and Elijah Moore to 47 yards total in two games. Case and point – Horn is a big-game hunter and doesn't shy away from a street fight. New England will get a lot of players back on defense this year that opted out due to Covid, and another in Horn who will opt-in to any matchup with any big-play receiver at any time.

THE EXTRA POINT – SSS knows what people are saying. Everywhere you look the experts are saying that the Pats are trading up to get Mac Jones or Trey Lance or Justin Fields. You know what player SSS believes Coach Belichick is trading up to get? Nobody. Belichick has never been one to follow the crowd or replicate somebody else's idea or scheme. Nah, With Big Bill it's hit 'em where they ain't and be the biggest contrarian in modern day history. If you say that he has to get a QB in this draft because his only legitimate option is Cam Newton, he laughs in your face. There's probably some guy from West Idaho State that no one even knows about that he is going to take in the 6th Round and turn into the next Brady. Did the Pats have a down year last year? For sure. But those who have already crowned Brady as getting the better of Belichick better make sure to keep a little ink left in that pen, because tiiiiiiiiiiiiime is on Bill's side. Yes it is! Unlike most evaluators, Belichick lets the draft come to him, and he will play out several options at several different positions knowing that mistakes will be made ahead of him and teams will trade away their futures or gamble on some guy who runs a great 40 at his Pro Day, but whose actual game film is underwhelming, and he'll scoop up his best option at Pick #15. SSS wouldn't be a bit surprised if he scooped up a Florida QB Kyle Trask later in the draft, or made a move to reunite with Jimmy Garoppolo, or maybe even get a QB he likes who will fall to him here at #15 without even having to deal.

16. Arizona Caleb Farley CB Virginia Tech

The Arizona offense has a very good chance to be as strong it has been in a long, long time this year. QB Kyler Murray has really settled in and looks to truly breakout in 2021. Running back James Conner comes onboard from Pittsburgh and teamed with Chase Edmonds, the Cards have a solid 1-2 punch. WR Larry Fitzgerald seems as though he is ready for retirement, but former Bengal AJ Green has been added as a veteran presence who could get a new lease on life in Arizona. So with that backdrop in place, let's take a look at the other side of the ball for the Cardinals. They lost all-everything, future Hall of Famer Patrick Peterson in free agency and will have a chance for one of the top corners in the draft when Virginia Tech CB Caleb Farley falls to #16. Farley is coming off back surgery but at 6-foot-2 with elite closing speed and strong in man-to-man, guys like this don't fall far. The converted wide receiver at VT is worth the injury risk. Arizona need only look at what the Bears did last year drafting corner Jaylen Johnson, who was coming off a serious injury, to see how a calculated risk can pay a big reward. Johnson played very well his rookie season and Farley has more pure talent than Johnson does. The Cardinals know that trying to make a postseason run with weak corners and little depth in the secondary is no way to go through life.

****THE EXTRA POINT*** – Saddle up for the upcoming season ya'll because my, oh my, will it be interesting in 2021 to see how the West is won. No division seems to see momentum move up and down and around and around more than the NFC West and this year will be just as interesting if not more than any other. SSS believes that the team that actually could benefit the most out of a potential shift of power is the Arizona Cardinals. While everyone is ready to crown the Rams as the team to beat in the division with the addition of QB Matt Stafford, S'feld Services doesn't see it that way. Stafford does not strike us as the sure-fire bet others seem willing to make. Cap issues always surround the Rams and they still will have those issues moving forward. Seattle is the most consistent of all the teams in the division and that is because over the last decade they are the only team in the division that hasn't had to deal with QB issues since they have an all-time chef in the kitchen with Russell Wilson. But Russ has been unhappy with management and with coach Pete Carroll's run-first philosophy and cracks could be emerging in the Seahawk facade. Finally, we have the 49ers, who a year after being in the Super Bowl and looking like a team of the future, are now in the market for a QB after basically indicating that Jimmy G is not the answer. That leaves the door wide open for Zona to pass a few teams by on the way up, especially now that head coach Kliff Kingsbury and Kyler Murray both have their feet set after a few years partnered together.*

*****TRADE*** (Las Vegas trades with Minnesota, giving up Picks #17, #79 and a 2022 4th Rounder to acquire Picks #14)**

17. Minnesota Alijah Vera-Tucker OT/OG USC

The Vikings would love a shot to select either of the top two offensive tackles in this draft, but they are likely too far out of position for Rashawn Slater and definitely for Penei Sewell. A cornerback for the Vikings is always a consideration, especially with the recent issues facing Jeff Gladney, one of the Purple's two 1st Round picks last season, but SSS believes that the acquisition of Patrick Peterson is enough to stave off making a first-round choice on another corner. SSS briefly considered giving the Vikings LB Micah Parsons, but Minnesota is probably a year away from needing LB help this

early in the draft. The area that the Vikings could use the most assistance is on the offensive line and General Manager Rick Spielman wisely navigates the minefield to move down while picking up additional selections. Even better, Spielman doesn't move down so far that he is out of primary range of a strong player. That player is Alijah Vera-Tucker of USC. Tucker makes perfect sense to the Vikings because of his versatility to play either offensive tackle or guard. Vera-Tucker is tough and athletic and SSS believes he will exceed expectations in the NFL. While some believe the Vikings could be a player in the sweepstakes for a QB, S'feld Services sees the Vikings in a win-now mode so looking to add a QB piece in the 1st Round won't help Coach Mike Zimmer in 2021, especially with Kirk Cousins already in tow. The win-now mantra was aided by the Justin Jefferson pick last year - another feather in Spielman's cap. That pick not only negated the loss of Stefon Diggs, but it was addition by subtraction. Spielman got a WR of equal or better stature, who wasn't a headache in the locker room, and who cost a fraction of the price compared to Diggs. That kept Minnesota on the competitive plane when many thought they could potentially fall out of contention.

THE EXTRA POINT – It's easy to find teams that have a good comprehension of how the draft works because they all do one thing really well and that is that they let the draft come to them and don't reach for picks when they don't have to. There are several teams in the NFL who have been able to stay relevant for a long period of time because they value their resources and assets and hold onto them tightly, only parting with them when they get a return that helps sustain their success. Baltimore is that sort of team. Pittsburgh is that sort of team. The Chiefs over time have been that sort of team. Seattle has been that sort of team. And last but definitely not least, the Vikings have been that sort of team. These teams have all identified how to get the most value at each slot whether it means taking the right player or moving out or sometimes potentially up to grab either future assets or a coveted player. These teams don't always hit on every pick, but in Spielman's case they trade players at the right time for monster hauls (Stefon Diggs, Percy Harvin) and they have certain drafts where they kill it over and over to set themselves up long term in a 3-day span. That happened in 2015 when Spielman hit on Eric Kendricks (2nd Rd), Danielle Hunter (3rd Rd) and Diggs (5th Rd). But the absolute key for any General Manager or team is that you can't have successive drafts where you just completely go in the tank. So many teams can't avoid that mistake but the good ones as we have mentioned above, always walk away with a few contributors.

18. Miami	Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah	ILB	Notre Dame
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SSS has the Dolphins doing something a little crazy with their second 1st Round pick, but when it comes to the NFL Draft often times the crazier an idea sounds the more sensible it actually is. Owusu-Koramoah is an undersized linebacker but has amazing range and can play sideline-to-sideline, willing to do whatever coaches ask. A 3-down backer, Koramoah has elite cover skills and is extremely versatile. How versatile? Well, he lined up as a slot corner for Notre Dame last year at times due to his speed and cover skills. Additionally, Koramoah is solid against the run. The Irish standout will also provide head coach Brian Flores with the ability to pressure the QB. Flores loves to run confusing schemes where players line up in different zones at different times all over the field and JOK would fit that style perfectly. Koramoah has an explosiveness that can't be understated and is the sort of new-age linebacker defensive coordinators salivate over. So many teams want players

to be what they want them to be but SSS sees Flores and the Dolphins as one of the few teams that would allow Koramoah to completely play to his strengths, which essentially would add to the Dolphins defensive strength.

THE EXTRA POINT – All credit needs to be given to Dolphins General Manager Chris Grier for his hire of Brian Flores a few years ago. Many (including SSS) were skeptical of another New England Patriots assistant getting a head job as the success rate for Patriots assistants as head men was so poor. Flores has completely shattered that myth. A no-nonsense sort of coach, Flores and Grier are a formidable pair that seem to be in sync with each other on all decisions and have instilled confidence in the Dolphin brand, leading more good players to take their talents to South Beach. The Dolphins trade up/trade down strategy in the 1st Round hasn't been seen in quite some time, especially within the top 10, and while most teams would cause me to wonder what they are doing, our trust in the Fish has gone up exponentially since these two have established a track record of making good decisions two years into their tenure. SSS has a firm belief that Miami will make even more progress with their maneuvering over the 3-day draft experience.

19. Washington	Teven Jenkins	OT	Oklahoma State
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Washington's draft should be very straightforward. They were a playoff team last year (despite being 7-9) and they have a very strong defense that should be stable for the next several years. And while they could be in the market for a QB, SSS believes that Washington will look at adding a player to help now vs. a player to help later. They are not getting one of the elite QBs without giving up a ton of draft capital, so instead of giving up picks to get a player that likely can't help you in 2021, SSS has them grabbing a solid tackle to solidify the line. Right guard Brandon Scherff has graded out as one of the best linemen in the NFL so Washington has a solid base to add to. Jenkins has the talent and the attitude that you want in an offensive tackle. The Okie State tackle has figured out a way to weaponize his physical gifts and is very disciplined technically. You won't hear about Jenkins with some of the other more highly-touted tackles in the draft, but SSS isn't sure that over time Jenkins isn't the guy people look back on as a gem of the class.

THE EXTRA POINT – You know who SSS is truly happy for – the incomparable Ryan Fitzpatrick. He is the player equivalent of cult coaching favorite Wayne Fontes. In the same way Fontes could always stay one step ahead of the posse, FitzMagic has done exactly the same thing. He keeps finding new teams and new opportunities even when it looks like he doesn't or won't have one. Fitz has found a way to produce just enough and at the right times to always leave coaches wanting to believe in him. And here he is after stints with the Rams, Bengals, Bills, Titans, Texans, Jets, Bucs and Dolphins, as the starting QB with the Washington Football Team. If finding a way to have multiple teams wanting you after years bouncing from city to city and at the ripe old age of 38 and then earning a starting job isn't worthy of some kind of award, then I don't know what is. God bless you Ryan Fitzpatrick and godspeed. He may not look anything like Nicolas Cage, but Fitz is indeed a national treasure. While you never stay in the same place, you never leave our hearts.

*****TRADE*** (Chicago trades with Philadelphia, giving up Picks #20, #83 and a 2022 1st Rounder to acquire Pick #12)**

20. Philadelphia Greg Newsome II CB Northwestern

This team has needs - lots and lots of needs. Where do they go? What do they do? Well let's start by giving them credit for moving down with the Bears. The only way for Philly to fly Eagles fly is to get more picks in any way they can. And yes, they will miss out on a playmaker at #12, but one guy isn't going to solve their problems. They need volume. They need quantity over quality. While the Eagles don't get Surtain, Horn or Farley, they do get Northwestern corner Greg Newsome who is no slouch in his own right. Is he a guy that Eagles fans will hug and high five over? No. But neither was Donovan McNabb and how did that work out? The biggest knock that SSS has on Newsome is just that we just haven't seen a ton of his play with a shortened Big Ten season, but he was a big reason why Northwestern was in the Big Ten Championship game. In a funny way he reminds SSS a lot of the player he would line up opposite of - Darius Slay. Newsome can play in any scheme or style. He is a competitive player who doesn't lack moxie and likes to get in receivers' grills in press coverage. He may have the best feet of any corner in the draft, which allows him to rapidly recover. And the cherry on top for the Eagles is that this isn't a prima donna corner who isn't afraid to get his hands dirty. Newsome will rise to the occasion in run support as well. With the chance to stockpile more picks and add a player of Newsome's caliber, the Eagles get off to a good start on Day 1 of the draft.

THE EXTRA POINT – SSS heard a radio interview just the other day where the host asked the draft expert who he thought had the worst overall roster in the NFL. The answer? The Philadelphia Eagles. How is that possible? How has this team fallen so far, so fast? Well SSS isn't saying that we think the Eagles are going to contend for another Super Bowl in 2021, but we also don't think their problems are as vast as what is being reported. To a degree, the Eagles were hit with the perfect storm of multiple issues all at the same time. Bad play, devastating injuries, poor chemistry, back-and-forth bitching in the media, and finally, the firing of their coach and departure of their franchise QB. But despite all that remember this – while the Eagles were terrible in 2020, they won 9, 9 and 13 games the previous three years. So have they hit rock bottom or is there still a ways to go? SSS thinks it all comes back to the QB position and we haven't been given enough data to know if Jalen Hurts is serviceable or just filling a seat for the next man. What happens in this draft will be the start of the reveal one way or another.

21. Indianapolis Rondale Moore WR Purdue

If any of the top offensive tackles fall to this spot the Colts will have a very difficult time passing them up but in the SSS Mock Draft that scenario doesn't happen so head coach Frank Reich and General Manager Chris Ballard pull somewhat of a surprise and select WR Rondale Moore, this draft's Swiss Army knife. This would qualify as a team making a luxury pick that still has some pretty glaring needs, but the Colts have made a significant investment in trying to reinvigorate QB Carson Wentz's career and Moore is just the guy to help in that process. This is a Darren Sproles type of player that is just a completely different breed of athlete. Moore is an ankle-breaking machine that Reich will definitely find ways to utilize as a security blanket for Wentz. SSS firmly believes that

Moore is the sort of player that an already established team like Kansas City, Tampa Bay, New Orleans or Baltimore would love to see fall to them to kick them into an extra gear on offense, so Indianapolis decides to beat them all to the punch by scooping him up at Pick #21. Moore is a feisty player who plays more like a power running back than a wide receiver for his size and in a world where coaches are trying to find and exploit matchups each week, Moore is the guy who can cause defensive coordinators to take early retirement.

THE EXTRA POINT – SSS often talks about fits in pro football and how important it is for a player to end up with a team that will complement his skill set and make him feel comfortable in his own skin. Well for as rough as the last few seasons have been for Wentz, we can't envision a softer landing spot than Indianapolis. Wentz gets to reunite with his former offensive coordinator in Reich and gets to play on a very capable team that is coming off two playoff appearances in the last three years. For as much as we have heard that Wentz is a bad teammate and a whiner, he has been afforded the perfect opportunity to re-establish what made him darn near the league MVP in 2017. And let's not forget, the current narrative would lead you to believe that Wentz has been bad for several seasons, but in actuality, he had a passer rating of 101.9, (2017), 102.2 (2018) and 93.1 (2019) prior to the wheels coming off in 2020. SSS sees a rebound for Wentz in Indianapolis and believes he will be very motivated to prove his critics wrong.

22. Tennessee

Jaelan Phillips

DE

Miami (FL)

Welcome to the most perplexing player in the 1st Round of the NFL Draft. SSS doesn't see another player on the board who could potentially have as wide of a range of being drafted as Miami (FL) DE Jaelan Phillips. Our sources have told us that several teams are absolutely in love with his game and that without his off-field and injury issues, he would be a top-10 pick for sure. Coaches will have to lean on their risk assessment metrics when grading Phillips and making a decision whether or not to pull the trigger on him because he could be a complete wrecking machine or completely wreck your machine depending on which version shows up. Phillips started his college career at UCLA before quitting football due to ankle injuries and concussions. He then changed his mind and enrolled at Miami sitting out the 2019 season before returning to the playing field with the Hurricanes in 2020 and recorded 42 pressures with weekly dominating performances. He then continued to impress the scouts at his Pro Day by posting a 4.56 in the 40-yard dash and had a 36-inch vertical jump. Phillips plays hard but his injury and concussion history make selecting him a definite dice roll as the upside is high but the downside is seeing snake eyes.

THE EXTRA POINT – The hardest thing to do in the NFL isn't becoming relevant and competitive, it's staying relevant and competitive, and the Titans will have to reinvent themselves a little bit after losing WRs Corey Davis, Adam Humphries and up-and-coming TE Jonnu Smith. On the defensive side, Tennessee had three defections in the secondary as Malcolm Butler, Adoree' Jackson and Desmond King all moved on. The Titans did add a few players upfront to bolster their defensive line in Bud Dupree and Denico Autry, but there will definitely be a different feel to the Titans in 2021. After four straight years of 9-7 records in which they went to the playoffs three times, SSS believes

the only thing keeping the Titans from a little regression is that the AFC South is still among the worst divisions in football.

23. New York Jets (from SEA) Travis Etienne RB Clemson

SSS Sources are telling us that the Buffalo Bills may try to find a way to sneak ahead of the Pittsburgh Steelers to select the running back of their choosing, which we believe to be Travis Etienne. Well if the Bills do plan to do that, they better trade ahead of the New York Jets as well because SSS sees the Jets doubling down on offense after drafting BYU QB Zach Wilson by giving him a workhorse back in Etienne. The Jets needs are many, but because they have so many needs it will be easier to fill positions that are deep. Running back is not one of them. The drop off after Etienne and Bama back Najee Harris is significant from our perspective and SSS was shocked that Etienne actually came back for his senior season at Clemson. The Jets current RB options include the oft-injured Tevin Coleman, along with Ty Johnson and Josh Adams. Coleman, Johnson & Adams is a law firm, not a vaunted backfield. That trio doesn't exactly strike fear in the hearts of men. Etienne can easily be a 3-down back and his patience in following his blocks and ability to make a read and cut are among the best in this draft. Etienne can beat you with his feet or with his force and is happy to oblige on both fronts. The stigma of taking running backs in the 1st Round has come and gone and multiple teams will be looking to add a player of Etienne's caliber right around this point in the draft. While many will criticize S'feld Services for not giving new defensive-minded Jets head coach Robert Saleh a defensive player among his first two picks of the 1st Round, we take no offense to it.

THE EXTRA POINT – *The New York Jets were a competitive bunch from 2000-2010 but it has been a decade of decimation for them since the 2010 season. Rex Ryan's magic touch wore off, Todd Bowles saw his teams regress in each of his four years and Adam Gase's two-year run was over before it even started. But if you look closely at the Jets, you will see that General Manager Joe Douglass is starting to make strong moves and there are a lot of similarities between the Jets and another AFC East foe – the Dolphins. Both decided to start over, accumulate picks and hire defensive gurus as coaches. So far that strategy has worked wonders in South Beach, and SSS sees the same approach working in the Big Apple. Saleh should be able to take less and make it more on the defensive side of the ball, which will allow the Jets to get aggressive on the offensive side of the ball in this draft.*

24. Pittsburgh Najee Harris RB Alabama

As long as the Steelers see either Najee Harris or Etienne fall to this slot, they will be happy. Many have said that the Steelers have way too many issues along the line to take a running back with their first pick but the value on offensive linemen in this spot has dissipated to the point that there is way more value in Harris. Harris is a Steel City sort of player and his skill set is a perfect match for Pittsburgh. He is a decisive runner who can make defenders miss and runs violently utilizing his size to inflict pain at the point of attack. Additionally, he doesn't fumble and separates himself from other backs in this class with his elite ball skills as he is a talented receiver who will give Big Ben a significant advantage in check downs with such a capable receiving back. As if that wasn't enough,

Harris is reliable in pass protection and that jumps off the page in the scouting report as head coach Mike Tomlin will need a back who can hold his own in that regard with such a weak offensive line. Harris has the potential to be on par if not better than his former teammate and current Raider Josh Jacobs, who also runs with aggression.

THE EXTRA POINT – *Harris is the perfect anecdote for Pittsburgh's current problems as things have unraveled quickly in Pittsburgh. After starting last season 11-0, the Steelers smoke and mirrors act turned out to be a mirage as they finished the year losing four of their final five games and then lost a home playoff game to their division rival the Browns. On top of that, QB Ben Roethlisberger is looking old and can't be relied upon to make it through a full season. If the end of the season was bad, the offseason was worse. The Steelers saw center Maurkice Pouncey retire, while edge rusher Bud Dupree, running back James Connor and offensive tackles Alejandro Villanueva and Matt Feiler left via free agency. Pittsburgh GM Kevin Colbert received a one-year contract extension but he has the weight of the world on his shoulders to solve all these problems with his eight draft picks. The margin for error is slim for the Steelers and with Baltimore still the class of the division and Cleveland and Cincinnati ascending, Pittsburgh is seeing the music stop with no chairs remaining. The good news is that this has always been a well-run organization, but as we saw with the Patriots last season, sometimes there are so many factors working against you that success is not a given.*

25. Jacksonville (from LAR)

Trevon Moehrig

S

TCU

Urban Meyer is able to get the best QB in the draft with the first overall pick and now he scores the top safety as well in TCU's Trevon Moehrig. Meyer is hitting the ground running with his first two picks in this draft. After shoring up the corner spot with 1st Rounder CJ Henderson in last year's 1st Round and adding Shaquill Griffin in free agency this year, Moehrig helps transform the Jacksonville secondary that was in shambles two years ago into an asset. Moehrig has some of the best ball production you will see from the safety spot and he led all safeties in pass breakups in each of the past two seasons at TCU. Moehrig won the Thorpe Award as the nation's best defensive back and his size and physicality are ideal. He is not often talked about in this draft class as the QBs, WRs, OTs and corners are getting most of the hype, but SSS believes that Moehrig over time will prove he was a top-15 player in this 2021 draft. Jacksonville makes a solid play with him here at #25.

THE EXTRA POINT – *If Meyer is going to put the Jags on a fast track to success then the pivotal part of the draft starts here at #25 and extends through the next 40 picks as Jacksonville owns the 25th, 33rd, 45th and 65th picks. That will give the Jags a tremendous opportunity to not only draft very good players but SSS feels that one of these picks the Jags will be able to flip in a trade for a 2022 1st Rounder. In the same way the Celtics of the NBA were consistently able to stockpile multiple 1st Rounders in almost every draft for years under Danny Ainge, the Jags can use this steady stream of picks in the 2nd Round to parlay them into better picks in future drafts to hold continual leverage. Rome wasn't built in a day and neither will Jacksonville, but through proper management and draft control, the Jags 2021 draft has the potential to be looked upon as the starting blocks of success.*

26. Cleveland	Christian Barmore	DT	Alabama
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SSS can't believe we are saying this but Cleveland is in the enviable position of being able to draft the best player available as their needs are few and their overall stock as a franchise is on the rise. Defense figures to be the area they will address and while Bama DT Christian Barmore has seen his star fade following a dominant season, he is still a tremendous player at #26 and would help solidify a front line that already has defensive ends Myles Garrett and Jadeveon Clowney. Linebacker and pass rusher could also be in play here for the Browns but SSS thinks that adding Barmore in the middle will not only help Garrett, but help Clowney see an increase in production. Barmore is very explosive and instinctive and destroys gaps with his active hands. Additionally, very few defensive tackles are able to track down QBs like Barmore does. The Browns already impressive roster gets even better with a space-eater like Barmore added upfront.

THE EXTRA POINT – *The “is Cleveland for real or are they not” question may still be at the forefront of the 2022 season as critics who saw the Browns make the playoffs for the first time since 2002 will want them to prove it. SSS is more and more confident in the Browns with each passing day because we are big believers in head coach Kevin Stefanski and how he has calmed the waters in Cleveland, turning them into a professional franchise. SSS isn't afraid to admit our mistakes and we were in the Robert Saleh camp when the Browns hired Stefanski, but it is clear that the higher-ups in Cleveland knocked it out of the park when they tagged Stef to be their guy.*

27. Baltimore	Jayson Oweh	EDGE	Penn State
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The Ravens have two picks in the 1st Round of this year's draft after trading stellar offensive tackle Orlando Brown to Kansas City for the Chiefs 1st Round pick among others. So where do the Ravens go from here? Well it would be easy to say that they take an offensive tackle since they just gave up an offensive tackle, and while SSS firmly agrees they will need to draft one, it won't be in the 1st Round. Baltimore is not Baltimore without a pressuring defense that puts the squeeze on their opponents. That's why when the Ravens see Penn State edge rusher Jayson Oweh fall outside the top 25, they nab him at Pick #27. Oweh may not have the collegiate production numbers that jump off the page, but he is a specimen and his Pro Day definitely got the attention of pro scouts. While he may be a bit of a project, he is worth the potential upside at a position that Baltimore needs to be effective to do what they want to as a defense. With the departures of one-year rental Yannick Ngakoue and Matthew Judon on the edge, the Ravens defense is exposed in a big way, but help is on the way with Oweh.

THE EXTRA POINT – *One of the main reasons for Baltimore's consistent success has been the ability to replenish and reload on both the offensive line and defensive line of the ball. The Ravens have been and will always be a “win the trenches” sort of team. It also helps if you draft well which is why the loss of Orlando Brown, while concerning to most teams, probably isn't as much of an issue for the Ravens because of their confidence in finding “the next man in.” Oweh gives them a shot in the arm on the defensive side and look for Baltimore to select one of the offensive tackles that slip in the 2nd or 3rd Round.*

28. New Orleans	Kyle Trask	QB	Florida
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I can hear it already. It's coming through loud and clear. "You're reaching S'feld! You're reaching! Trask isn't a 1st Round talent!" Maybe he is and maybe he isn't, but it only takes one team to want to tango and Trask cha cha slides right into the Bayou at Pick #28. You want to know one of the reasons SSS believes Trask is a 1st Round selection? Absolutely no one is talking about him. And I mean no one. If SSS didn't have him pegged to the Saints draft board here, I'm not sure anyone would have even remembered Trask. The last time you saw him he was getting destroyed in his worst performance of the season against Oklahoma in the Cotton Bowl. Most people called that performance a disaster for Trask. You know what SSS called it. An aberration. Many of Trask's teammates had opted out of that game and Florida was overmatched, but Trask still showed moxie and a competitiveness that head coach Sean Payton will love. You know what Payton sees in Trask? A future QB with poise in the pocket and elusiveness that can make big throws with tremendous touch and accuracy. Sound like anyone Coach Payton may know? Drew Brees was as big in New Orleans as any athlete who has ever played there. With time and tutelage, Trask can evolve into a competitive performer who keeps the Saints relevant and who can give them what current QB Jameis Winston won't. Winston is a stopgap. Trask is the future.

THE EXTRA POINT – Sean Payton and Bill Belichick are good friends, and good friends often share similar experiences. A year after losing future Hall of Fame QB Tom Brady and seeing his team struggle, Coach Belichick will watch and see how Payton reacts to losing his future Hall of Famer in Drew Brees. While many teams struggle to find a solid QB for more than 4 or 5 years, the Patriots and Saints have been able to address every other need outside of the QB position for 15-20 years. The true test will be how they handle the truest of NFL adversity, which is finding the most important position in the game and recreating some form of the magic they had with Brady & Brees.

29. Green Bay	Elijah Moore	WR	Mississippi
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SSS swore that we wouldn't ever do it again after saying the Packers would take a 1st Round wide receiver last year, but alas, here we are willing to say "Thank you sir, may I have another," as we roll the dice once more and predict that the Packers will finally give QB Aaron Rodgers a 1st Round wide receiver. Good grief. Are we really doing this? SSS actually believes as we mentioned earlier that this is another instance where the GM and head coach need to finally build a little goodwill with their star-studded QB to show him that not only do they appreciate him, but that they have heard his concerns and vocal criticisms that he lobbed after the season, and help him before its too late. One way to start would be to draft either Ole Miss standout Elijah Moore or Florida slot specialist Kadarius Toney. While SSS sees Moore being the better fit, either one of those options would breathe life into Aaron Rodgers and the Packers already solid offense. The Packers are never going to have a bad offense as long as Rodgers is there but another game-changer would not only create matchup problems most defenses couldn't solve, it would make RB Aaron Jones even more effective. There was no reason last year that the Bay team winning the Super Bowl shouldn't have been Green instead of Tampa, but the longer this childish "he said, she said" game gets played between management and Rodgers, the smaller the window of opportunity will be. Moore would

give Green Bay a man's man and you won't find a tougher slot receiver in the draft. His physicality and ability to make the contested catch would put teams in a pressure cooker and he earns high grades against man coverage while competing in the SEC. While it is understood that Green Bay has all sorts of needs defensively, this point on the board still seems to provide the Packers with the right fit for the right team at the right time. So give me "Receivers From Ole Miss That Make Big Plays" for \$1000, Aaron. Because if Moore is paired with Devante Adams, you just hit the Daily Double.

THE EXTRA POINT – The Packers defense got a good look at the importance of quick, playmaking inside linebackers in their loss to Tampa Bay in last year's NFC Championship Game. And while SSS desperately wants the Packers to go WR with their 1st Round pick, the remainder of their draft would need to be focused on productive defensive linemen and more importantly, linebackers after that. The Packers likely won't be lucky enough to end up with PSU superstar LB Micah Parsons all the way down at #29, but Tulsa OLB Zaven Collins, Kentucky LB Jamin Davis or Notre Dame ILB Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah would be welcomed at this spot as well if GB decides it needs to go LB.

30. Buffalo

Kwity Paye

EDGE

Michigan

This is a straight-up larceny that the Bills are pulling off at Pick #30. Michigan edge rusher Kwity Paye was projected as a top 15 and even sometimes top-10 pick prior to last season, but here on draft night he almost falls into the second round. Head coach Sean McDermott strikes SSS as a guy who pounds the table in the war room for elite defensive players that will help keep Buffalo as a top-10 defense for years to come and he gets his way as General Manager Brandon Beane pulls Paye off the shelf at #30. Paye is another one of these players that talent evaluators just can't seem to agree on as his range on the draft board could be vast. Buffalo has built a roster that is low on need and high on talent and like many teams drafting near the end of the 1st Round they have the luxury of grabbing a guy with a high ceiling. Outside of a better running back, the Bills are sitting in fairly good shape on both sides of the ball. They will go great guns in this draft to add the final pieces as they believe they are knock, knock, knocking on a championship's door. DE Jerry Hughes is getting long in the tooth and the Bills, while strong on defense, did not excel in sack numbers, so they will cash in on Paye to give the defensive front a boost.

THE EXTRA POINT – While S'feld Services identifies defense as the play here for Buffalo, it is worth noting that if we do end up with a draft where the running back position is not valued, the Bills will not hesitate to grab or even trade up in the 2nd Round to acquire either Najee Harris or Travis Etienne if they do indeed slip. For as good as the Bills were last year, and as impressive as their dethroning of the New England Patriots was as the kings of the AFC East, one can only imagine what this offense could do if it had a top-flight RB. Devin Singletary didn't have one single game over 100 yards rushing last year and is single-handedly holding this offense back. SSS is hard-pressed to believe that he will be featured in 2021 like he was in 2020.

31. Baltimore (from KC)	Kadarius Toney	WR	Florida
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There are some very, very, very exciting wide receivers in this draft, which SSS would rank among the best he has ever evaluated, but one of the receivers who piques our interest the most is Florida burner Kadarius Toney. Toney gets a little lost in the shuffle with so many other quality receivers ahead of him, but he is one of those players that will excel on any team because of what he can do with his speed and explosiveness on all routes. When you also consider that he has a knack for breaking tackles and making plays in the open field, imagine what he would do when paired with Ravens dynamo QB Lamar Jackson. Not many can buy time in the pocket like Jackson and when you think about giving Toney a few extra seconds to get open while Jackson looks downfield, the thought about the trajectory of where this offense could go is scary. If we know anything we know this – Baltimore just can't seem to put together a quality receiving corps to strike fear in the hearts of defenses. The Ravens were the worst team in the league at targeting receivers last year and by a wide margin. In the past few years they have missed the mark on draft picks Marquise Brown, Miles Boykin and Devin Duvernay. And while adding Sammy Watkins is nice, you just can't bank on Sammy Watkins. So SSS sees the Ravens going to the wide receiver well once again to pick up a big-play wideout to spark their offense.

THE EXTRA POINT – *This selection comes to the Ravens from Kansas City through the aforementioned trade of Orlando Brown to the Chiefs for a plethora of picks. SSS believes the trade was a win-win for both teams as Brown no longer wanted to play in Baltimore, and Kansas City was in desperate need of help on the offensive line after getting exposed by a very good Tampa pass rush in the Super Bowl. It is a credit to Baltimore for being able to get as much out of the deal as they did since the entire league knew that Brown was disgruntled with the Ravens. SSS isn't sure there was another team who would have given what the Chiefs did and while it is infrequent to see two very good teams from the same conference make a blockbuster deal like this, the Chiefs also didn't have a ton of leverage as having Pat Mahomes doesn't do you a lot of good if you can't keep him upright. In the end, both teams had to give up something substantial to get a new lease on life.*

32. Tampa Bay	Zaven Collins	OLB/DE	Tulsa
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What do you give the team that already has it all? In the span of one year, the Tampa Bay Bucs went from an afterthought to world champions. Simply amazing. The Bucs can enjoy the fruits of their labor by sitting back on Thursday night and watching the picks pass by as the best play for them at #32 is to grab the top defensive player they can. SSS has heard the media say for weeks that the Bucs need to keep Brady happy by giving him more help. Uhhhh, did you watch the Bucs playoff run last year? Stop being a simpleton. Do you know what keeps Brady happy? A defense that made play-after-play-after-play when called upon against the Saints, Packers and Chiefs. Trust us when we tell you Brady will be more than happy to see General Manager Jason Licht select OLB/DE Zaven Collins here. The Bronco Nagurski Award winner can play on the edge or become the heir apparent to Lavonte David. But with his skill set, he will find a way onto the field regardless. Collins is a player who is seeing his stock rise in the final few days leading into the draft and the only real question here is will he even be available to Tampa at #32. If he is, it is an easy decision for Tampa to build, back better and continue to make their defense great again.

THE EXTRA POINT – Has anyone had a better year than GM Jason Licht? I'm not sure what his address is in Tampa but we have a guess he may live on Utopia Street. In the past year, Licht secured the greatest quarterback to walk the earth, one of the game's all-time great tight ends, one of the best receivers of the past 10 years and had a two-round run in the 1st & 2nd Round last year where he added OT Tristan Wirfs and safety Antoine Winfield, both of who played wildly above already high expectations. Throw in 5th Rounder Tyler Johnson who has the look of an up-and-coming receiver and Licht had the most amazing acquisition period of anyone not named Jeff Bezos, Tim Cook, Bill Gates or Mark Zuckerberg. And if things weren't already rosy enough, the whole band is getting back together again for 2022. It belies logic. No Super Bowl winning team has been able to keep so many pieces together. The odds say repeating as Super Bowl champion is stacked against you, but when SSS looks at the Bucs roster all he sees is what Licht has stacked up.