

2010 S'FELD SCOUTING SERVICES NFL DRAFT PREVIEW

1. St. Louis Sam Bradford QB Oklahoma

Has a team ever looked more uncomfortable at the No. 1 overall pick than the St. Louis Rams? It is as if they are trying to sell themselves on Bradford. While I have heard the knock of how you can't invest big money at this spot on defensive linemen like Ndamukong Suh and Gerald McCoy, the fact of the matter is that Bradford is far from a sure thing in this spot. Bradford's ceiling according to S'feld Scouting Services (SSS) is that he would be an average quarterback at best while Suh's floor is that he will be above average at worst. SSS was at the Red River Shootout last year when Bradford's collegiate career came to an end and while I would like to tell you that he is going to follow in the mold of Drew Brees and overcome injury and have a prolonged career, I don't see it. For as good as this draft class is, this is a weak first overall selection and one I believe the Rams will ultimately regret.

****THE EXTRA POINT*** – St. Louis would like to trade out of this pick, save itself \$30-40 million and get Jimmy Clausen, but I don't see it happening as they can't get the "chart value" from other teams for the first overall pick.*

2. Detroit Ndamukong Suh DT Nebraska

I hear a lot of the experts say they wouldn't be surprised if Detroit found a way to screw this pick up, but seriously, let's give Detroit a little credit. This isn't the Matt Millen Era anymore and a defensive coach such as Jim Schwartz is salivating over the thought of getting Suh here. You build a defense from the inside out, and with Suh being the highest-rated overall player in the draft according to SSS, this may be the start of Detroit's return to respectability. Alabama's Mark Ingram won the Heisman last year, but Suh was college football's biggest game changer. He will make an immediate impact on Detroit's defense. Detroit still has a need at OT to protect Stafford, but none of the OTs in this draft can give the Lions the return on investment they can expect with Suh.

****THE EXTRA POINT*** – Another reason to fade the notion of an OT for the Lions here is that with the second pick of the second round they could easily find themselves selecting OTs Rodger Saffold of Indiana or Bruce Campbell of Maryland who both could be classified as first-round talent available in the second round.*

3. Tampa Bay Gerald McCoy DT Oklahoma

The Bucs are in a perfect spot here as they will get either Suh or McCoy. With Suh heading to Detroit, McCoy is the pick and will be a tremendous fit in the 3-technique in the Tampa scheme. McCoy may be the second coming of another Tampa great – Warren Sapp.

****THE EXTRA POINT*** – This one should be an absolute no-brainer as Tampa kills two birds with one stone, getting both the best player available and their biggest need in the same selection.*

4. Washington Trent Williams OT Oklahoma

We have reached the tipping point selection of the 2010 NFL Draft. The team that can create the most waves and change the entire complexion of the draft is Washington. No team outside of Miami has been rumored to be involved in more trade opportunities or viewed as a bigger wild card than Washington. While others speculate that Oklahoma State OT Russell Okung will be the pick here, I see Mike Shanahan selecting Trent Williams of Oklahoma instead. Williams is more athletic and better suited to the zone-blocking scheme Washington will employ under Shanahan and Williams is the most versatile tackle available. He can play any position on the line as witnessed by his playing center in OU's Sun Bowl victory over Stanford last season. His footwork is superior to Okung and his biggest weakness is improving his strength – something that can easily be remedied. There is no point bringing in Donovan McNabb if you aren't willing to give him time to do his thing. Williams will provide McNabb that opportunity while serving as an asset in the run game as well.

****THE EXTRA POINT*** – Shanahan has shown the ability to think and draft outside the box. With most services ranking Okung as the top OT, this draft will confirm that Shanahan marches to the beat of his own drum.*

5. Kansas City Russell Okung OT Oklahoma State

The Chiefs are ecstatic to find Okung at the 5-spot. Unlike Washington they favor Okung over Williams and while safety Eric Berry may be tempting, protecting Matt Cassel's backside is the top priority.

****THE EXTRA POINT*** – Iowa OT Bryan Bulaga has been rumored here by multiple outlets because GM Scott Pioli is so close with Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz and has received approval from Ferentz on Bulaga, but even if Okung is not available at #5, Pioli would bypass Bulaga for Eric Berry.*

6. Seattle C.J. Spiller RB Clemson

A lot of different directions that Seattle could go here. Their top three needs are OT, RB and S so they have to speculate how to get the most bang for their buck as they have another first-round pick with the #14 selection. The dropoff at safety and running back is swift after the top selection at either position, but Pete Carroll needs a home-run hitter on offense to bring some juice to his offense and Spiller is just that guy. While taking Spiller means he will lose out on safety Eric Berry, he will still have an opportunity to pick up a quality safety such as Earl Thomas at #14 or one of the other OTs, which is a better move than going with Berry here and then being forced to take one of the OTs as no other running back is worthy of a top-15 pick.

****THE EXTRA POINT*** – Pete Carroll knows that having two serviceable running backs is imperative to having success in the NFL and this move gets him off on the right foot.*

7. Cleveland Eric Berry S Tennessee

Teams are filling their needs nicely with quality selections and that trend continues at #7. Cleveland's biggest need is safety and they get SSS second-best overall player in Eric Berry. Berry should provide to Cleveland what Troy Polamalu has to Pittsburgh for years to come.

****THE EXTRA POINT*** – Cleveland will get plenty of calls to try to trade out of this pick but will make a wise move by staying put.*

8. Oakland Jimmy Clausen QB Notre Dame

While OT is a top need for Oaktown, do you really think that Al Davis would select another Iowa tackle after enduring the Robert Gallery experience? Highly unlikely. I am not going to lie to you folks - no one outside of Al Davis knows exactly what the Raiders will do here. To be honest, I am not sure at this point that even Al knows what he will do here. I do know that Oakland likes to do whatever is opposite of what the experts think and since most people think they should select an OT, I say they will try to beat other teams to the punch of selecting Jimmy Clausen by taking him for themselves.

****THE EXTRA POINT*** – If this pick comes to fruition I will be charging double for the S'feld Scouting Services Draft Preview next season.*

9. Buffalo Bryan Bulaga OT Iowa

While Buffalo needs to address the nose tackle position, they will only take a NT if Okung, T. Williams and Bulaga are off the board. Fortunately they get one of the "Big 3" and select Bulaga. While the knock on Bulaga is that he is short-armed and did not perform as well in 2009 for Iowa as he did in 2008, he did miss games last season due to a thyroid condition and came back to finish the season despite not being at full strength. With that behind him, I foresee Bulaga providing Buffalo with the dominance he displayed when he was healthy and coming from Kirk Ferentz's system won't hurt either.

****THE EXTRA POINT*** – Buffalo is rumored to be interested in Jimmy Clausen so if Oakland doesn't go that route, and if no one trades ahead of the Bills to take the Notre Dame QB, this pick will get even more interesting.*

10. Jacksonville Jason Pierre-Paul DE South Florida

The Jags want to be at the 10th pick about as bad as Bill Buckner wants to be back at Shea. They will do whatever they can to trade out of the 10th pick even if they don't get "chart value" for the selection. The Jags have lots of issues and they need depth more than they need the 10th pick. With Spiller and Berry gone and Earl Thomas being a bit of a reach at the 10th pick, the Jags will take the best possible athlete if forced to make this selection and that is JPP. While they did sign Aaron Kampman this offseason, you can't have enough good players on the defensive line and there is no guarantee that Kampman will hold up.

THE EXTRA POINT – Unfortunately for the Jags, I am not sure Pierre-Paul is the type of player who will help move tickets for the struggling franchise.

11. Denver Rolando McClain ILB Alabama

Hey S'feld!!! What about Dez Bryant? They don't have Brandon Marshall anymore!!! Who is Orton going to throw to?!? I know. I know. Dez is available here and it makes perfect sense. Much like gambling, if it looks too good to be true, it probably is. Denver just got rid of a wideout with attitude problems so now you think they will draft one? McDaniels knows he needs to keep points off the board more than put points on the board and McClain is one of the most underrated players in the draft. Denver couldn't stop anybody's run game last year and McClain will help correct that issue. If Nick Saban says this guy is the real deal, than what more can I say? Other than this pick won't be Dez Bryant.

THE EXTRA POINT –McD definitely needs to put together a solid draft because he is already treading on thin water with the way the Broncos came unglued at the end of the 2009 season.

12. Miami Dan Williams NT Tennessee

The Dolphins could use a little help on every level of the defense but the best of the remaining players is Dan Williams and again, Parcels knows as well as anyone that building from the inside out is the best strategy. While Earl Thomas would help as well, Williams will do major damage in the Dolphins' 3-4 scheme. Sergio Kindle has also been mentioned at this spot, but I think he is undersized for what Parcels likes and what the Dolphins may need.

THE EXTRA POINT –It wouldn't surprise me one bit if the Dolphins were active in the first round and found a way to wheel and deal. This isn't Parcels' first rodeo and with all the excitement he has brought to Miami with the Brandon Marshall deal, why stop now?

13. San Francisco Anthony Davis OT Rutgers

The Niners will have two picks in the next five selections and since they need a corner and an OT they must choose wisely as Tennessee at pick 16 needs a corner and Seattle after taking Spiller will be looking for an OT with the very next pick. With a weak crop of QBs, San Fran needs to get a monster like Davis to block the blindside and hope that Florida corner Joe Haden falls to them with their second pick at #17.

THE EXTRA POINT –If Seattle were to take an OT with their first pick at #6, then it would behoove the 49ers to take Haden here as the teams selecting between 14 and 16 would not need an OT and Davis would likely fall to them at pick 17.

14. Seattle Earl Thomas S Texas

Pete Carroll passes out high fives around his draft war room like he used to pass out cash to his players at USC after landing Spiller at #6 and Thomas at #14. His game plan works to perfection and he gets tremendous firepower and value within the first 15 picks.

****THE EXTRA POINT*** –SSS ranks Berry, Thomas and Taylor Mays as the elite safeties in this draft so for those teams hoping to land a top-flight safety, there is only one remaining.*

15. N.Y. Giants Derrick Morgan DE Georgia Tech

As tenuous as the relationship has been between Tom Coughlin and Osi Umenyiora, this pick should come as a surprise to absolutely no one. The Giants have always been at their best when they have an active, aggressive pass rush. All of their Super Bowl teams possessed this trait and with Strahan long gone and Umenyiora underperforming, Morgan will be brought in to resuscitate this unit and return the defensive line to a source of strength.

****THE EXTRA POINT*** –Rolando McClain is a viable option if he falls here and what we do know is that this pick will be a defensive one in some way, shape or form.*

16. Tennessee Brandon Graham DE-OLB Michigan

I am pretty confident that the Titans will use every minute of their allotted time to make this selection. With the top corner of the draft available (Joe Haden) and the top wideout (Dez Bryant), it will be tempting to avoid the bigger need of defensive line for the glamour of Haden or Bryant. But as badly as the Titans defense fell off last year, Graham makes the most sense and is a nice fit for what the Titans like to do on defense with undersized DEs.

****THE EXTRA POINT*** –You have to think at this point the Titans will be fielding calls for those wanting to trade up to get Bryant and if they think they can trade this pick to a team drafting relatively close behind them and still get Graham they will pull the trigger in a New York minute.*

17. San Francisco Joe Haden CB Florida

Just like Seattle before them, it's Jackpot Junction for San Fran as they double down and beat the dealer by selecting Davis at #13 and Haden here at #17. The best corner in the draft heads west and the 49ers will now see if after filling their top two needs at OT and CB, they can fill their third biggest need with the 49th overall pick in the second round by landing a safety.

****THE EXTRA POINT*** –If these selections come to fruition, the 49ers could be a year away from seriously contending for the postseason with quality young talent.*

18. Pittsburgh Maurkice Pouncey C/G Florida

Regardless of who lines up at QB for the Steelers this year, they need to address their protection issues and Pouncey edges out Idaho guard Mike Lupati for that honor. Pouncey's stock is said to be on the rise so Pittsburgh might not be fortunate enough to get him here. Dez Bryant may also be a split second thought to replace the once-revered Santonio Holmes, but with Bryant's off the field issues, I don't see that flying considering the Steelers current dilemma concerning Big Ben.

THE EXTRA POINT –With the Steelers actively trying to deal Roethlisberger for a top-10 pick, this selection could be their second of the night if they can find a way to deal the two-time Super Bowl champ to the destination SSS feels is the most likely destination – Oakland.

19. Atlanta Jerry Hughes DE TCU

I have seen Jerry Hughes as high as 12th and as low as the second round. Well I guess I am meeting in the middle with Atlanta at #19. Yes he is undersized, but has anyone seen Dwight Freeney or Elvis Dumervil play? Hughes is one of those players that you simply watch game tape of and fall in love with. He can do it all and while he will probably not be one of the sexiest picks of the first round, just remember, the first horse out the gate, don't always win the race.

THE EXTRA POINT –Texas DE/OLB Sergio Kindle is also an option here but Kindle, unlike Hughes, is better suited for a 3-4 scheme.

*****TRADE*** (Baltimore trades with Houston to move up to 20th from 25th)*****

20. Baltimore Dez Bryant WR Oklahoma State

A player like Dez Bryant isn't going to fall forever, and Baltimore decides to go hard or go home selecting Bryant after acquiring Anquan Bolden in the offseason. Joe Flacco now has some serious weapons to his outside to compliment the Ravens solid run game. With vultures like Cincy and New England waiting for an opportunity to gobble up Bryant, the Ravens cut in line and significantly upgrade their offense since their playoff departure from last season. Plus, Boldin has a tendency to get hurt due to his reckless style and disregard for his own body and Bryant becomes a great fall back should Boldin give out.

THE EXTRA POINT –This is the sort of move that could put the Ravens in a position for a deep playoff push.

21. Cincinnati Jermaine Gresham TE Oklahoma

Some have speculated that the Bengals would trade up to get Dez Bryant, however they already have a Bryant – Antonio Bryant, who they acquired in the offseason and who should have something to prove in 2010. What they don't have is a playmaking tight end. Well you can now cross that off the list as the Bengals give Carson Palmer another weapon in Gresham. Gresham likely could have gone higher had injuries not hampered him last year and now Palmer will have that outlet that he has been missing in recent years.

THE EXTRA POINT –While TEs don't typically get a lot of hype during the draft, a player of Gresham's quality could be the missing piece to a Bengals offense that has been inconsistent.

22. New England Sergio Kindle OLB Texas

The Patriots have three second-round picks so they could go in a variety of different directions here but Kindle is the kind of player that can fill several voids and is a fit for the Pats' system. Penn State's Jared Odrick could also be in play for New England here.

THE EXTRA POINT –This is an example of a player who gets drafted by the right team in order for him to excel.

23. Green Bay Mike Iupati G Idaho

Anyone who watched Packer football last year saw Aaron Rodgers spend an awful lot of time on his back. With the top OTs off the market, Green Bay decides to grab the best guard available and a good one in Iupati. He has the potential to eventually play right tackle, but he can have an immediate impact at guard.

THE EXTRA POINT –The best thing going for the Packers is Rodgers. It is always good to protect your investment.

24. Philadelphia Kyle Wilson CB Boise State

Philly could easily trade up with their extra picks to get the player they covet the most – Earl Thomas, but if they stay here they can go in any number of directions from OT to CB to safety. While projections have USC OT Charles Brown going to Philly, I don't buy it. Plus, now that Sheldon Brown is a former Eagle, Philly would be wise to address defensive back here and try to fill the other positions in the second round. That is why I believe Kyle Wilson is the call.

*****TRADE*** (Houston trades with Baltimore to move down from 20th to 25th)*****

25. Houston Kareem Jackson CB Alabama

Houston sees an opportunity to stockpile picks and still get their targeted player. Cornerbacks are at a premium in the pass-happy division where the Texans reside and the pick should come down to whether they prefer Boise's Kyle Wilson or Bama corner Kareem Jackson. We lean on Jackson as he has better size and played and excelled against better competition.

THE EXTRA POINT –Houston would likely receive a 3rd or 4th round selection from Baltimore to move down and will target a running back with their 2nd-round pick and a defensive tackle and safety with their two 3rd-round selections.

26. Arizona Sean Weatherspoon OLB Missouri

The need to fill the loss of LB Karlos Dansby overtakes the want of grabbing Georgia Tech WR Demaryius Thomas. Weatherspoon can play both inside and outside and that versatility gives him extra value. Weatherspoon won't make people forget Dansby, but the kid does bring his lunch pail to work every day and plays like his hair is on fire.

****THE EXTRA POINT*** –The Cards belief that Steve Breaston and Early Doucet can fill the void left by Anquan Boldin at WR will allow them to reload defensively early in the draft.*

27. Dallas Charles Brown OT USC

He isn't among the elite OTs in this year's draft but he is likely the best of the rest. The Cowboys may ponder Taylor Mays as they have a serious need at safety, but they need a safety that has coverage skills and Mays' strength is playing the run. Jerry Jones likes big tackles and while Brown doesn't fit the bill in that regard, he has exceptional feet and should fill out over time.

****THE EXTRA POINT*** –Jerry Jones could be playing possum and baiting people into thinking Mays is his guy so that he can try to scoop up South Florida safety Nate Allen in the second round as many feel he is a better all-around player than Mays.*

28. San Diego Ryan Mathews RB Fresno State

If ever the 28th pick of the draft was going to be easy to predict, this may be it. After losing LaDainian Tomlinson to the Jets, the Chargers need to add another tailback to their arsenal and Mathews seems like the best bet. The Chargers should have some familiarity with him since he is right in their backyard. No other need for the Chargers even comes close to their need of a running back but unfortunately for S.D., this is one of the weakest running back crops in recent history.

****THE EXTRA POINT*** –It is hard to imagine that Ryan Mathews is going to jumpstart a once-proud Charger running attack that is now running on empty.*

29. New York Jets Jared Odrick DT Penn State

The Jets war room will debate Odrick and USC DE Everson Griffen, but I think Rex Ryan will take Odrick to help an aging defensive line and because Odrick is a tough S.O.B. who will be a perfect fit as a five technique in the 3-4 defense the Jets employ.

****THE EXTRA POINT*** –Consummate people pleaser and entertainer Rex Ryan may take whoever the Jets fans want at the 29th pick since he rebuilt his team during offseason free agency as if he is playing fantasy football in 2010.*

30. Minnesota Devin McCourty CB Rutgers

The Vikings have put together some solid drafts of late and while they could draft for the future, I believe they will draft with a win-now philosophy. That being said I like them to grab the best cornerback available. With Antoine Winfield starting to show his age, McCourty will provide a youth infusion and is also a solid special teams performer as witnessed by his seven blocked punts. McCourty is as good as they come against the run, is a good tackler, and has the rare combination of being aggressive in pass defense while still playing smart.

THE EXTRA POINT –*While Childress visited Percy Harvin last year prior to the draft and followed up by selecting him, SSS believes Chili’s pre-draft visit with Tim Tebow was just that - a visit.*

31. Indianapolis Rodger Saffold OT Indiana

Indy is used to drafting this late in the first round and hoping that a gem may fall through the cracks. I don’t think I would call Saffold a gem, but he is serviceable at pick #31. If the Colts want to go the defensive route, Cal DT Tyson Alualu could be the call.

THE EXTRA POINT –*If Tony Dungy was still coaching Indy, SSS would have put all our eggs into the Tim Tebow basket here.*

32. New Orleans Daryl Washington OLB TCU

The Saints are high on Washington and unlike most teams, we actually buy that they like this guy. Is there really a need for a smokescreen when you are the Super Bowl champs? We don’t think so. Washington has unrivaled athleticism and actually would be a pretty solid selection at this stage of the draft.

THE EXTRA POINT –*Outside of potentially grabbing a quarterback in this draft, look for the Saints to fill plenty of defensive needs with Washington only scratching the surfaces of their defensive youth movement.*