

2009 S'FELD SCOUTING SERVICES MOCK NFL DRAFT

1. Detroit Matthew Stafford QB Georgia

This is the right move for Detroit. While they debated going with Curry and while they will have to pay Stafford a boatload of money despite the fact he hasn't played a down for them, the Lions can't pass up the opportunity to take a franchise quarterback. This is the most coveted position in any GM's book and the Lions are hoping they got a guy who will do for them what Peyton Manning did for Indy.

2. St. Louis Jason Smith OT Baylor

With Orlando Pace gone to Chicago, who will be the next lineman to fill his shoes? Jason Smith gets the nod over Eugene Moore. Other pundits are saying it is a coin flip between the two OTs and while both are good, Smith adds the mean streak and tenacity that Moore just doesn't quite have. That nasty streak at left tackle may just give the Rams what every team would envy – a standout OT following in the footsteps of another standout OT.

3. Kansas City Aaron Curry LB Wake Forest

Every year there is a slot that can change the whole complexion of the draft. Well you have reached just that slot. I believe this pick could ultimately be traded to Washington. If it isn't, the Chiefs face the dilemma of taking the best defensive player and potentially the best overall player in the draft (Aaron Curry) or taking the highest need – a five-technique rush end who can thrive in the 3-4 (Tyson Jackson). S'feld Scouting Services (SSS) believes Curry is too good to pass up as he will thrive regardless of the defensive game plan.

4. Seattle Michael Crabtree WR Texas Tech

The Hawks are praying that KC trades out of the 3rd pick or takes Tyson Jackson. Why? Because the #1 guy on their draft list is Aaron Curry. Unfortunately SSS believes KC will take Curry leaving Seattle in quite the predicament. We are going with a bit of a different approach than the Mark Sanchez talk that everyone seems to be associating with Seattle and this pick. Hasselbeck can still be a productive QB if he stays upright and Walter Jones has about two good years remaining at left tackle. The window for the Seahawks is closing and Mark Sanchez doesn't fit into short term plans. But do you know who does? Michael Crabtree. Crab could move the Hawks receiving corps back among the game's elite in one offseason and put playoff hope back in the Emerald City.

5. Cleveland BJ Raji DT Boston College

This is another team that is hoping beyond hope that Aaron Curry falls to them. Those chances are remote, but Coach Mangini shouldn't be too disappointed to get a space-eater like BJ Raji instead. You have to believe this Bill Belichick disciple will follow in his mentor's philosophy of drafting defense and solidify his 3-4 scheme with this stout DT.

6. Cincinnati Eugene Monroe OT Virginia

I know that the word on the street is that Andre Smith of Alabama will be the pick here, but there is no way that Cincy will take a guy that has had as many off the field issues as Smith has had. Smith has a higher ceiling than Monroe, but he also has a greater chance of being a flop if he doesn't put his life in order. Monroe has a bit more height and can set an anchor at left tackle. Cincy can't be disappointed with the value they get here.

7. Oakland Jeremy Maclin WR Missouri

In the NFL you have to protect your investment. JaMarcus Russell needs more weapons to help him in his progression as a QB. As much as I would like to see the Raiders take Andre Smith here (and he does fit the Raider mold as a renegade), Maclin's speed and ability to stretch the field along with contribute as a playmaker on special teams wins out.

*****TRADE*** (Washington trades with Jacksonville to move to 8th)**

8. Washington Mark Sanchez QB USC

Dan Snyder is fortunate enough to see Sanchez slide to 8th but must give up his 13th and other considerations/picks to get his coveted QB prize. There is no way Sanchez would slip past San Fran at pick 10 so Washington moves up to ensure Sanchez becomes theirs. Jacksonville isn't thrilled with their 8th slot in the draft especially with Crabtree and Maclin gone so they will happily move down five slots to get roughly the same value they would have had here.

9. Green Bay Tyson Jackson DE LSU

Offensive tackle is a major need for Green Bay as Mark Tauscher and Chad Clifton aren't getting any younger, but when you are making the switch from the 4-3 to the 3-4, you need to start building those components immediately. That means selecting DE Tyson Jackson over OT Andre Smith. Jackson is the most NFL ready defensive end and he could make an immediate impact with the Pack Attack.

10. San Francisco Michael Oher OT Mississippi

Is there even any doubt that with Mike Martz's passing circus now in the rear view mirror that Mike Singletary will try to build this offense into a more conservative power running attack? Well the way to best accomplish that is to draft a road-grater with a seek-and-destroy attitude when it comes to running the football. Oher can definitely fit that bill.

11. Buffalo Brian Orakpo DE/OLB Texas

Orakpo is a hybrid who can play DE or OLB. Buffalo's #1 need is clearly a Rush DE and Orakpo gets the nod over Aaron Maybin because of his versatility. A year ago, the Bills' defensive line didn't hold up and their outside guys provided little pressure, so the front four was forced to scheme moreso than play fundamental. The addition of Orakpo should change all of that.

12. Denver Robert Ayers DE Tennessee

Forget all the QB hype surrounding Denver. They aren't trading up to get a QB and this draft will be all about defense for the Broncos. Josh McDaniels knows the quickest way to rebuild this team is by way of the defense, not the offense. He will get the QB he wants in due time, but not this year. Tyson Jackson is the player they hope slips here, but if he is out of the equation they will take Robert Ayers over Aaron Maybin as Ayers is more suited for their defense and won't have as big of a learning curve as Maybin.

*****TRADE*** (Jacksonville trades with Washington to move down to 13th)**

13. Jacksonville Andre Smith OT Alabama

This maneuver could not have worked out better for the Jags. They pick up additional picks by moving down five spots and in the process select a player at 13 that heading into the bowl season was thought of as potentially the #1 overall draft prospect. Jacksonville desperately needs a WR to help their offense as it is their top position need, but of the remaining receivers on the board, to take one here would be a definite reach. This is selecting the best player over a position of need and Jags are wise to do so as Smith is a force if motivated. You will notice most prognosticators have Smith in the top 10 but we project him falling to the teens.

14. New Orleans Malcolm Jenkins CB Ohio State

I am hearing that Brian Cushing is the man New Orleans likes most because of his athleticism and that he will be a good fit to apply pressure from the outside in new coordinator Gregg Williams' defense. I also hear they are locked in on Chris Wells to help form a tandem with Reggie Bush. Well folks, I don't buy either. New Orleans' weakest link on their entire team is the secondary and they will get the best of the draft with Jenkins, who can play skillfully at corner or safety. The dropoff at this position in the draft is way more significant than at OLB where the Saints may still be able to find value in the second round. And as for Beanie Wells? Forget about it. Pierre Thomas did an outstanding job filling in for Deuce McCallister last season and looked every bit like a serviceable back to play alongside Reggie Bush or potentially carry the load himself. The Saints fill their most pressing need and get one of the top players remaining in the same pick.

15. Houston Aaron Maybin DE Penn State

While Orakpo, Jackson and Ayers have been getting a lot of the spotlight lately at DE, Aaron Maybin is no slouch and many have him graded out as the best of the defensive ends. His style will go hand-in-hand with Mario Williams to give Houston quite a force on either edge.

16. San Diego Chris Wells RB Ohio State

This could be either Knowshon Moreno or Beanie Wells, but we will side with Wells as he makes more sense in giving the Chargers a different style back than what they have in LT or Sproles. He should lighten the load for LT, and Beanie is no stranger to being a workhorse. The Chargers top three needs are OT, OG and safety, but all the good tackles are gone and there are no guards and safeties who project in the first round. I think we all know how important the running game is to San Diego and Wells would certainly give them a stable of quality backs.

17. New York Jets Darrius Heyward-Bey WR Maryland

This will be one of the most difficult picks to project because I am not even sure the Jets will know what to do when the 17th selection comes to them. There are serious rumblings they may try to move up to 8th to get Sanchez if he slips there and if they stand pat at 17, their needs don't match up with the talent available. Heyward-Bey isn't talented enough to really justify this slot but he is the best remaining receiver on the Jets board and you can't take a TE or Josh Freeman this high either. The Jets will add the draft's fastest man and address their QB situation later.

18. Denver Peria Jerry DT Mississippi

I really believe this draft is going to be all defense in the first round for Josh McDaniels. Adding two linemen in the first 18 picks will help improve this defense maybe not so much in year one of the McDaniels regime, but most assuredly in year two. Jerry can move bodies like nobody's business and is a good fit for what the Broncos want to accomplish philosophically.

19. Tampa Bay Brian Cushing OLB USC

Tampa Bay, like the Jets, will take a look at Josh Freeman and I believe likely pass. With Brian Cushing still available and new coach Raheem Morris having a defensive mentality, it will be difficult to not take the best player available at this slot. The Bucs aren't really high on any particular player in this draft and they won't make a decision by need. Take the best player and in this spot it is easily Cushing which will address their third highest priority – OLB.

20. Detroit Everette Brown DE Florida State

Coach Schwartz has his offensive centerpiece with Matt Stafford, now he addresses his area of expertise – the defense. Detroit needs a game changer on the edge and while Brown isn't going to make people forget about Robert Porcher, he will be serviceable in moving the Lions in the right direction.

21. Philadelphia Knowshon Moreno RB Georgia

I have said it before and I will say it again – Philly should sign Andy Reid to a lifetime contract as this man gets the most out his personnel and ranks second only to Bill Belichick at understanding how to run an organization from top to bottom. Reid will be ecstatic to get a player with the skill set of Moreno at 21. Continuing to supply Donovan McNabb with weapons is the need in continuing to keep Philly going deep in the playoffs year in and year out. This pick takes a load of pressure off Westbrook, McNabb and the WR corps as he is ultra-competitive and underrated as a playmaker in the passing game with his elusiveness.

22. Minnesota Eben Britton OT Arizona

Vikings fans are going to be disappointed when the Purple doesn't take Josh Freeman but they shouldn't be. Rosenfelds will do just fine and the Vikings need to grab someone who can contribute immediately. While Brad Childress has spent a good amount of time checking into what makes Percy Harvin tick, I just don't see receiver being the direction the Vikes go. The play Minnesota made for TJ Houshmandzadeh was for a ready-for-primetime wideout. Harvin isn't that guy and Eben Britton is a guy who probably will outperform some of the OTs ranked ahead of him.

23. New England Clay Matthews OLB USC

Bill Belichick marches to the beat of his own drum when it comes to the draft and you have to be crazy to believe he is going to take guys he mentions he likes pre-draft. The Master of Misinformation has steered everyone to RB Donald Brown and CB Darius Butler from UCONN but I see this as a cover to mask his liking of Clay Matthews. He is a player at the Patriots biggest need position and his great bloodlines won't hurt his chances of being taken by an old-schooler like Bill.

24. Atlanta Vontae Davis CB Illinois

About three months ago Vontae Davis was projected as a pick in the teens, now he has slipped near the end of the first round. Now that they have added yet another piece to their offense with Tony Gonzalez, the Falcons take the best defensive player on their board at 24, which is Vontae Davis, who is second to no one in this draft in terms of cover skills. He may not be as versatile as Malcolm Jenkins of Ohio State, but he can shut down and get physical with any receiver he is asked to contain.

25. Miami Darius Butler CB UCONN

There are few players who have improved their stock as much as Darius Butler has in the past few months. People who project a wideout at this position are completely clueless. Yes, I know Miami has a need at receiver, but the Dolphins also have Bill Parcells running their draft and he places little to no value on taking a receiver in the first round. Just ask Terry Glenn. He will find value with the underrated Butler who will give the Fish a playmaker in their secondary. After losing in the playoffs last year because of Ed Reed's game-changing ability, Parcells will try to replicate that with this defensive secondary selection.

26. Baltimore Rey Mauluga ILB USC

It starts and stops with defense in Baltimore. The team understands that as long as you stockpile defensive talent you will continue to win in the NFL. And yes, the Ravens desperately need a WR, but there won't be much difference between the value at wideout at 26 or when they pick in the second round. The dropoff on ILBs from here to when they pick again though is significant. Mauluga will be passed the torch from Rey Lewis over time and give the Ravens depth on defense most teams could only dream of.

27. Indianapolis Percy Harvin WR Florida

I must say that I am not a huge fan of Percy Harvin UNLESS he is taken by either the Minnesota Vikings or the Indianapolis Colts. Those two teams would suit Harvin perfectly and showcase his all-around talents (the Vikings due to having the league's best running game and Berrian on the other side and Indy because the WR corps is so good and Manning will get this guy involved). With Wayne and Gonzo already established, Harvin would be able to ease in and be a real showstopper here.

28. Buffalo Brandon Pettigrew TE Oklahoma State

With the addition of T.O. to the offense, the Bills can make a major statement by supporting that free agent pickup by complementing it with the top TE in the draft. This pick makes perfect sense for the Bills who are trying to win right now, not down the road. While OT Phil Loadholt could be an option here to replace the loss of Jason Peters to Philly, the Bills stay true to their board and get the guy they really want.

29. New York Giants Hakeem Nicks WR North Carolina

Now that Plaxico is out of their plans, the Giants basically replace him with a player who has the same sort of game. Nicks is the S'feld Services top-rated receiver. We have heard about the knocks on his work ethic and his speed, but you can't knock the tape. The tape doesn't lie. Nicks carries his pads as well as any receiver and will be an immediate impact player for any team as he can go deep, across the middle or work the boundary. The Giants are hopping the bad rap on Nicks allows him to fall to 29.

30. Tennessee Evander Hood DT Missouri

Despite the fact the Titans need another weapon for Kerry Collins, they won't take a wide receiver in the first round as it is against their philosophy. Kenny Britt would be their best wideout option and he has too many issues to use the 30th overall selection. Instead the Titans identify Hood as their best bet to replace Albert Haynesworth and continue to build around the defense.

31. Arizona Donald Brown RB UCONN

Everybody knows that if you want to be truly successful in the NFL you have to have two running backs. With the Edge being on his last wheel and a major malcontent in Arizona, the Cards add Donald Brown to play behind Tim Hightower. Brown has been another mover up the board and some believe when it is all said and done he will have a better career than either Beanie Wells or Knowshon Moreno.

32. Pittsburgh Max Unger C Pittsburgh

Max Unger is a perfect pick for Pittsburgh. He is a mauler on the interior who loves to bang and run block for a team that seems like it invented the run. We have mentioned teams that stockpile defensive talent, well Pittsburgh is a team that finds way to add people who will help them remain the league's dominant run team.