

## **2015 S'FELD SCOUTING SERVICES NFL DRAFT PREVIEW**

### **1. Tampa Bay                      Jameis Winston                      QB                      Florida State**

*There could be a lot of movement from a variety of teams in this year's draft and pick #2 is considerably more likely to have would-be-suitors move into that slot, but there is no doubt that the first overall pick in the draft will be Jameis Winston to the Bucs. Tampa has reportedly conducted extensive interviews with over 75 different people who have had a connection to Winston so their due diligence cannot be questioned. The FSU QB has all the physical tools - that part of his game has never been an issue. Of all the QBs in this draft he is probably the most ready to step in and lead immediately, which is what the Bucs need. At the offensive skill positions, Tampa really isn't a team you would consider being in the position to pick first overall with the talent they have. Winston will get the opportunity to throw to two 1,000-yard receivers in talented veteran Vincent Jackson and second year standout Mike Evans, who is coming off a solid rookie campaign. For all intents and purposes, the Bucs are only a serviceable quarterback away from being closer to .500 than the disastrous 2-14 record they posted in 2014. Even if Winston isn't great, he will at least be serviceable and is the first step toward Tampa being competitive again. The Bucs are desperately seeking a revival at quarterback after placing false confidence in Mike Glennon and missing the mark completely on last year's free agent bust Josh McCown.*

***\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – S'feld Scouting Services (SSS) doesn't envy the Bucs in any way, shape or form for having the #1 overall pick and needing a quality QB. While Winston is the play here and the best QB available, SSS feels this QB crop is very weak and Winston will not become an elite QB in the NFL. It isn't the off-field concerns about Jameis that worry us as much as it is his decision making on the field. It is hard to believe that he was able to put his team into the College Football Playoff with 25 TDs and 18 INTs. 18 INTS! And that was at the college level. Winston likely could have thrown even more than that and he won't find the going any easier facing the likes of NFL defenses. Taking care of the ball is the name of the game for an NFL QB and we feel Winston will be exposed in that regard.*

### **2. Tennessee                      Marcus Mariota                      QB                      Oregon**

*I feel pretty safe in saying that Marcus Mariota will be taken at #2. What I must admit I don't have complete confidence in is exactly what team will be taking him here. Will the Titans stand pat if their trade demands aren't met? Will the Chargers deal them Phillip Rivers for the pick? Will the Jets make the splash their fans are clamoring for? Will the Bears deal for their QB of the future? There are several teams who have shown interest outwardly and others who are keeping their cards close to their vest. That means the easiest prediction to make about pick #2 is that the Titans phone will be lit up from the moment Roger Goodell welcomes everyone to the Auditorium Theatre in Chicago. What they do with this pick will shape the rest of the draft.*

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – Mariota has several detractors who have pointed out that he doesn't have familiarity with taking snaps from under center, that he won't be comfortable making multiple reads or audibles, and that he hasn't even perfected a snap count. While I wouldn't say Mariota is going to be a QB who makes us forget Joe Montana, I also don't think he is going to look like a deer in the headlights either. His strong work ethic, poise and coachability lead me to believe that he is going to do all the little things asked of him to be a good QB. He may be more of a developmental player who needs some seasoning, but in the right system with the right tutelage he has a chance to let his talent shine through.

**\*\*\*TRADE\*\*\* (Jacksonville trades with Atlanta to move down from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>)**

**3. Atlanta                      Dante Fowler                      DE                      Florida**

Jacksonville sits in a very good position at #3 with needs of a wide receiver and defensive end. Dante Fowler is a rare hybrid talent and a coveted edge rusher who can apply pressure from almost anywhere on the field. But the Jags know there is also talent aplenty at wideout and they can slide down 5 spots and still get one of the top tier wide receivers, while stockpiling additional picks from Atlanta. For the Falcons, they still need to address a porous defense and General Manager Thomas Dimitroff knows Fowler can give them the difference-maker they desire. Dimitroff is no stranger to moving into the top 5 to get a player he covets as witnessed by his power play to snag Julio Jones in 2011. This time around he moves into the top 3 to grab a player on the other side of the ball that he hopes can have the same impact that Jones had.

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – The Jags hold the best possible positioning in the first round according to S'feld Services. Jacksonville is in a no-lose spot here as they can completely dictate terms and hold out for the bounty they command by way of a trade. If they don't get the exact value they want they will be able to pick up either Fowler or DE Leonard Williams from the defensive side or WR Amari Cooper to give QB Blake Bortles another weapon on offense. The Jags could literally throw a dart at the names of any of those three players if they decide to hold the pick at #3 and couldn't possibly screw it up.

**4. Oakland                      Leonard Williams                      DE                      USC**

There is a lot of speculation that Oakland is locked and loaded on Alabama wideout Amari Cooper or West Virginia receiver Kevin White. There is also talk that the Raiders will trade the pick and move down to allow another team to slide in to select Leonard Williams. S'feld Services sees it going a different direction as the Raiders hold onto the pick and take quite possibly the best defensive player in the draft in Williams. The Raiders do have a need at wide receiver, but their need may be just as great at defensive end and while there are a lot of good wide receivers in this draft, there is only one Leonard Williams.

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – Prior to last year, the Raiders previous five first round picks were DJ Hayden, Rolando McClain, Darrius Heyward-Bey, Darren McFadden and Jamarcus Russell. So if you were wondering why the Raiders routinely draft so high each year now you know. However, the selection of LB Khalil Mack last year was an exceptional pick and one that should pay dividends for years to come. General Manager Reggie McKenzie should have another player vying for Defensive Rookie of the Year honors with this selection.

**\*\*\*TRADE\*\*\* (Washington trades with St. Louis to move down from 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>)**

| 5. St. Louis | Amari Cooper | WR | Alabama |
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One of the hardest teams to project is the Redskins because new General Manager Scot McCloughan has indicated he would like to accumulate up to 10 picks before it's all said and done. And if the draft falls the way S'feld Services projects in the first four picks, than McCloughan is going to work like mad to trade down because he can't match his needs at outside linebacker with the value remaining. SSS feels that the trading partner will be Jeff Fischer and the Rams who need to address a lackluster wide receiver corps. With Amari Cooper still on the board, the Rams get the best all-around wideout as Cooper is a do-it-all playmaker who is an elite router runner on either side of the formation and also brings 4.4-speed to the Rams as well.

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – The Rams, much like the Jaguars and the Raiders, have a young quarterback who needs more playmaking receivers to help get their game off the ground. While S'feld Services thinks the Jags and Raiders will both pass on receivers early in the hopes they can still grab one in the second or third round, the Rams take the alternative approach of grabbing one now and selecting from the pick of the litter. It is pretty hard to beat that rationale when Amari Cooper is still on the board.

| 6. New York Jets | Kevin White | WR | West Virginia |
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You know what you do when you are unable to get one of the two 1<sup>st</sup> round caliber quarterbacks? You get help for the QB you do have. Kevin White is the guy that can take the top off the defense and with his 4.35 40-time and great size he will create matchup issues in the redzone as well. I know people are saying the Jets wouldn't take a receiver here when they already have Eric Decker and recently obtained Brandon Marshall, but Decker could greatly benefit from White taking pressure off him and allowing him to run free like his Denver days. Plus, Brandon Marshall is coming off an injury plagued season and isn't getting any younger. Most importantly, White, Decker and Marshall could present a reprisal of Lethal Weapon 3 and allow the Jets to find out if Geno Smith can finally flourish with some talent around him and if he is someone who they can move forward with.

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – Todd Gurley has been mentioned as a potential option for the Jets but SSS just thinks he is too much of a risk at #6 overall. I know he has fully recovered from his knee surgery but the Jets can survive with veterans Chris Ivory and Stevan Ridley. Gurley is a high risk pick here while White is not and the Jets can't afford to miss with a pick this high.

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| 7. Chicago | Brandon Scherff | OT | Iowa |
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*I think the Bears would have considered a receiver if either Cooper or White were available here but with the top two pass catchers off the board and Leonard Williams already selected, new head coach John Fox goes in a different direction. Fox is placing a significant focus on reinstituting a run game in Chicago and the best way to do that is to add depth on the line and Scherff will do just that. With the ability to play either tackle or guard, Scherff could add a nasty presence alongside Kyle Long on the right side of the line. Chicago will cast its lot with a receiver in Round 2 hoping to still find value there, but they can't pass up on a chance to strengthen their offensive line to this degree with Scherff staring them in the face.*

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – Now that Marc Trestman has been shown the door and John Fox has taken the reins, it feels as though the Bears are starting to get back to being a professional organization again. The Bears 2014 season was a disaster from the word go. From Trestman allowing Lance Briggs to miss practice to open a restaurant, to offensive coordinator Aaron Kromer calling out Jay Cutler in a supposed off-the-record interview that was made public by the media, it was obvious that Trestman lost the veterans and the team. Fox seems to be on the other side of the spectrum and has not only brought respectability, but one of the best collection of assistant coaches that the Bears have ever seen with DC Vic Fangio and OC Adam Gase at that top of that list.

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| 8. Jacksonville | Todd Gurley | RB | Georgia |
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*When your current running back options are Toby Gerhart, Denard Robinson, Bernard Pierce and Storm Johnson, it's safe to say that running back is a definite need. While Gurley wouldn't have been a pick that Jacksonville could justify at #3, trading down to pick #8 and selecting him is much more feasible. This will give Jacksonville a legit RB and if Gurley can remain healthy, I think he will have a lot to prove.*

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – SSS doesn't believe that Adrian Peterson will get dealt by the Vikings but if he does, Jacksonville would be a team that would make sense. As mentioned above, the Jags have one of the worst running back stables in the NFL and for a team that is always looking for a way to sell tickets, I can't think of a better player to help at the ticket office than AP. The price will probably be too high for Jacksonville as it doesn't seem like the Vikings are going to lessen their demands, and even as good as AP has been, we still recognize that he is a 30-year old running back with his best days likely behind him.

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| 9. New York Giants | Vic Beasley | OLB | Clemson |
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*The Giants could surely use some help on the offensive line but Scherff is off the board with the Bears taking him at #7 and I would consider it a major reach to select the second ranked OT Ereck Flowers at #9. The once vaunted Giant pass rush has been in free fall the past two years and the amazing depth of quality pass rushers New York used to have is now nothing more than a memory. The Giants can help reverse that trend by selecting the freakish Beasley. His stock has continued to climb since he wowed scouts at the combine and while some general managers greatly differ on his ceiling, he fits the mold of a seek-and-destroy player the Giants covet.*

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – *S'feld Services loves Tom Coughlin but the fact of the matter is that this team has an uphill climb facing them. The division is tough enough already with the Cowboys and Eagles, and the defense is having a hard time just trying to remain average. The running back conundrum that has plagued the Giants the past few years will hopefully take a turn in the right direction now that the G-Men have acquired Shane Vereen, but Vereen is a specialist as a pass-catching back and Rashad Jennings and Andre Williams haven't lived up to the hype.*

| 10. Washington | Randy Gregory | OLB | Nebraska |
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*This move pays off huge for the Redskins as they move down 5 slots after dealing with St. Louis and still pick up a player that was tabbed by many as the top pass rusher in the draft. Gregory also benefits from Shane Ray's recent off the field issues, which helps take pressure off his own. Gregory's stock may have slid because of his positive drug test but his talent is undeniable and for NFL personnel men that is the trump card. GM Scot McCloughan is hoping to make a big splash in his return to running an NFL team and by trading down to add picks while still being able to select Gregory, McCloughan is off and running in the nation's capital.*

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – *He has tried just about everything in his tenure as owner of the Redskins, but Dan Snyder may have finally made one good decision that will trickle down to the rest. The hiring of McCloughan as his GM after his somewhat checkered personal past could be a boon for Snyder. McCloughan has a proven track record with successful stints at both San Francisco and Seattle. As long as Snyder can stay out of the way and not let his impatience get the best of him, the Redskins may finally be in a position to have something that has always eluded them - continuity.*

| 11. Minnesota | Trae Waynes | CB | Michigan State |
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*I have heard speculation about the Vikings taking a wide receiver here but I put little to no stock in that possibility. It would take Cooper or White falling to this slot and to be honest, the addition of Mike Wallace probably eliminates a wideout altogether here for Minnesota. Conversely, the position that covers the WR is more than likely the direction Rick Spielman will go by adding the top corner in the draft, Trae Waynes, to play alongside Xavier Rhodes. You can never have enough secondary help in this division and Waynes is fearless. He also possesses good press skills and has sound technique. The Vikings hit the double whammy of filling one of their major needs while also picking up one of the best overall players still on the board at #11.*

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – *While it was Detroit who snuck up on teams and secured a playoff berth last season, that role could easily be replicated by the Vikings in 2015. If AP comes to his senses, ignores the advice of his clown agent Ben Dogra, and suits up for the Purple, the sky could be the limit for the Vikings this season. AP should be fresh from the year off and SSS gets the feeling that Waynes won't be the only impact defensive player the Vikings snag in this year's draft.*

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| <b>12. Cleveland</b> | <b>DeVante Parker</b> | <b>WR</b> | <b>Louisville</b> |
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*Is there a bigger mess in the NFL right now than the Cleveland Browns? They just can't get out of their own way. From Josh Gordon not being able to stay on the field with issue after issue, to Johnny Manziel spending more time in the clubs than at the team facility, to the status of their current receiving corps – the Browns have major issues. Louisville's DeVante Parker will at least give journeyman quarterback Josh McCown a big target and potential deep threat. With Gordon on the shelf again and free agent Dwayne Bowe merely a shell of his former self, the Browns need to address getting a big-play receiver as much as any team in this draft.*

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – *Someone needs to right the ship in Cleveland but the hard part is figuring out who that is going to be. The past 2-to-3 years have proven that they have no long-term plan as they have failed in all aspects of the operation. Even their owner has his hands full with his own legal issues. The Browns have the picks to make a splash in this year's draft and they can ill afford to miss the mark again.*

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| <b>13. New Orleans</b> | <b>Bud Dupree</b> | <b>OLB</b> | <b>Kentucky</b> |
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*Dupree's stock may be climbing as high as anyone's at this point as he has moved from an end of the first round pick, to a mid range first rounder to the #13 overall pick and third LB taken overall. Need size and athleticism? Check. Looking for a guy who has proven himself against elite competition? He's got you covered. Want a selection that can contribute now but will also develop due to a high ceiling? Then Dupree's your guy. The Kentucky standout is versatile and while he still is a bit raw, he should help Rob Ryan reinvent this defense.*

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – *The offseason trade of tight end Jimmy Graham to Seattle confirmed one thing – these aren't your father's Saints anymore. The amazing run the Saints had by stockpiling offensive weapons is over. New Orleans is looking to have a more balanced offensive attack and shore up their defense while being more cap conscious of balancing out the money they will spend on both sides of the ball.*

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| <b>14. Miami</b> | <b>Melvin Gordon</b> | <b>RB</b> | <b>Wisconsin</b> |
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*I would not want to be in Miami's War Room for this pick because it feels like several Dolphin scouts could be pushing hard for their guy as Miami can go in a variety of directions here. If not for his recent marijuana bust I could have seen Missouri OLB Shane Ray going here, but now he is off the table. DT Danny Shelton would be a nice addition to play alongside Ndamukong Suh, or La'el Collins could add much needed quality to a depleted offensive line. The Dolphins could even add WR Breshad Perriman to the recently acquired Kenny Stills and Greg Jennings. However, I think the Dolphins pull a bit of a surprise and select Melvin Gordon to address a major need at RB. I know most people say the Dolphins are targeting Todd Gurley but chances aren't high he will last until pick #14 and I think Miami would be just as happy with Gordon to provide relief to Ryan Tannehill.*

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – I know the recent trend is not to take running backs in the first round, especially within the top 15 picks, but Gordon is a pretty special back, and while Gurley has received much of the media's attention, Gordon doesn't need to play second fiddle to anyone. The Dolphins much like the Giants have tried a variety of combinations at running back hoping to find a solution and have just not found the right fit. For Miami, that all changes with this pick.

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| <b>15. San Francisco</b> | <b>Arik Armstead</b> | <b>DE</b> | <b>Oregon</b> |
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This should be a pretty straight-forward pick but then again nothing the 49ers have done recently is either straight forward or conventional. The power struggle CEO Jed York and GM Trent Baalke had with former coach Jim Harbaugh was ridiculous. I don't know many teams that run off a coach who gets to 3 NFC Championships in 4 years. And the hiring of Jim Tomsula? Head-scratching to say the least. That is why as much as this pick makes sense with a player who will fit the 49ers 3-4 defensive scheme, coupled with the fact that defensive end is a need for San Francisco, there is just no telling what the Niners brass will do next.

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – It really is amazing how quickly success can be fleeting in the NFL. Harbaugh, Kaepernick and the 49er defense as a whole were the talk of the NFL heading into 2014. Now one year later, Harbaugh is at Michigan, Kaepernick was the talk of trade rumors, and the 49ers defense has completely been dismantled through injuries, old age, retirement and losses via free agency.

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| <b>16. Houston</b> | <b>Breshad Perriman</b> | <b>WR</b> | <b>UCF</b> |
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It was pretty obvious that WR Andre Johnson was ready to take his act someplace else, and while he no longer is the player he once was, the Texans will need to replace him and give DeAndre Hopkins a partner in crime. That replacement could come in the form of Breshad Perriman, a field-stretching target who also has good size. Perriman blew scouts away with his sub 4.3 40-time at his pro day and a receiver with that sort of speed is always going to come at a premium.

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – While Houston fans can be excited about adding Perriman, they have to be wondering when the Texans are going to seriously address the quarterback situation. It goes without saying that Brian Hoyer and Ryan Mallett don't instill a lot of confidence, and with those two as the primary options, Houston looks like a team on the outside of the playoffs looking in once again.

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| <b>17. San Diego</b> | <b>Danny Shelton</b> | <b>DT</b> | <b>Washington</b> |
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I have a gut feeling that the Chargers will get an extension worked out with Philip Rivers and won't need to make a move up to #2 to take Mariota. If Charger fans are happy with that news they will be even happier to see Shelton slide all the way down to them at #17. Shelton will solidify a line that has been pushed around at the point of attack and with his tremendous size he will definitely be the focus of opponent's double teams. Shelton at this spot is an absolute steal and the Chargers get top 10 value at #17. S'feld Services feels Shelton is not only a great talent, but will fit in any system and is extremely coachable.

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – San Diego will likely be looking to address running back in the second or third round and while Gurley and Gordon are the top tier, there are several other backs who can make an impact past the first round. With Danny Woodhead, Branden Oliver and Donald Brown as the only options in the Charger backfield, it is hard to believe San Diego could wait past the third round to take a running back.

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| <b>18. Kansas City</b> | <b>Cameron Erving</b> | <b>C</b> | <b>Florida State</b> |
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While wide receiver and cornerback are needs for the Chiefs, SSS believes those needs can be addressed with quality prospects in later rounds. To get a quality center however, the Chiefs would need to address that here at pick #18. Cameron Erving is at the head of the class and after the Chiefs lost Rodney Hudson to the Raiders in the offseason, they can make up for that loss by plugging Erving into Hudson's spot.

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – If you want to know how futile the Chiefs receiving corps was last year consider this – they didn't have one touchdown catch by a wideout all last year. As we mentioned before, Kansas City isn't the only team in dire need of at least one quality receiver. With this deep draft of quality wideouts you can see why receivers may go fast and furious.

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| <b>19. Cleveland (via BUF)</b> | <b>Malcom Brown</b> | <b>DT</b> | <b>Texas</b> |
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The Browns were able to address a major need at #13 with a wide receiver and now they come back and add stability with Malcom Brown. Phil Taylor and Randy Starks are solid contributors to the Browns defensive line, but Starks is 31 and Taylor is in the last year of his contract. That means Brown has a chance to blend in as a rookie before likely becoming a featured player in 2016. Brown is a force upfront, who can stop the run from either the 1 gap or 2 gap, giving head coach Mike Pettine even more versatility with his defensive front.

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – As hard as S'feld Services has been on the Browns brain trust we will say this – defensively they have a lot going for them and adding Brown will allow them to continue to be one of the league's better defenses. A solid front can cover a lot of deficiencies and makes the backend of the defense even better. Cleveland is smart enough to realize you can never have enough depth on the defensive line.

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| <b>20. Philadelphia</b> | <b>Landon Collins</b> | <b>S</b> | <b>Alabama</b> |
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I don't know if Landon Collins is going to make people forget about Brian Dawkins but he seems like a pretty good value here considering the Eagles need to find a strong safety to play opposite free safety Malcom Jenkins. The Eagles could also be looking at a corner to provide depth behind their two free agent pickups Byron Maxwell and Walter Thurmond, but finding quality safeties is getting to be one of the hardest things to achieve in the NFL. That said, Collins looks like a pretty safe bet, especially considering he is a disciplined player who can bring the wood.

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – Has there ever been a team who has received more media attention about a potential trade for a player than the Eagles and Mariota? Head coach Chip Kelly is definitely doing things his way in Philly as witnessed by the wheeling and dealing he has done of RB LeSean McCoy and QB Nick Foles. However, for Kelly to be able to get the Eagles in a position to take Mariota seems very unlikely considering the high cost it would take to move into that position.

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| <b>21. Cincinnati</b> | <b>Shane Ray</b> | <b>DE/OLB</b> | <b>Missouri</b> |
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S'feld Services went back and forth on this one for quite some time before finally pulling the trigger on sending Shane Ray to Cincy. "S'feld, do you realize this guy was cited on Monday for possession of marijuana?" Yes I do. "S'feld, do you remember the history the Bengals have with players like this?" Yes, I do. But I also know that the Bengals, a once proud defense, desperately need to find someone to get to the quarterback, and to say that Ray is a value pick at #21 is a gross understatement. Marvin Lewis is a coach that needs to get the Bengals past losing in the first round of the playoffs each year and Ray is the sort of player who was projected in the top 10 potentially before his drug charge. Ray also has wisely addressed the situation immediately, saying he made a mistake. I think the Bengals realize that the risk of taking a player with off the field issues like Ray is worth the potential ROI they could get from a player of his caliber. The other thing to note is one of the Bengals rivals, the Steelers, may be waiting to snag Ray for themselves if the Bengals don't take him here. You don't want the double whammy of losing a guy, and on top of that, losing him to your sworn enemy.

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – Is there any other city where Marvin Lewis would still be the coach after his current track record? We don't know if he has incriminating pictures on the Bengals brass but it is time for the Bengals to make a move in the playoffs with the talent they have. And to us it doesn't matter if you think Andy Dalton is a star QB or not. The Bengals made the commitment to him so to use the excuse that he is the reason they can't get over the top doesn't hold weight with us. The Bengals shouldn't have made him the face of their team if they weren't certain he could deliver the mail for them.

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| <b>22. Pittsburgh</b> | <b>Kevin Johnson</b> | <b>CB</b> | <b>Wake Forest</b> |
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The Steelers have a couple different corners they could take here among Johnson, Marcus Peters, Byron Jones or Jalen Collins, but we will lean on Johnson. The Steelers pride themselves on being an aggressive, physical, run-stuffing team and Johnson, while only 6' 1" and 189 pounds, is a ready-for-all-comers, bring your lunch pail to work sort of player who plays above his size. The Steelers love players that fit their mold and Johnson certainly does that. His athleticism and ability to play man-to-man make him a high probability choice for Pittsburgh at #22.

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – We are now entering the portion of the draft where offensive tackles and cornerbacks offer the most value in terms of what is left for positional options. With the three cornerbacks I mentioned above still remaining, along with four-to-six possible first-round tackles still remaining in LSU's La'el Collins, Stanford's Andrus Peat, Miami's Ereck Flowers, Florida's DJ Humphries, Oregon's Jake Fisher and Texas A&M's Cedric Ogbuehi, the run on these two positions could easily start now.

| 23. Detroit | La'el Collins | OT | LSU |
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La'el Collins won't be at the NFL Draft because he is reportedly returning to Louisiana to answer questions about the murder of a past girlfriend. All indications are that he will have no problems clearing his name. That being said it is always hard to project how these off the field issues (which have become a common thread among many of the picks in this year's draft) will affect a team's thinking. Does Detroit pass on Collins here and pick DJ Humphries instead, even though Collins gives them more flexibility with the ability to play tackle or guard? It's hard to say but the Lions loved Collins on his visit and we think they will be working the phones to make sure Collins has no involvement in this murder in order to turn in his name to the commissioner on draft night.

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – In the new pay scale economics associated with 1st round draft picks we have seen that teams are much more willing to trade now than they were previously. Prior to the change in rookie salary structuring, being pot-committed to a player who may be a bust was crippling to a franchise. The frequent trades made in today's draft age can throw projections completely out of whack, but so too have the off the field issues of so many players referenced above. After the year the NFL just endured with Ray Rice, Greg Hardy, Aaron Hernandez and others, a team's game plan can and will completely change with the drug and domestic issue ramifications that have occurred recently. Selecting a player you know will be available and not suspended is becoming a considerably bigger factor in today's selections.

| 24. Arizona | Byron Jones | CB | Connecticut |
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Versatility is one of the reasons Jones lands in Arizona's lap at pick #24. He can play corner or safety and has a high football IQ that will make a pairing with Patrick Peterson something very special. Arizona would have liked for a tailback to fall to them here. If by chance Melvin Gordon were to slide, he might not fall past this pick, but Jones is no slouch and the lack of a quality linebacker option here makes it the safe choice.

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – When S'feld Services looks at what head coach Bruce Arians has done with this team the past two years, we are completely amazed. In a tough division that includes Seattle and San Francisco, the Cardinals have won double digit games in Arians' first two years. This has been achieved with a lackluster quarterback and less than stellar running game. That tells us that Arians can X-and-O with the best of them and with space cadet Jim Tomsula taking over in San Francisco, Arians ability to stay in the top half of the division should be secure for years to come.

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| 25. Carolina | Ereck Flowers | OT | Miami (FL) |
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*I am not sure that Flowers is the best available OT left on the board, but he projects as the best at right tackle. With the addition of Michael Oher to play left tackle I think the Panthers believe Oher will stick for awhile and so they will target the best option on the right side. There are a couple options at receiver that could tempt the Panthers, but I doubt they would be able to hit on a wide receiver in the first round like they did on Kelvin Benjamin last year. Plus, the receivers remaining are good, but not Kelvin Benjamin good.*

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – *Carolina has a couple band aids signed to play offensive tackle with veterans Oher and Jonathan Martin, but these two guys are not the sort of bookends you want protecting your franchise QB. Oher has been a good player before but those days are over, and Martin is known more for what he has done off the field than what he ever accomplished on it.*

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| 26. Baltimore | Marcus Peters | CB | Washington |
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*SSS really doesn't see any other way the Ravens can go except corner or wide receiver, but we think the receivers you can bank on for sure may be gone. Conversely, CB Marcus Peters oozes talent but wait for it....wait for it....he has off-the-field issues. He had a run in with his position coach at Washington and was kicked off the team. That raises the red flag, but does it raise it enough for a team like Baltimore who A.) needs to fill the corner position badly, and B.) feels like they can handle any personality type known to man. SSS believes the Ravens feel they can handle Peters and they will take him because of their confidence in restoring this reclamation project.*

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – *I have to imagine that Baltimore couldn't be more excited about putting 2014 behind them and starting anew with this year's draft. A proud franchise was neutered last season and although they aren't selecting a model citizen with their first pick this year, anything is better than last year's complete dumpster fire.*

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| 27. Dallas | Eddie Goldman | DT | Florida State |
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*There may not be a more under the radar first round pick than Eddie Goldman. Because it isn't the deepest crop of defensive linemen, Goldman hasn't received a lot of recognition and many consider him a borderline first round pick as is. But S'feld Services likes this pick and likes the fact that Dallas realizes that addressing their defensive front is the best way to reload this defense that definitely has multiple needs.*

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – *The Cowboys 2014 season was one of its most memorable in years and they were a controversial call away from continuing their journey to an NFC Championship. But much like a basketball game of horse – the NFL is going to ask the Cowboys to prove it. Can the Cowboys build off last season or will the drama that typically unfolds under this regime and Jerry Jones mirror that of the 80's soap opera with Larry Hagman and Patrick Duffy that bears the same name.*

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| <b>28. Denver</b> | <b>DJ Humphries</b> | <b>OT</b> | <b>Florida</b> |
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*This is a draft pick where a team's system gels with the strengths that a player possesses. Humphries should be more effective in Denver's zone blocking scheme than he would be elsewhere. Additionally, when your window of opportunity for a player such as Peyton Manning is pretty much down to all-or-nothing this year, it makes sense that the Broncos would provide him with some protection in the likes of Humphries. I also wouldn't be shocked if the Broncos gave new defensive coordinator Wade Phillips some reinforcements on defense as well, and a strong space-eater like Oklahoma's Jordan Phillips wouldn't surprise me here one bit.*

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – As much as the Broncos are trying to put up a good front that Peyton is back to take one final run for a ring, is anyone buying it? Manning looked like a shell of himself at the end of the year and while S'feld Services realizes the same was being said of Tom Brady after a few games last year when he looked terrible, it just doesn't feel like Peyton carries that aura or swagger that made him so dangerous. Much like Mike Tyson after losing to Buster Douglas, Peyton seems very human these days.

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| <b>29. Indianapolis</b> | <b>Damarious Randall</b> | <b>FS</b> | <b>Arizona State</b> |
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*There are several general managers who rank Randall as the best overall safety in the draft. While Landon Collins continues to get most of the media's focus, Randall could be the secondary player who is the most ready for primetime. Randall is a player who looks to inflict punishment on the field and doesn't back down from anyone. He has the #1 characteristic that teams are looking for from their safeties and that is he has a nose for the ball with good instincts.*

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – Indianapolis could probably address their offensive tackle situation here. However, they may be able to land one in the next round while a player of Randall's caliber won't be available at safety the next time Indy is on the clock. This defense needs help on the backend and Randall could be the best thing that has happened to the Colts secondary since the days of Bob Sanders.

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| <b>30. Green Bay</b> | <b>Jalen Collins</b> | <b>CB</b> | <b>LSU</b> |
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*The Packers have long been a team that has tried to stockpile depth in the secondary. This dates back to the 1999 draft when they took Antuan Edwards in the first round and Fred Vinson in the second round in an effort to better defense Randy Moss and the Vikings vaunted pass offense. The Packers realize they are depleted with the loss of Tramon Williams and Davon House in free agency. However, Collins teamed up with veteran Sam Shields would help to get the Packers one step closer to whole again. Inside linebacker is another position that the Pack will have to address in the early rounds, but Collins works out well for Green Bay at #30.*

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – While the Packers had a couple losses via free agency, they did well to keep WR Randall Cobb and OT Bryan Bulaga in green and yellow. It doesn't look like the Packers offense will miss a beat heading into the 2015 season. With more needs on the defensive side of the ball, there is a good chance General Manager Ted Thompson will tip the scales to add defensive depth over the three days of this year's draft.

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| <b>31. New Orleans (via SEA)</b> | <b>Devin Smith</b> | <b>WR</b> | <b>Ohio State</b> |
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The Saints need to find a complement to Brandin Cooks and Devin Smith seems to be moving up draft boards the closer we get to Thursday night. Head coach Sean Payton has said that he is a big fan of Miami receiver Phillip Dorsett, but S'feld Services senses a smokescreen as Dorsett is small and similar in size to Cooks. Smith made quite an impression during his two games in the College Football Playoff, especially during Ohio State's victory over Alabama in the Sugar Bowl. He will get a chance to make even more big plays in that same venue after being selected by the Saints.

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** – The one thing you can count on with the Saints is that much like Packer QB Aaron Rodgers, as long as Drew Brees is under center, the wide receivers will get a chance to realize their full potential. I would imagine most receivers in this draft would love to hear their name called by the New Orleans Saints.

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| <b>32. New England</b> | <b>Laken Tomlinson</b> | <b>OG</b> | <b>Duke</b> |
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The Patriots have grown accustomed to having the last pick in the draft under Bill Belichick and the one luxury of being in this slot is most often you can take the best player available instead of drafting for need. However, this is the instance where I think that the Pats actually try to fill their biggest hole at guard. OG Dan Connolly is a free agent and OG Ryan Wendell is in a contract year. The Pats would be able to get one of the best guards in the draft and a player who could step right in and contribute. Tomlinson has very good size and it's not as though Tom Brady is getting any younger so protecting their marquee asset is a likely choice for New England.

**\*THE EXTRA POINT\*** The one thing that you know for sure when it comes to the Patriots is that if any of the players that have had off field issues slips to this spot like a Shane Ray, La'el Collins, etc., the Pats won't hesitate for a New York minute to select them. Belichick has no fear when it comes to taking on players with checkered pasts and some will argue it is one of the factors that has kept his teams near the top. No team has benefitted from controversial players or turned one team's trash into their treasure like New England.