

2016 S'FELD SCOUTING SERVICES NFL DRAFT PREVIEW

1. Los Angeles (via TEN)	Jared Goff	QB	Cal
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In case the Rams didn't think they were making enough of a splash by moving from St. Louis to Los Angeles this offseason, they definitely got everyone's attention by dealing away to Tennessee their first round pick, two second round selections and a third rounder this year, along with their first and third round choices next year as well. S'feld Services reaction to this move by LA? Let's just say we are still shaking our heads. It's not that we don't always agree with making a strong move to get a guy that you really want, it's just that to give all this up for Jared Goff? SSS is in no way enamored with this QB class or the potential for LA to get better through this deal. The selections they gave away over the next two years far outweighs what they will get in return with Jared Goff. Had the top of the draft contained a consensus can't miss signal caller like Andrew Luck or even a QB a tier below it would be easier to justify. Nothing SSS sees out of Goff leads us to believe he is anything more than a placeholder at QB, not a difference maker. He may have a very good running back behind him in Todd Gurley, but the Rams wide receiving corps is among the worst in the NFL and they have now given up significant draft chips hindering their ability to maneuver in the future. This is an "all-in" move for a Rams team that isn't a couple pieces away from contending. They are several pieces away and will need Goff to not only be great - they will need him to be elite. The other SSS knock on Goff? We are never all that comfortable with a QB that has taken 99% of his snaps from the pistol or shotgun formation in an arcade offense like Cal's. He also doesn't have optimal pocket awareness that will be vital against defenses sure to make him throw under pressure to test his mettle.

THE EXTRA POINT – *If you look back at the teams that have traded up into the top 10 by sacrificing a large majority of their future early round picks, you will find that there are way more misses than hits. We have moved from an era where the smart and successful teams used to not trade, to where the smart and successful teams now trade back and not up. Why? Because the best teams in the NFL have confidence in their coaching staffs that if there is a group of top 5 guys at any one position, they can take the 3rd, 4th, or 5th ranked guys and coach them up to be as good if not better than the top two guys. There are exceptions to every rule but the top guys at any one position are all pretty close. If your staff can maximize a player's potential or eliminate their weaknesses you avoid some of the panic trades we have seen recently and the need to overreach for a player like what the Rams are doing here. On the other side of the coin, the Titans have now given themselves more margin for error by accumulating additional picks so that they can fill multiple holes instead of crossing their fingers and hoping that one guy is all it takes.*

2. Philadelphia (via CLE)	Carson Wentz	QB	North Dakota State
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Pretty much the same song, different dance for the Eagles as what we mentioned above with the Rams, except with a caveat. The one thing SSS prefers about Wentz over Goff is that if you are going to make the huge deal to move this high in the draft you had better be able to get a guy who has a much higher ceiling, and that is what the Eagles will get here. Goff is the safer pick with the higher floor but he also has a lower ceiling than Wentz. SSS isn't sold on Wentz for the amount that the

Eagles gave up especially considering the amount of money they have already dumped into the disgruntled Sam Bradford and Chase Daniel. They do have a considerably better chance, however, of hitting a home run here than the Rams do. Wentz just has boom or bust written all over him. SSS likes that unlike Goff, Wentz has played in a pro-style offense and is not afraid to stand-and-deliver in the pocket while taking a shot to buy his receivers more time. You can't teach that. He also seems to be comfortable in the pocket and has good mobility. All that being said, it is just hard to get past his meteoric rise in such a short period of time at a lower level of competition. It can make the assessment a little more difficult on a player when you are not facing NFL talent at the collegiate level, which is the advantage Goff has. The best part of this pick for the Eagles is simply that they are getting a guy who will do whatever it takes to be successful. The question will be is that enough?

THE EXTRA POINT – How badly would Philly fans like to return to the days of Andy Reid? I know the long-suffering Eagles nation was growing frustrated with Reid at the end of his run but right now we just can't understand what the Eagles and Executive VP of Operations Howie Roseman are doing. After the Chip Kelly experiment completely went haywire, you had a feeling that the Eagles would try to hit the reset button to get back to basics, but instead it just looks like Roseman is doubling down on stupid. We'd like to say we are excited about the hiring of Doug Pederson, but we aren't. We'd like to say that we understand dumping tons of money at the oft-injured Bradford and unproven backup Chase Daniel, and then also trading up to the top of the draft to get another QB, but we can't. Eagles fans have had to watch some of their favorite playmakers get dealt away (RB Lesean McCoy) or released (WR Desean Jackson) in the Chip Kelly purge, and now after finally extricating themselves from Kelly, they get to deal with Roseman doing his best Ringling Brothers act and bringing a new circus to the City of Brotherly Love.

3. San Diego DeForest Buckner DE Oregon

While the Rams and the Eagles have dominated the news cycle the past few weeks on their trades to the top of the draft, the team that has been the biggest beneficiary of all this movement is the San Diego Chargers. With several teams ranking either FSU defensive back Jalen Ramsey or Ole Miss OT Laremy Tunsil at the top of their board, the calls will be burning up Charger GM Tom Telesco's phone to move into the 3 spot. Ultimately, San Diego's best play would be to trade with someone close to them in order to gain picks while still ultimately getting one of their coveted players. The Chargers needs range from finding a left tackle who can stay healthy, to seeking a replacement for Eric Weddle at safety or even getting a 3-4 defensive end. S'feld Scouting Services strongly believes the chances of this pick being traded are high as there are so many teams not needing a QB who feel they can get the equivalent of the #1 pick in the draft here without potentially paying top overall pick prices. That being said, the players available for the Chargers here match their needs and while Ramsey would be a fantastic choice with his versatility as a corner or safety, the Chargers need to build from the inside out and will select DE DeForest Buckner. San Diego was 27th vs. the run last year and it is difficult to beat anybody when you lose the line of scrimmage. The Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Year is stout against the run and mixes freakish athleticism with strength.

THE EXTRA POINT – Current Charger offensive tackle King Dunlap is the wild card here and this pick really comes down to how much the Chargers believe in him. SSS feels that there is still too much money committed to Dunlap for them to take Tunsil here. Whether they like it or not, they really have no choice but to roll the dice with Dunlap and hope he can stay healthy so that they can address their other needs. They leave too many holes open by taking Tunsil while still having Dunlop.

4. Dallas	Joey Bosa	DE	Ohio State
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SSS has been surprised to see the amount of love for Ohio State RB Ezekiel Elliott to the Cowboys. I can tell you right now that this just isn't going to happen. The Cowboys aren't in the best RB position in the world, but Alfred Morris, Darren McFadden and Lance Dunbar are good enough in Jerry Jones's eyes to bypass Elliott. Plus, this would be awfully high to select a running back. No, the name that people should be talking about here is Marinelli - as in Dallas defensive coordinator Rod Marinelli. Marinelli's mantra with his most successful defenses has been pressure, pressure, pressure, and his current Dallas team hasn't come closing to fulfilling that request. That's why OSU DE Joey Bosa comes off the board here. Bosa, much like Buckner, can get to the QB while also providing a run stuffer on the edge. Dallas may try to address a backup quarterback with their next selection, but LA and Philly have taken that option out of the Cowboys hands for pick #4.

THE EXTRA POINT – Dallas in this position really makes me nervous for numerous reasons, but mainly because I think they could completely overthink this pick and be the one team that falls in love with what the pundits say they should do instead of what they actually should do. SSS tries very hard to give the benefit of the doubt to Dallas, but it is nearly impossible because they rarely do anything to earn that right.

5. Jacksonville	Myles Jack	OLB	UCLA
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There is a reason why they call the few weeks leading up to the NFL Draft the "Silly Season" and no one player personifies that this year more than Myles Jack. SSS finds it comical that all the noise on Jack and his knee has resonated this loudly as we close in on draft day. Don't buy into this for a second. The chance of Jack going into a free fall are low as a player of this caliber who looks as though he came out of the womb ready to play in the NFL will not be passed up. He has hybrid qualities of being able to attack the line of scrimmage while also covering space more like a safety than a linebacker. There are so many teams salivating that the rumors of Jack's knee will lead to him falling into their lap. Maybe the Jags of yesteryear would fall for this ploy, but the Jags of 2016 won't be fooled.

THE EXTRA POINT – Most teams slotted in the first five picks of any draft end up being relatively happy with their selection but it is very rare that the first five teams end up being ecstatic about who they end up landing. LA and Philly trade up to get exactly who they want and San Diego, who is not in the market for a QB, gets the top guy on their board. Dallas and Jacksonville are more than likely getting one of their top two overall players as well. In a draft that SSS ranks among the least

talented pound-for-pound that we have seen in the past 10 years, the first five teams selecting feel as though they all won the lottery.

6. Baltimore	Laremy Tunsil	OT	Ole Miss
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There is a quite a bit of late steam coming in that Baltimore would prefer to play it safe with Notre Dame OT Ronnie Stanley over Ole Miss tackle Laremy Tunsil. Tunsil definitely has had his issues while at Mississippi. He was charged with domestic assault against his father, was suspended for impermissible benefits by the NCAA, and was linked to another troubled Rebel in this draft - DL Robert Nkemdiche, who has his own set of problems, which we will document later. That being said, when Tunsil played, he dominated. Stanley is safer, but he doesn't play like a guy who wants to run over your mother, and Tunsil does. The other thing to consider is that GM Ozzie Newsome has found a way of utilizing former Ravens who have been through the ringer in their own regard to get through to current ones. Former LB Ray Lewis still casts his shadow around Ravens camp and will undoubtedly be summoned by Newsome to mentor Tunsil and to keep him on the straight and narrow as his talents outweigh his baggage.

THE EXTRA POINT – *If there is one thing we know about the NFL Draft it is that off-field issues are always balanced by how talented a player is and how confident a team is that they can get through to a guy and make him buy-in. It is easier to take a gamble on a free agent with off-field issues because you can extract yourself from the situation if the trouble is recurring. However, the analysis on the off-field issues with the draft is considerably more difficult because you are more committed to that player. In this case, the scales tip toward talent over character and SSS thinks the Ravens will be rewarded over time.*

7. San Francisco	Jalen Ramsey	CB	Florida State
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SSS is guessing that in the 49ers various draft scenarios they didn't figure on Ramsey falling to #7. This is a great get for San Fran as they may still be able to address an offensive tackle later or even trade up to get one as well. However, this is a situation where best player available trumps need. This is where it is a good thing that GM Trent Baalke didn't give coach Chip Kelly carte blanche to run personnel, or this pick could have easily ended up being wideout Laquon Treadwell. Life working with Chip Kelly is never going to be easy for anyone as he always feels as though he is the smartest man in the room, but Baalke knows he can't give in to his new head coach to address the 49ers various offensive needs because the defense needs a performer like Ramsey. The 2015 ACC indoor and outdoor long jump champion can play corner or safety giving coaches the flexibility they love when their defensive backfield gets banged up as almost every secondary does.

THE EXTRA POINT – *There may be better players in the draft than Ramsey but it would be hard for me to believe that there will be a guy who can step in and contribute as quickly as Ramsey can. Need a guy with sprinter's speed? Check. How about a guy who can jam and redirect off the line of scrimmage? Yep. What about a guy who can stop and start like no other, tackle in space, defend jump balls and has great closing speed when trailing a receiver. Check, check, check and.....wait for it.....check.*

*****TRADE #1*** (Cleveland trades with Chicago to move down from 8th to 11th)**

8. Chicago	Leonard Floyd	OLB	Georgia
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It's a new day in Cleveland. Ineptitude has been replaced by analytics. Wasted money has been replaced by football's version of Moneyball and the Browns are looking to build draft-pick equity instead of draft-sick fans. They are sitting in the catbird seat as four teams (Giants, Bears, Saints and Raiders) are all hoping to land the services of Leonard Floyd. The Bears end up winning the sweepstakes by trading past the Giants to secure Floyd. The Bears land the pass rushing force off the edge they need to enhance their 3-4 under defensive coordinator Vic Fangio. The Bears have been woeful upfront with no speed rushers to wreak havoc. Coach John Fox and GM Ryan Pace made it clear from the moment they arrived in Chicago that their primary goal was to turn this defense around as quickly as possible. The additions of Denver LB Danny Trevathan and Colts LB Jerrell Freeman during the offseason help take care of needs at inside backer and Floyd will be another key piece to restoring the roar at Soldier Field.

THE EXTRA POINT – For all intents and purposes the Bears are getting two 1st round picks for 2016. Last year the Bears took West Virginia wideout Kevin White in the first round but due to a stress fracture in his leg he never saw the field. White will finally be unleashed this year and the Bears are hoping that Alshon Jeffery will find a new Robin in White to assist him with the Batman role he currently plays for the Bears.

*****TRADE #2*** (Tampa Bay trades with Tennessee to move down from 9th to 15th)**

9. Tennessee	Ronnie Stanley	OT	Notre Dame
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The Titans use some of the inventory they collected in their epic trade with LA to move back up and into the 9th position to select one of the top two offensive tackles in Ronnie Stanley. With the Bucs, Giants and Dolphins all potential landing spots for a left tackle, and with the overall value of Stanley available at #9, the Titans move up to help give QB Marcus Mariota the protection he desperately needs to succeed. It is not a stretch by any means to say that several teams have Stanley listed higher on their boards than Tunsil. This is a win-win for Tennessee because it allows them to kick 2014 1st round pick Taylor Lewan from left tackle to right tackle where he would be better suited. The future could be set for the Titans for years at both tackles and quarterback via their last three 1st round draft picks ('14 – Lewan, '15 – Mariota, '16 – Stanley)

THE EXTRA POINT – SSS can't say enough about new Titans GM Jon Robinson. In a span of a few days you saw Robinson give a press conference in which he delivered a sharp, concise message of how the Titans were going to gain more chips to use at the table by accumulating draft picks, and how they had confidence that they can find as much value in the late first round and second round as they can in the early 1st round. Robinson intends to add more depth by bringing in as many good pieces as he can acquire. Then a few days later Eagles VP Howie Roseman gave a press conference where he looked like he was auditioning for the Laugh Factory Comedy Club. Roseman is managing his team as though he is in a FanDuel fantasy league, while Robinson is referencing his time working in New England to channel his inner Belichick on player acquisition and management. The draft in

many ways is like the stock market and Robinson and the Titans are diversifying to make sure that they are strong in multiple sectors, while the Eagles are committing all their resources on the quarterback position like it's the newest, hottest IPO. In the NFL – the all your chickens in one basket philosophy usually ends up with the G-M being G-O-N-E.

10. New York Giants	Jack Conklin	OT	Michigan State
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If the SSS Draft Preview holds true than the Bears and Titans just traded up to steal the two players that the Giants would have taken in this spot. The Giants spent boatloads of cash to try to revitalize their defense and to become relevant again in the very winnable NFC East. That being said, they still have a ton of different positions that need filled and they really should select whoever the best player available is here. They really like Floyd and they would be ecstatic to get Stanley, but with both players gone the Giants best option is to recall the memories of days gone by when they used to abuse people with their running attack and send their offensive linemen on seek and destroy missions emphasizing their run game. That leads us to believe that Michigan State tackle Jack Conklin would be the choice. Conklin has Giants written all over him. He is an old school player who isn't afraid to get his hands dirty and brings his lunch pail to work. Once Conklin gets his hands on you, he makes it difficult for the defender to separate. The combine and measureables are always important to the scouts, but SSS was most impressed by Conklin when he had a chance to go heads up with Oregon DE DeForest Buckner last year when MSU met Oregon in the non-conference. Conklin more than handled his own in that matchup.

THE EXTRA POINT – After watching Philly win the division in 2013, Dallas win it in 2014 and the Redskins win it in 2015, the Giants are feeling the pressure to regain not only the form that enabled them to win two Super Bowls in 2007 and 2011, but merely to win the division or make the playoffs. The Giants may be dealing with more variables than any other team heading into 2016. They have a new coach, they have outspent almost everybody to bring in several free agents, and they have several questions marks with the players that are returning. If there is one thing we know about the Giants though, their best seasons typically occur when nobody sees it coming and they seem to relish the underdog status.

*****TRADE #1*** (Chicago trades with Cleveland to move up from 11th to 8th)**

11. Cleveland	Ezekiel Elliott	RB	Ohio State
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Full disclosure here – SSS is not as big of an admirer of Ezekiel Elliott as most of the pundits that have labeled him as a sure-fire, can't miss running back. You only need to turn on ESPN, the NFL Network or read any of the mock drafts online to discover comments as crazy as "he's the best back I've seen since Adrian Peterson" or "Elliott can post 1,000 yards behind the worst NFL line". We're not saying that Elliott isn't a good back, we're just not quite ready to start taking his measurements for his bust in Canton. It does seem, however, that Cleveland could be a nice fit for him to be an immediate difference maker. If you consider the fact that newly acquired QB Robert Griffin III may get a completely new lease on life after escaping his toxic relationship with coach Jay Gruden in Washington - than the Browns may have earned a great reward for little risk. One of the ways that RG3 will have a chance to thrive is if he isn't forced to hand off to current backs Isaiah Crowell or

Duke Johnson. Cleveland may be tempted by Memphis QB Paxton Lynch, but I just don't see it, and again if you are going for immediate impact which we think they are – Lynch isn't your guy.

THE EXTRA POINT – So a funny thing happened on the way to this year's NFL Draft. The Cleveland Browns actually started to figure out how to use the draft to their benefit. But do you know what is even more surprising? This new braintrust of coach Hue Jackson, VP of Football Operations Sashi Brown and resident analytical expert and Chief Strategy Officer Paul DePodesta all seem not only competent, but more importantly, confident. It has taken SSS a long time to write that about the Browns but it seems like the move they made with the Rams may be the tip of the iceberg. There will be more wheeling and dealing going on with the Browns on Thursday. SSS knows that you can't necessarily win a Super Bowl on draft day alone, but you most definitely can lose it. A stretch of consecutive bad drafts sets franchises back for years and it feels like the Browns may be turning the tide on their own awful streak. That streak includes recent 1st round picks Johnny Manziel, Justin Gilbert, Barkevious Mingo, Brandon Weeden and Trent Richardson.

12. New Orleans	Sheldon Rankins	DT	Louisville
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When four of your five biggest need positions are on defense and you ranked 31st against both the run and the pass last year, it becomes pretty obvious that an offensive player won't be selected here. And yes, I'm looking at you Paxton Lynch. Taking Lynch here would be way too rich for a team that is seeing the window of opportunity for Drew Brees close quickly and who wouldn't really utilize Lynch for a few years. The Saints need to start upfront and try to identify a player that can help them against both the run and the pass. That player is Rankins. He could help the Saints in multiple ways at multiple positions on the line and while the cornerback and outside linebacker positions also need to be addressed, the Saints can alleviate some of those concerns if they rebuild their front to be at least mildly effective. SSS believes that new defensive coordinator Dennis Allen will be in coach Sea Payton's ear to make sure his side of the ball is addressed.

THE EXTRA POINT – It is no coincidence that the loss of the ultraback Darren Sproles has hindered this offense more than I think the Saints would care to admit. While the departure that surprised most people was the Saints trade of Jimmy Graham to Seattle, we have seen that journeyman TE Ben Watson actually was very effective stepping in for Graham, while Graham himself had all kinds of problems in Seattle. On the other hand, the Saints haven't been able to replicate the threat Sproles afforded them on both designed plays and checkdowns. SSS feels very strongly that the Saints will find their next Sproles by using a possible second or third round selection on Alabama RB Kenyan Drake. Drake is the do-everything speedster that not only can give you a scatback variation in the running game but is also elite catching the ball out of the backfield and can also be a weapon on special teams.

13. Miami	Shaq Lawson	DE	Clemson
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The one thing you know you can always count on with SSS is transparency. When it comes to Miami and the #13th pick this may be the one that SSS had the most difficult time assessing. Why? No pattern to study based off previous drafts with a new coach and new philosophy. There is also the

fact that we think the Dolphins could be movers who try to go up, not down. And finally, while we believe they need corner more than defensive end, SSS feels the value of Shaq Lawson outweighs what they get with Vernon Hargreaves or Eli Apple and that if they stay here and get Lawson, they could make a move up with their next pick to get one of the other top corners. Conversely, if they take a corner here, they can't get a comparable talent like Lawson. Lawson is another guy that will be productive against both run and pass and the draw of having him on the same line as Ndamukong Suh will be too good to pass up.

THE EXTRA POINT – *When you look at who the Dolphins need to beat in the division, it starts and stops with Tom Brady and the New England Patriots. While there is no definitive book on how to stop Brady, it has become pretty obvious that your best chance to stop him is through pressure upfront and getting to him early and often. The Giants used that blueprint in both their Super Bowl wins over New England, and Denver may have perfected it last year in the AFC Championship Game. Don't think the Dolphins and every other team in the division won't be trying to replicate that master plan by stocking their shelves with quality defensive linemen who love to "get home".*

14. Oakland	Reggie Ragland	ILB	Alabama
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Don't look now but do you know what team has absolutely owned the 1st round of the NFL Draft the past two years? What's that? Denver? Nope. Pittsburgh? Not quite. New England? Uh, no. The answer would be everybody's favorite punching bag – the Oakland Raiders. These not so lovable losers may finally be shedding their laughingstock image and getting back on the path that made them one of the most storied teams in NFL history. Hard to argue with 2014 selection Khalil Mack and 2015 selection Amari Cooper - two immediate impact players that already look like they are going to making Pro Bowls a regular occurrence on their yearly schedule. And on top of that, it looks like good things are going to be coming for the Raiders in 3's with the selection of Alabama ILB Reggie Ragland. Clearly the best ILB in the draft by a long shot, Ragland gives Oakland a missing piece to their weakest area on defense – the middle. There has been a lingering knock on Alabama running backs that they don't fare as well in the pros as they did in college, but that knock doesn't apply to Alabama defensive players. Ragland is more than just a product of his system and Oakland continues their current trend of making solid, smart 1st round selections without reaching as they had for countless years prior.

THE EXTRA POINT – *Each year you see two or three teams in the league that you really don't have any expectations for break through and make a run that nobody expected. With the margin of error being so small in the NFL, the difference between making the playoffs and missing the playoffs typically comes down to who can close out 4th quarters. SSS has a feeling that the Raiders may be a team who starts closing out their opponents and flips a 7-9 record into a 10-6 record. After having one of the more difficult schedules in 2015, their schedule eases in 2016 and the confidence that the Raiders displayed last year should manifest itself into more wins this year. On top of that, the Raiders have brought professionalism back into the fold with coach Del Rio and a strong staff, and GM Reggie McKenzie has survived the storm that was brewing after his first few years.*

*****TRADE #1*** (Tennessee trades with Tampa Bay to move up from 15th to 9th)**

15. Tampa Bay	Vernon Hargreaves	CB	Florida
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If you're the Bucs you have to feel good about the fact that you accumulated extra picks in the SSS projected trade with the Titans and still were able to land one of the two options that you wanted – either a top flight corner or one of the top defensive ends. The Bucs get a high end performer in Hargreaves and SSS loves the pick. We know that people are questioning some of the measurables with Hargreaves but his tape doesn't lie. You can't play corner without great feet and the UF standout not only is fluid with great quick-twitch, but he is a fierce competitor who doesn't avoid contact, but actually plays to it. This kid will be driven from the moment he puts on the Bucs uniform and can answer emphatically the question scouts ask each other most – "Does this kid LOVE to play football?" Trust us when we tell you he will answer that question for the entire league in 2016.

THE EXTRA POINT – Hargreaves is another guy whose stock is supposedly dropping as we draw within 24 hours of the draft. This is yet another report that SSS simply isn't falling for. We have always believed that the closer you get to the draft the more the "inside intel" provided by "sources" is just a con job wrapped in a shell game, which is sent to Confusion Island. You have to ask yourself why would insiders provide information about what they would do? It serves zero purpose. Conversely, know that the guys sitting in each team's draft room are doubling over in laughter the way they use the media to send mixed messages and information designated to help their position and increase their value.

16. Detroit	Taylor Decker	OT	Ohio State
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Listen, we think this is awfully early to draft Decker but you have to consider this – the Lions have not had an answer at left offensive tackle for way too long. They are in a bit of a conundrum because they need a left tackle and they need additional help on the defensive line and at linebacker. The defensive line is okay if they can stay healthy (big if) and we think the Lions have to roll the dice and take Decker, who is not on par with Tunsil, Stanley or Conklin, but is ahead of the next tier of guys under him. Detroit doesn't strike me as a team looking to trade because where they are positioned in this draft at #16 misses the window of guys that could really help them moving forward. They will also need to be wary of the Colts potentially trying to make a move ahead of them to grab Decker.

THE EXTRA POINT – As SSS always references, if you have the quarterback that you think can get you to the promised land then you have to invest in your offensive line as well. They are essentially a package deal. A great QB with an average O-line is really not going to be a great quarterback. This is the scenario that has faced a couple teams in the NFC North for years – the Chicago Bears and the Detroit Lions. Both have not put the pieces in place in front of Cutler and Stafford to really find out what they could truly do. The clock is ticking on both and therefore the Lions grab a guy who can hopefully stop the bleeding on the Lions O-line.

17. Atlanta	Darron Lee	OLB	Ohio State
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Here is a heads up for all you Falcons fans – Myles Jack isn't free-falling to you (I'm looking at you Todd McShay). That's the bad news. The good news? You're getting a hell of a player at #17 in Darron Lee. All of the talk around Ohio State players has revolved around Joey Bosa and Ezekial Elliott with a sprinkling of Taylor Decker and Eli Apple, but the guy that SSS feels could be the most valuable Buckeye in the draft? Lee. This guy has Ray Lewis swagger with Ed Reed sizzle. Never at a loss for confidence, Lee is the type of player that will identify his weaknesses and eliminate them. I have heard the knock on his size, but this guy doesn't waste movement trying to figure out where a play is going and can get from A-to-B like not other. Additionally, he is elite in coverage skills playing more like a safety than a linebacker.

THE EXTRA POINT – Atlanta needs to become more of an attacking defense and Lee is the right prescription if pressure is the diagnosis. Lee is the best blitzing linebacker in this year's lot and anybody who wants to know why SSS is so high on Lee needs only pull up the 2015 Sugar Bowl against Alabama. Watch him absolutely dismantle the Tide by recording 7 tackles, 3 TFLs and 2 sacks in that game to earn Defensive MVP.

18. Indianapolis	Ryan Kelly	C	Alabama
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SSS loves this pick. Not just because we think Ryan Kelly is a plug-and-play offensive lineman who could give the Colts 10 quality years, but because the Colts need this badly. Kelly is a coach on the field and could do for the Colts what Matt Birk did for the Vikings. That is - provide the sort of leadership and piece of mind that will allow GM Ryan Grigson to address other needs moving forward and not have to worry about the center position for years to come. You want to know how guys like Blake Sims and Jake Coker go from unknown QBs to competing for national championships? Because they have great linemen around them and Ryan Kelly was the key cog of that group. You want mentally and physically tough guys around Andrew Luck and Kelly fits the bill. He doesn't just try to do his job, he does his job and then when he finished he does your job too.

THE EXTRA POINT – Pretty high pick for a center right? Hey S'feld, you know that the Colts need tackles just as much if not more than a center, right? Yep, couldn't agree with that assessment more, but know this – the left tackles remaining at this point of the draft aren't going to be true first round talent. We can't say if anybody outside of the top four offensive tackles will have high chances of success. We can say that about Kelly. The Colts will have added a guy who will be a top-tier center within a few years. The Colts need sure things when it comes to protecting Luck and that is why we trust they will see the bigger picture. The Colts know there is no such thing as a 5-run homer so they won't try to overextend themselves. Take the guy who gets you doubles and triples every time and get Luck the support he needs.

19. Buffalo	Robert Nkemdiche	DL	Ole Miss
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If Robert Nkemdiche follows the straight and narrow path while at Ole Miss than there is zero chance that he falls this far, let alone out of the top 10. There was a time when he was projected as the top overall pick in the draft and it almost looked like a certainty. The problem with Nkemdiche is

that he didn't just have one minor problem at Mississippi, he had several major ones. We know there are always four or five teams or coaches that you can bank on to take flyers on red flag guys. Once it gets to this area of the draft those teams will probably try to kick the tires to see how they can get into this position to get top five value for a mid-to-late 1st round price. We have a feeling that the Bills will be the team that scoops him up before others can pounce.

THE EXTRA POINT – SSS probably feels the same way that most NFL front offices do – that there is literally no way Nkemdiche will stay out of trouble in the NFL. He could most definitely be a first round problem child. You know who I am pretty sure doesn't care about any of this? Rex Ryan. Rex Ryan only cares about two things – talking and winning. So far he has been good at one and not so good at the other. He is hoping that changes by selecting the Ole Miss standout and giving him the edge rusher he so desperately needs to complement and play opposite Jerry Hughes.

20. New York Jets	Paxton Lynch	QB	Memphis
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This pick ends up working out pretty well for the Jets. They end up getting a guy who could be the future of the franchise and they also insure themselves of a fallback option if the standoff with current QB Ryan Fitzpatrick gets even more sideways than it already is. This will also give the Jets leverage in what has been an ugly negotiation with Fitzpatrick. Lynch could end up being the guy in Week 1, or Fitzpatrick comes back (which ultimately is what the Jets want but on their terms and at their price) and Lynch gets to wait in the wings and learn, which is the best case scenario for the Jets. Offensive coordinator Chan Gailey would love to have a young talent like Lynch at his disposal as opposed to the current backups in his arsenal – Geno Smith and Bryce Petty. Neither of those two guys are the answer. As the Jets showed last year, it didn't take long for this team to bounce back after the Rex Ryan regime completely fell off the pace. Lynch could be the guy that keeps the Jets in the playoff hunt and at a minimum gives them a more capable 1-2 punch at QB behind Fitzpatrick in 2016.

THE EXTRA POINT – SSS has mentioned earlier that we aren't afraid to be transparent. Well, we also aren't afraid to take our medicine and twice last year we were wrong about the Jets. First, we didn't think Todd Bowles was a great hire. Secondly, we didn't foresee that WR Brandon Marshall would bounce back from a tough final year in Chicago to find the fountain of youth and look all-world again. The Jets had a pretty solid year last year and were oh-so-close to making the playoffs in Year One under Coach Bowles. This pick gives him security at the most important position on the football field.

21. Washington	Jarran Reed	DT	Alabama
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It is turning out to be a fantastic week for Redskins GM Scot McCloughan. First he ends up with shut down corner Josh Norman after Carolina rescinds the franchise tag on him and the Skins swoop in and get him. And now he finds a solution to a Washington defense that ranked 31st in the NFL in rushing yards per carry (4.8) by drafting the hands down best run stuffer in the draft in Reed. He may not be the most versatile defensive lineman in the first round, but there is no other lineman in the draft that can prevent running lanes from becoming running gaps. He made life easy for the

Alabama linebackers to go on kamikaze missions without having to fight off blockers by absorbing double teams and making teams rue the day they decided to run the ball. The Redskins have already taken away half of the field from opposing offenses by signing Norman, and now after all the talk from certain politicians in Washington about building a wall, the Redskins have actually done it to the opposition by drafting Reed.

THE EXTRA POINT – We have seen Dan Snyder’s attempts to buy a championship through free agency before and nary a time has it worked. The difference in his past signings is that he was typically paying big bucks for a big name that was well past his prime (Deion Sanders, Bruce Smith) or who had a troubled past or was a locker room cancer (Albert Haynesworth). Even if you think the signing of Norman was egregious, you have to admit that it is much different from the other failed signings in that Norman is still relatively young (28), is coming into his prime and doesn’t have a checkered past outside of being ultra-competitive. It may have taken more than 15 years of his ownership, but Snyder may have finally written a big check that will deliver the needed ROI.

22. Houston	Corey Coleman	WR	Baylor
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It will be hard for the Texans to complain when after waiting through 21 picks they come to realize that none of the players at the position they need most (receiver) have been selected by the preceding teams. The choice seemingly will come down to the top four receivers - Mississippi’s Laquon Treadwell, TCU’s Josh Doctson, Baylor’s Corey Coleman and Notre Dame’s Will Fuller. SSS feels that although Corey Coleman may not be the most complete receiver, he is the one that fits what Houston needs most – a burner who will free things up for WR DeAndre Hopkins by taking the top off the defense. Although he is only 5’11”, he has the potential to make safeties keep an eye on him at all times as he is not only explosive, but elusive.

THE EXTRA POINT – Houston doesn’t quite have Cleveland’s poor reputation of burning through quarterbacks, but they haven’t exactly had difference-makers at the position either. The rotation of Matt Schaub, Case Keenum, Ryan Fitzpatrick, Tom Savage, Ryan Mallett, Brandon Weeden and Brian Hoyer over the past three years alone has been a case of same circus, different clowns. Now the Texans have eschewed their rent-a-QB philosophy by investing in what they feel will be a long term solution in Brock Osweiler instead of the quick fixes they tried before. It serves the Texans front office best to surround Osweiler with as many weapons as possible, which is why Lamar Miller was brought in at running back and the Texans are using their first pick on a speedster like Coleman to make Osweiler feel right at home.

23. Minnesota	Laquon Treadwell	WR	Ole Miss
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It all seems too simple doesn’t it? Laquon Treadwell? The one guy that almost everybody has slotted to the Vikings including SSS will actually be the guy that GM Rick Spielman takes? Let me just say that S’feld Services doesn’t like putting Spielman on the “consensus” pick because if we have learned anything from his time in Minnesota, up is down, left is right, and you better buckle up on draft day when the Vikings pick because it is Spielman’s own personal holiday. He writes the rules the way he sees fit and then break them if he has to in order to improve his team. (Side note: It is

fitting that Percy Harvin retired so close to the date three years ago when Spielman fleeced Seattle by trading Harvin for multiple picks). But back to the now - Treadwell just seems like not only a suitable replacement for the departed Mike Wallace, but an upgrade as well. This kid can flat-out play and when the ball is in his vicinity, chances are he is going to come down with it. He tracks the football as well as anyone and seems to be a better fit than Josh Doctson or Will Fuller.

THE EXTRA POINT – The Vikings fall into a similar situation as Houston in that they both went to the playoffs last year and they both need to add another playmaker at receiver. The major difference? I am buying into QB Teddy Bridgewater way more than I am buying into the Texans Brock Osweiler. This will be Teddy's third year at the helm of the Purple and last year's step forward should only be a sign of more to come in 2016. The Vikings offseason additions have made this a well-rounded club. We have referenced before that there are several teams that are a couple players away from making the playoffs. Well when it comes to the Vikings, they are only a couple players away from reaching the Super Bowl. SSS firmly believes if the Vikings can add a premier WR talent, if Matt Kalil returns to the player he was, and if guard Alex Boone does what he was brought in to do, the Vikings could have all the inner workings to be this year's Carolina Panthers.

24. Cincinnati	Josh Doctson	WR	TCU
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And just like that, after waiting for 21 picks for a receiver to be taken, once the first one comes off the board, they all start coming off the board. Cincy selects the third straight wideout and may have gotten the best of them all. While the two guys taken ahead of Doctson have certain qualities that are superior to his, he is likely the most well rounded of this year's entire crop of WRs. He isn't afraid of physical corners and is dangerous after the catch. The pairing of Doctson with AJ Green quickly eases the concerns of Bengals fans who were lamenting the loss of both WR Mohamed Sanu and Marvin Jones to free agency. Much like the Houston's selection of Corey Coleman, Doctson will be in a position to succeed earlier with an elite wideout lined up on the other side of him. Coleman will have DeAndre Hopkins and Doctson will have Green.

THE EXTRA POINT – Cincy has teased and tantalized their fans with five straight seasons in the postseason but with five straight losses and seven consecutive playoff losses going back to the 2005 season. We know we sound like a broken record but the Bengals have to find a way to breakthrough and quickly. We know that the Bengals brass is emulating the Steelers when it comes to continuity amongst the coaching staff but it is much easier for a team like Pittsburgh to promote that culture when they have secured Super Bowl championships. The Bengals have the talent. They just need to incorporate the culture.

25. Pittsburgh	Eli Apple	CB	Ohio State
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The Steelers have spent their past three first round picks on defense and there is no reason to think they will break from that this year. They are in dire straits at corner and safety and while Karl Joseph, the top safety in the draft, is sitting right there, SSS believes that Ohio State cornerback Eli Apple gives Pittsburgh the most bang for their buck. Apple can step in immediately to play alongside William Gay. Corner William Jackson is also an option here but Apple was not supposed to

drop to the point where the Steelers would have a chance at him. Coach Mike Tomlin won't be looking a gift horse in the mouth.

THE EXTRA POINT – *Health is obviously a big issue with every team but if Pittsburgh can find a way to survive a season without a crippling injury to a key player this team has all the capabilities of winning a third Super Bowl with Big Ben at the helm. They have a top of the line quarterback in Roethlisberger, the game's most productive receiver in Antonio Brown and a potential league leading rushing in Le'Veon Bell. We would be hard pressed to find a better QB-RB-WR trio in the league who can match these guys.*

26. Seattle	Le'Raven Clark	OT	Texas Tech
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It's definitely not the sexiest pick in the world but I don't really know what else Seattle can do here. They really, really need a left tackle now that Russell Okung has left for Denver and while GM John Schneider and coach Pete Carroll are saying the offensive line is fine, nobody is believing them. They could possibly provide Richard Sherman with some support by drafting a corner. Or they would love for Bama center Ryan Kelly to fall here, but Kelly's star is on the rise and I don't see the Seahawks trading up in any scenario, let alone for a center. They could use another defensive tackle as well but it will be easy to get the same sort of quality defensive tackle in the second round as they would get here. Depending on how you look at it, Clark is either in the bottom of the second tier of left tackles or the beginning of the third. Either way, that isn't exactly a ringing endorsement for the 26th overall pick.

THE EXTRA POINT – *Not to harp on this point too much, but the Seahawks seem way to content in assuming that Russell Wilson's feet are going to overcome poor line play forever. Does Wilson have great awareness in the pocket and a tremendous ability to scramble without taking big shots? Yes. Can he keep that up forever? Not in this league. Murphy's Law and the Law of the NFL will both tell you that banking on a QB (who was sacked the third most in the league last year) continuing to avoid the pressure with his feet instead of being able to rely on competent protection is a recipe for disaster. It only takes one blindside hit to Wilson to realize that moving Gary Gilliam from right tackle to left tackle wasn't the answer and that acting like you don't have a problem at left tackle is a problem in itself.*

27. Green Bay	A'Shawn Robinson	DT	Alabama
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The Green Bay defensive line is at best a mess and at worst in complete disarray. They are the defensive line equivalent of Seattle's dilemma on the offensive line. I am sure they would like to grab one of the top remaining corners here but BJ Raji walked away and Mike Daniels is about all you have left upfront. It also wouldn't surprise me if the Pack selected another defensive lineman within their first four total picks to give them even more depth. We will say this - the Packers better not miss in this draft because the invincibility factor that they once held over the rest of the division has dissipated. Losing at home to Chicago, Detroit and Minnesota last season didn't help and the Pack just don't feel like they have the same swagger as previous Aaron Rodgers teams that simply knew they were going to win before the ball was placed on the tee.

THE EXTRA POINT – Is Green Bay becoming Tuscaloosa North? It is starting to feel like Nick Saban's boys have become a feeder system for the Packers with safety Ha Ha Clinton-Dix, running back Eddie Lacy and now A'Shawn Robinson all making the pilgrimage from the Capstone to Cheese Central.

28. Kansas City	William Jackson III	CB	Houston
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The Chiefs definitely know something about drafting big-play cornerbacks as they hit the jackpot with the 18th overall pick last year when they selected Marcus Peters. All he did was tie for the league lead in interceptions and earn the AP NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year award. If Jackson can even accomplish half of what Peters did last year, than this was a great pick. The later you get in the 1st round, obviously the more difficult it gets to figure out what teams will do because need vs. overall best player many times become blurred. Kansas City lost starting corner Sean Smith in free agency to the rival Raiders so SSS feels like KC will try to catch lightning in a bottle and recapture the cornerback magic they had when they picked Peters last year.

THE EXTRA POINT – There is a part of me that wonders if the Chiefs are looking hard at one of the big four receivers. With only one of the four remaining (Will Fuller), the Chiefs may be tempted to take the last of the top tier to pair with Jeremy Maclin. We all know the history of QB Alex Smith and his lack of touchdown passes to receivers in this offense. With the emergence of tight end Travis Kelce as a bona-fide threat, the Chiefs could really stack the deck even further in Smith's favor and give him the deep threat they have been missing in the offense for quite some time.

29. Arizona	Noah Spence	OLB	Eastern Kentucky
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The Cardinals would have loved to have been able to grab a quarterback here but Michigan State's Connor Cook and Penn State's Christian Hackenberg just aren't good enough for coach Bruce Arians to spend a 1st round pick. A guy who is good enough to spend a 1st round pick on is Noah Spence. Spence is another Nkemdiche clone who has all the talent in the world, but couldn't find a way to keep himself out of trouble. He was kicked out of Ohio State for failed drug tests after having a productive sophomore season with the Buckeyes and landed at Eastern Kentucky. Word is that Spence has cleaned up his act and is less of a repeat offender threat than Nkemdiche. The juice should be worth the squeeze for the Cardinals here. The back end of the first round is always a great place for teams who had successful campaigns the year before to roll the dice to see if they can get great return on calculated risk as their team success allows them more leeway if these riskier picks go south.

THE EXTRA POINT – Did anyone have the same thought as S'feld Services watching the Cardinals-Panthers NFC Championship Game last year? That thought being that QB Carson Palmer was so bad (4 INTs) that there is no way that he can be the guy for the Cards anymore. I am not just talking about the fact that he is older and always a huge risk to get injured. I'm talking about the fact that he completely melted down in that game and just didn't look like he wanted any part of that Carolina defense. I have to think the Cardinals front office would be scared to death that the same

thing would happen again. Don't get me wrong, Palmer had a great season and he lost to a great defense in the NFC Championship. But he just didn't look like a guy willing to stand and deliver with the chips down in that game.

30. Carolina	Mackensie Alexander	CB	Clemson
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SSS believes that part of the reason that the Panthers let Josh Norman go was because they knew there was enough quality depth at corner that they would simply take whoever the best available corner option was when their selection rolled around. In Alexander the Panthers get a guy who plays with just as much fire and passion as Norman but for a fraction of the price. Alexander isn't going to replace Norman's production, but then again, who is? Norman is a top 3 corner in the NFL right now, but Alexander is going to have the opportunity to join a defense that is already among the league's best. The Panthers aren't going to have to ask Alexander to come in and win games for them on his own, they just need him to contribute. And oh yes, we have heard the knock on Alexander that he hasn't recorded an interception in the past two seasons at Clemson. Well it is awfully hard to record an interception, when the opponent is so scared of you they don't throw it your way.

THE EXTRA POINT – SSS really likes Carolina's approach on Norman. Yes, he is a supreme talent but the money saved on Norman can be spread out to multiple players now. It will allow Carolina a chance to keep more of the top players as opposed to paying Norman and losing several others guys you wouldn't have been able to keep under the cap. SSS is more and more convinced that the Panthers starting looking at who they would need to try to re-sign in 2017. Defensive end Charles Johnson, and defensive tackles Kawann Short and Star Lotulelei are all going to be free agents after this year and that Norman money will come in very handy in retaining those three linemen among others. This is the sort of money management that has seeped from baseball's analytical world into the realm of the NFL.

31. Denver	Kevin Dodd	DE	Clemson
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You know what you do when you lose a standout defensive end like Malik Jackson to free agency? You simply submit a card to Roger Goodell that has a player's name that reminds you a lot of the guy you lost only younger. That is what the Broncos and GM John Elway will be getting in Kevin Dodd. I see people shaking their heads already. S'feld!! The Broncos only quarterbacks on the roster are Mark Sanchez and Trevor Siemian!!! How can you give them Kevin Dodd when they need a quarterback! The reason is because John Elway doesn't blink and John Elway doesn't panic. He is going to get a QB. Don't you worry. But he also knows the reason that his team is the defending Super Bowl champion is because they pressured opposing offenses like they were doing their best '85 Bears impression. If he wants another title any time soon he needs to replenish his stock and keep the defense loaded with players who can put the fear of God in the quarterback. Shaq Lawson got a lot of the headlines on the Clemson defense, but do you know who did a lot of the dirty work and who was just as valuable if not more? Kevin Dodd.

****THE EXTRA POINT**** – John Elway hasn't been the Denver GM for a long time but boy has he seen some things transpire with the QB position that would make an ideal script for the Twilight Zone. He has been part of the Tim Tebow experiment where Tebow replaces Kyle Orton and takes a 1-4 team on a winning run and gets the Broncos in the playoffs. Then he snags a legend in Peyton Manning from Indianapolis when many teams were pining for his services. Finally, he is part of the most incredible story when Manning looks like a shell of himself early in the season, gets hurt, is replaced by Brock Osweiler only to later replace Osweiler when he struggles and then manages to win the Super Bowl solely because of a dominant defense that overcame Manning's liabilities.