

THE EXTRA POINT – SSS believes Kevin Stefanski will be able to exploit Hunter’s talents despite not having the greatest surrounding pieces around him. While Stefanski’s offense has traditionally leaned on tight formations and methodical tempo, Hunter’s presence will demand a more imaginative approach. Expect to see him lining up in the slot like Deebo Samuel, tracking receivers like Jalen Ramsey and even returning punts like Devin Hester. The key? Maximizing touches without burning out the engine. This is the NFL, not the Big 12, and there will be a delicate balance between showcasing all of Hunter’s skills and making sure he is healthy enough over the course of the season to display them.

3. New York Giants Abdul Carter EDGE Penn State

While it is typically quarterbacks that teams go crazy trying to trade up to get in drafts, SSS believes the true jewel of this draft resides on the defensive side of the ball with Penn State’s Abdul Carter. While edge rushers in recent drafts have rarely gone this high, Carter isn’t your average sideline-to-sideline chaser. Carter is a relentless, high-IQ enforcer who explodes through gaps like he’s been teleported there. With the Giants desperate to re-establish their identity, Carter gives them an immediate tone-setter, a leader in the mold of Ray Lewis with a dash of Micah Parsons flair. Last season, Carter posted 12 sacks and a Big Ten-leading 24 TFLs — numbers that reveal how Carter was a constant disruptor. At 6’3”, 250 lbs with 4.48 speed, he’s built like a truck but moves like a Lamborghini. SSS believes the Giants are banking on Carter not only reshaping their linebacker room but anchoring a defense that too often looked reactionary in 2024. Much like Cleveland’s pick prior to New York’s, the Giants are in desperate need of a QB, but find a defensive diamond way too valuable to let slip away. The Giants once changed the course of their franchise by drafting a devastating linebacker by the name of Lawrence Taylor – by drafting Carter, New York may be recreating that same kind of magic nearly 40+ years later.

THE EXTRA POINT – Has there ever been a more devastating and embarrassing offseason than what the Giants and General Manager Joe Schoen suffered through last year? On top of letting RB Saquon Barkley leave for the Eagles where he led them to a Super Bowl Championship, proving you totally undervalued and underappreciated him, and along with bringing in several free agent duds (Devin Singletary, we’re looking at you), you had the whole ordeal filmed and documented by Hard Knocks! The entire world got to see your owner John Mara tell your general manager to think long and hard about not bringing Saquon back, and then your GM essentially said, “Trust me. I got this.” All you got was a dismal 3-14 record, became a laughingstock in your division, and now face another year for head coach Brian Daboll to languish in the hot seat. Maybe with the third pick in this year’s draft, Schoen should just let Mara make the pick, because he obviously had better insight last offseason than the man he hired to provide insight.

4. New England Will Campbell OT LSU

The New England Patriots decide to get back to basics by selecting LSU’s dominant left tackle Will Campbell, a 6’6”, 325-pound wall of muscle and malice. In an era obsessed with skill positions, this pick is a masterclass in trench warfare strategy, and it signals new head coach Mike Vrabel’s intent to build from the ground up. Campbell, a three-year starter in the SEC, has the resume and the road-

grader mentality to anchor the Patriots' line for the next decade. This pick is so on brand for Vrabel and SSS believes this pick is all about protecting the franchise's future — quarterback Drake Maye. With Campbell allowing just one sack in his last 27 games and boasting a pass-blocking grade of 89.4 in 2024, he's not just a left tackle — he's a bodyguard, babysitter, and bouncer all rolled into one. When you consider that the Patriots allowed pressure on a league-worst 39.4% of their dropbacks last season, it becomes painfully clear that the wall around Drake Maye has several cracks. Campbell has tremendous technique despite some (not S'feld) being concerned about his short arms. The combination of Campbell and new right tackle Morgan Moses should prevent defenses from parting the sea to get to Maye.

THE EXTRA POINT – Owner Robert Kraft has found out very quickly that it is difficult to live in a post-Brady & Belichick world and last season's test run of coach Jerod Mayo put that thought on full display. The Patriots were starting to lose their way and while most teams probably wouldn't have pulled the trigger on their new coach after one year, Kraft knew the sort of coach he wanted and was familiar with in Vrabel and went and got him. That decisiveness and realizing that having a coach in waiting like Mayo seemed good in theory, but not in actual implementation, will allow the Patriots a chance to regain the form they are used to sooner rather than later.

5. Jacksonville	Ashton Jeanty	RB	Boise State
-----------------	---------------	----	-------------

Over the last few days many experts have come around to the fact that S'feld has known all along – Boise State RB Ashton Jeanty is not falling to Las Vegas at Pick #6. It may be rare to see a running back projected this high in the draft, but Jeanty isn't your average back. He's a dual-threat dynamo who posted over 2,600 rushing yards in 2024. Jeanty is one of the best tackle-breakers in college football history and is a weapon who doesn't just fit into an offense, he redefines it. For the Jaguars, this pick signals a full-throttle investment in surrounding QB Trevor Lawrence with high-impact talent. With RB Travis Etienne struggling to stay healthy and produce consistently, Jeanty offers a more durable, more explosive upgrade who can carry the load and stretch defenses in the passing game. At 5'9", 210 lbs, he's compact but powerful — the kind of back who bounces off defenders like a pinball but moves fluidly in open space. Jeanty's ability to create yards after contact and his elite hands make him the ideal modern back for a team that's looking to put points on the board in bunches.

THE EXTRA POINT – SSS Services believes that new Jaguars head coach Liam Coen is chasing a familiar formula — one that fueled his offensive success in Tampa Bay, where Rachaad White and Bucky Irving quietly became one of the most productive dual-threat RB tandems in the league. Jeanty gives Coen that same ability but with an even higher upside. Jeanty is smooth, versatile, and strong enough to pulverize defensive game plans to take pressure off Lawrence. Defenders who tried to tackle Jeanty in college often needed a GPS and a therapist. If Coen wants a back who can control tempo while still giving you the ability to hit home runs, Jeanty is the sure-fire spark plug to power the new Jacksonville machine.

solve everything, but he gives Purdy a fighting chance to stay upright while navigating a much bumpier road.

THE EXTRA POINT – *SSS Services warns that the 49ers' championship window may be fogging up quicker than expected — and not even head coach Kyle Shanahan's offensive wizardry can make up for a mass talent exodus. With key departures across both lines, the secondary, and depth issues all over the roster, this team feels like a Jenga tower one piece away from collapse. Despite Shanahan's brilliance, SSS believes even the best coaches can only do so much when cap constraints and injuries start stacking up.*

12. Dallas	Tetairoa McMillan	WR	Arizona
-------------------	--------------------------	-----------	----------------

Owner Jerry Jones always likes a big production during his drafts and he is hoping to get big production by selecting Arizona standout Tetairoa McMillan with the 12th pick. At 6'5" with silky hands and route-running precision, McMillan is a mismatch nightmare and the ideal complement to CeeDee Lamb. While Dallas has glaring needs at running back, cornerback, and along the defensive line, Jones needs to add weapons and take pressure off Lamb, who constantly faces double coverage. McMillan not only creates spacing but also brings red-zone reliability, having hauled in 8 touchdowns and over 1,300 receiving yards in 2024. The Cowboys' offense has leaned too heavily on Lamb to be the engine — and defenses have noticed. McMillan would give QB Dak Prescott another dependable target who can win on the outside, stretch the field vertically, and eat up single coverage. This pick would instantly elevate Dallas' passing game and with so many quality running backs available in this draft, the Cowboys can scoop up a WR here and still get great value on a RB later.

THE EXTRA POINT – *SSS Services doesn't mince words when it comes to the Cowboys' organizational dysfunction: hiring Brian Schottenheimer was like putting decaf in your morning coffee — uninspired, ineffective, and borderline disrespectful to your fanbase. Jones constantly talks a big game but rarely do his moves pay off bigly as our current world leader would say. His continual desire to surround himself with "yes men" is why the Cowboys always meltdown when the lights shine the brightest. Despite the talent, Dallas remains a team that is sprinting in a circle.*

13. Miami	Will Johnson	CB	Michigan
------------------	---------------------	-----------	-----------------

SSS doesn't remember a recent draft that has had such little enthusiasm for cornerbacks (excluding hybrid Travis Hunter) as this one. That may lead to Miami being able to secure the #1 true corner in the draft despite not picking in the top 10. Michigan cornerback Will Johnson is long, lean and twitchy and is a prototype outside corner with elite foot quickness, fluid hips and shutdown potential. At 6'2" with great speed, Johnson fills a need while also being among the best players remaining for the Dolphins. While Miami could easily justify going offensive or defensive line — both units were battered by injuries and inconsistency last season — S'feld believes they simply can't pass up the chance to grab a CB1 of the future to pair opposite Jalen Ramsey. And he will be even more important if the Dolphins ultimately trade Ramsey which has been speculated. Johnson's presence brings physicality, length, and top-tier coverage instincts to a defense that has struggled to close games late. He's sticky in man, confident in zone, and rarely panics at the catch point.

While it may not address the need in the trenches directly, Johnson is a long-term chess piece for a team looking to break out of second-place purgatory.

THE EXTRA POINT – Miami has become the NFL’s version of a really good show that keeps getting renewed but never wins an Emmy. Five straight seasons with 8+ wins and four 2nd-place finishes in the AFC East sound solid, but they come with zero playoff wins — and even fewer moments of postseason relevance. The Dolphins are the NFL’s glass ceiling team - talented, fun, and frustratingly close. To break through, they need three things: 1) dominate the trenches by investing more than duct tape into the O-line and D-line; 2) keep Tua healthy with smarter play designs and protection; and 3) stabilize the locker room — especially with WR Tyreek Hill drawing headlines again for everything except football. A stronger identity in the trenches, a healthier QB, and fewer distractions off the field might finally turn this splashy contender into a real threat to dethrone the Bills to claim the division crown.

14. Indianapolis	James Pearce Jr.	EDGE	Tennessee
-------------------------	-------------------------	-------------	------------------

In a move that bucks most mock draft consensus, SSS has the Colts selecting Tennessee edge rusher James Pearce Jr. — a pick we believe is far more aligned with how the Colts front office actually evaluates talent. While every draft analyst and their brother has penciled in Michigan tight end Colston Loveland here, S’feld isn’t buying the hype. General Manager Chris Ballard and the Colts view Pearce as a top-caliber defender with rare burst, bend, and finishing ability. Pearce tallied 19.5 sacks and 28 tackles for loss the past two seasons, and his pass-rush win rate was among the best in college football. This pick also reflects Indy’s desire to finally build a defense that can close games — something they’ve failed to do for most of Ballard’s tenure. While tight end is certainly a major need, Loveland simply doesn’t offer the kind of impact or positional value to justify the pick here. Pearce, meanwhile, gives Indy a game-wrecker off the edge who can develop into a Pro Bowl force. In a division with QBs C.J. Stroud and Trevor Lawrence, pressure matters more than tight end targets.

THE EXTRA POINT – S’feld can’t help but raise an eyebrow at the strange staying power of GM Chris Ballard, a man whose front office resume includes exactly one playoff win since 2017. Under Ballard, the Colts have become the NFL equivalent of a treadmill workout — lots of motion, zero progress. Despite a revolving door of quarterbacks, draft whiffs and free agency misfires, Ballard keeps pressing on like he’s ahead of schedule. The jury is definitely still out on QB Anthony Richardson, but as of now, it’s not trending in the right direction after all Ballard’s hub bub about getting the right guy.

15. Atlanta	Mike Green	EDGE	Marshall
--------------------	-------------------	-------------	-----------------

In a draft with polished pass rushers from blue-blood programs, Atlanta goes against the grain to select Marshall edge rusher Mike Green. While the name may not be as buzz-worthy as some Big Ten or SEC counterparts, Green checks every box Atlanta desperately needs — explosiveness, power, and relentless motor. Green posted a ridiculous 17 sacks and 23 tackles for loss last season, and was a leader in pass-rush win rate among FBS defenders. He dominated his competition and

flashed the traits that translate at the next level. S'feld believes the Falcons are betting on upside over brand name. This is a franchise starving for pressure off the edge. Over the past four seasons, Atlanta has finished 31st, 25th, 30th, and dead last (32nd) in team pressure rate — basically the Mount Rushmore of ineptitude. While they've made scattered investments in the defensive front, none have panned out. Green gives them a legitimate chance to fix that. He's twitchy off the snap, plays with violence in his hands and has the closing speed to change games. This pick, along with signing Leonard Floyd, could finally pull Atlanta's defense out of the quicksand.

THE EXTRA POINT – *No team has been the literal embodiment of “meh,” more than the Falcons. Having won 7 or 8 games in six of the last seven seasons they continue to exude a level of mediocrity so consistent, it should qualify for a pension. Since their collapse in Super Bowl LI, Atlanta hasn't just struggled — it's like they left their mojo on the 1-yard line in Houston and never looked back. The extra sting of watching former coach Dan Quinn find immediate success in Washington doesn't help, all while the Falcons continue to reinvent the wheel of bland. They aren't bad enough to blow it up, but not good enough to scare anyone. Until the team finds a pass rush and a quarterback they can rely on, they're stuck in middle once again — always circling the runway, never cleared for takeoff.*

16. Arizona	Jahdae Barron	CB	Texas
-------------	---------------	----	-------

All credit to the Cardinals for continuing to solidify one of the most quietly complete rebuilds in the NFL. The Cardinals typically fly under the radar but have made solid additions the past couple years and they make another one adding cornerback Jahdae Barron from Texas. An instinctive playmaker with elite slot coverage skills and a fierce attitude against the run, Barron brings immediate toughness and versatility to a defense that badly needs it. At Texas, Barron tallied a conference-leading 5 interceptions in 2024, and with the Cardinals needing to rebuild their secondary, this is a plug-and-play piece who can make an immediate impact as he can play slot corner or even safety. S'feld believes the Cardinals are poised to be the NFL's breakout team in 2025, and this pick is part of a bigger plan. Barron isn't just a solid player, he's a culture guy. Arizona's locker room is turning from reactive to proactive, and it's showing up on the field. With budding stars like Marvin Harrison Jr. and Paris Johnson Jr., this team is stacking talent and structure in a way that smells a lot like a playoff run upcoming. Barron might not be a name fans scream for on draft night, but by midseason, they'll be chanting it.

THE EXTRA POINT – *S'feld Services believes General Manager Monti Ossenfort is cooking something special in the desert heading into his third year. After inheriting a broken franchise and a broken quarterback, Ossenfort turned 4 wins in 2023 into a respectable 8 wins in 2024 — and more importantly has provided hope. His strategic drafting, smart cap management, and steady vision have completely reinvigorated Kyler Murray, who many had written off as dead weight and hard to deal with prior to Monti's arrival. In 2024, Murray threw for 3,800 yards and ran for 500 more — proof he's back and dangerous. If the Cardinals were a stock, now's the time to buy. With Ossenfort in the front office and a maturing roster on both sides of the ball, this team is primed to be the 2025 version of the 2023 Lions: young, hungry, and about to punch someone in the mouth.*

17. Cincinnati	Jihaad Campbell	LB	Alabama
----------------	-----------------	----	---------

The Bengals find themselves taking one of the most polarizing defensive prospects in this class by selecting Bama LB Jihaad Campbell. Some scouts see Campbell as an athletic freak with sideline-to-sideline range, twitchy burst, and three-down versatility while others see a raw, instinctually inconsistent player who still needs polish. Fortunately for Campbell it only takes one team to fall in love with you and the Bengals are that team. Campbell has medical concerns which always lead to potential fluctuation of where a player is projected but he is uber dynamic with big time speed despite being beaten up from his SEC days. He flashes coverage ability and explosion that make evaluators salivate, even if the tape wasn't always clean. Cincinnati needs so much help on defense however that the pick is worth the risk based on the upside. The Bengals haven't had a true game-changing presence at linebacker since Vontaze Burfict. If Campbell hits, this pick could be a steal that helps the Bengals reclaim defensive bite in a division where toughness is required to win games.

THE EXTRA POINT – *S'feld believes the Bengals are finally playing the long game correctly — locking up key players like QB Joe Burrow, WR Ja'Marr Chase and WR Tee Higgins. They've done the hard stuff — drafted elite talent, developed them, and now they're trying to keep the core intact. But here's the deal in the AFC North - it's not enough to build a great team — you've got to beat up great teams. Baltimore and Pittsburgh have pushed Cincinnati around long enough. It's time to return the favor. Head coach Zac Taylor may be on the hot seat not because he's a bad coach, but because expectations are sky high. You can't miss the playoffs three years in a row with Joe Burrow as your QB and keep selling "we're close" as your brand.*

18. Seattle	Grey Zabel	OG	NDSU
-------------	------------	----	------

The Seahawks go trench-heavy in Round 1, selecting North Dakota State offensive guard Grey Zabel — a move that reinforces the front line for their newest quarterback investment, Sam Darnold. Zabel, a mauler with elite short-area power and surprising agility, was the anchor of NDSU's line and dominated at the Senior Bowl against Power 5 talent. S'feld sees him as a plug-and-play interior lineman who brings physicality, consistency, and a little mean streak — just what Seattle needs to keep Darnold upright and confident. Seattle is finally stacking stability where it matters most and while no one is going to call this pick sexy, SSS thinks it will ultimately be successful. This pick is also just the beginning of Seattle's offensive retool. SSS projects the Seahawks to take a wide receiver on Day 2 as it's clear the new regime is fully committed to giving Darnold weapons and time. The Seahawks know that their current WR room needs a spark with D.K. Metcalf departing, and protection is priority #1 if Darnold is going to thrive. Zabel allowed just one sack last season and only allowed four pressures — proof that he's more than just a small-school name. In a division loaded with pass-rush monsters, Seattle's plan is simple: fight fire with concrete and Zabel is a great fit for OC Klint Kubiak.

THE EXTRA POINT – *S'feld believes Seattle's decision to move on from QB Geno Smith and upgrade to Sam Darnold was the right move at the right time. After leading the Vikings to a jaw-dropping 14-3 record in 2024, Darnold finally looked like the first-round QB everyone hoped for back in 2018. Sure, the season ended with a thud (losses to Detroit in Week 18 and the Rams in the Wild*

this class. Payton and GM George Paton hit it out of the park drafting QB Bo Nix last season – they do it again with Egbuka.

THE EXTRA POINT – When Sean Payton arrived in Denver, the NFL world gave him more side-eye than credit — and after a rocky start, the memes came fast and furious. But after striking gold with QB Bo Nix, who threw for 29 touchdowns and only 12 interceptions in his rookie campaign, it looks like the last laugh might belong to the guy in the visor. The Broncos, once a punchline in the AFC West, are now sneakily stacking wins and confidence. And while beating the Chiefs still feels like trying to scale Mount Mahomes, Denver is at least bringing climbing gear now. Payton's system is humming, the roster is stabilizing, and if Egbuka delivers, the Broncos could finally stop being the team that almost turned the corner — and start being the one the rest of the division circles in red.

21. Pittsburgh Omarion Hampton RB North Carolina

S'feld Services projects the Pittsburgh Steelers to stay true to their black-and-gold DNA by selecting North Carolina running back Omarion Hampton — fulfilling the franchise's long-running prophecy of producing dominant ground games. Hampton, a bruising 6'0", 220-pound back with surprising burst and contact balance, rushed for 1,660 yards and 15 touchdowns in 2024, averaging 5.9 yards per carry while dragging defenders like they owed him money. This pick is vintage Pittsburgh, the kind of move that screams tradition, toughness, and Tomlin. There are three certainties in life: death, taxes, and the Steelers under Mike Tomlin running the football like it's still 1975 — and somehow making it work in 2025. Pittsburgh doesn't chase trends; they are the trend when it comes to identity. While other teams cycle through offensive schemes like TikTok filters, the Steelers just keep punching you in the mouth on 3rd-and-2 and reminding the league that finesse football doesn't win in January. With Najee Harris off to the Chargers, Hampton fits perfectly as the next bell-cow in line. He's a Steelers-style back — hard-nosed, no-nonsense, and ready for 25 carries in the snow. This pick is less about flashy value and more about legacy value — something Pittsburgh understands better than almost anyone.

THE EXTRA POINT – In today's NFL, where head coaches and trends get tossed quicker than socks in the laundry, the Steelers remain an island of stability. Any other franchise might've moved on from Tomlin after a handful of early playoff exits. But not the Rooney Family. Pittsburgh runs their organization like a jazz band — all rhythm, no panic. Since Tomlin took over in 2007, the Steelers have never had a losing season. That's not luck; that's organizational spine. Sure, they haven't won a playoff game since 2016, but you never see this team bottom out or spiral into dysfunction. They're always in the mix, always competitive, and always one draft class away from greatness. In a league obsessed with the next big thing, Pittsburgh keeps proving that patience, identity, and an elite defense paired with a violent run game still carry weight.

22. LA Chargers Colston Loveland TE Michigan

S'feld Services sees no surprises with the Los Angeles Chargers 22nd overall pick — it's Michigan tight end Colston Loveland, reuniting with his old head coach Jim Harbaugh. It's a move that makes all the sense in the world: a high-upside pass catcher who already knows Harbaugh's system and

brings toughness, athleticism, and a championship pedigree. Loveland's stock has gone from Day 2 potential to 1st Round lock after excelling as a prime target the past two years despite playing in a run-heavy Wolverines offense. Some scouts even claim Loveland is the top tight end in the class — though S'feld still gives the edge to Tyler Warren. Regardless, Loveland lands in the perfect spot to grow alongside QB Justin Herbert and give the Chargers a dynamic threat up the seam they've lacked since peak Antonio Gates. This is also a culture pick, the kind Harbaugh loves — gritty, smart, and team-first. Loveland is more than just a safety valve; he's a mismatch weapon with room to grow into an elite TE1. Paired with an offense that desperately needs a short-to-intermediate game to complement Herbert's cannon arm, Loveland will fill a critical void. This is both a comfort pick for Harbaugh and a smart football move that deepens the offense without overcomplicating things. Herbert gets a reliable target. Harbaugh gets one of his guys. Everyone wins.

THE EXTRA POINT – This upcoming season isn't going to be just about building a roster — it's about proving something. Herbert has been anointed "elite" since he walked into the league, but the playoff results? Not so pretty. The Chargers blew a 27-0 lead to the Jaguars in 2022 and followed it up with a playoff loss to the Texans in 2024 so it's do-or-die time for Herbert. He's got the contract, the weapons, and now the right coach. The excuses won't last much longer and Harbaugh will definitely move onto something else if this isn't working.

23. Green Bay	Derrick Harmon	DT	Oregon
---------------	----------------	----	--------

S'feld Services sees no curveballs coming from Green Bay this year — the Packers stick to their tried-and-true formula by selecting defensive tackle Derrick Harmon. Harmon, a disruptive interior presence at 6'5", 315 pounds, has flown slightly under the radar due to medical issues, but his blend of strength, length, and pocket-pushing power makes him a sneaky great value in this range. He shows the kind of interior motor that's hard to find. And let's be honest, this is such a Green Bay kind of player and pick. The Packers have now used 12 of their last 14 1st Round picks on the defensive side of the ball. In Titledown, the 1st Round is for tackling, not touchdowns. Harmon has the traits to develop into a Kenny Clark-type disruptor — and maybe even play alongside him to form a devastating one-two punch up front. Green Bay continues to build from the inside out on defense, knowing that even with QB Jordan Love looking like the third coming of Favre-Rodgers, offense isn't the priority in Round 1. The Packers trust their developmental pipeline on offense and continue to swing for defensive gems when it matters most. If Harmon hits, he'll be yet another feather in the draft cap of a front office that's unapologetically old-school and stubbornly successful.

THE EXTRA POINT – Jordan Love silenced a lot of doubters in 2024, throwing for over 3,300 yards and 25 touchdowns, firmly planting himself in the "Next Great Packers QB" club. But while the quarterback situation stabilized, the dominance within the NFC North took an awkward step backward. Green Bay stumbled to a 1-5 divisional record and were it not for a blocked Cairo Santos field goal in Chicago, they would have been 0-6. Completely uncharacteristic. S'feld chalks it up to growing pains rather than a trend. The Lions are surging, the Bears are feisty, and the Vikings are always a threat, but Green Bay isn't going to just roll over. With Love hitting his stride and the

PhD in Edge Rusher Development, and Stewart becomes the next project who could pay dividends in a year or two. It's a classic Baltimore pick: high ceiling, physical tools, and a system to maximize them. Not flashy, just frightening, especially for opposing quarterbacks.

THE EXTRA POINT – Even though the Ravens fell short in 2024, Baltimore is still firmly in the NFL's sweet spot. They aren't a team searching for identity — they're fine-tuning the engine, not rebuilding the car. While fans may grumble about not getting past the Bills, the front office continues to build sustainably rather than impulsively. Adding RB Derrick Henry last offseason brought the thunder, but in 2025, it's the quiet moves — like retaining cornerstone players and locking in ascending talent — that might mean more. Baltimore isn't looking for fireworks, they're building a blowtorch. In a league that rewards patience and execution, the Ravens are the gold standard.

TRADE (Detroit trades with Buffalo, giving up Pick #28 to acquire Pick #30 and a 2025 4th)

28. Buffalo **Maxwell Hairston** **CB** **Kentucky**

In classic Brandon Beane fashion, the Buffalo Bills make a proactive strike, trading up two spots with the Detroit Lions to grab Kentucky cornerback Maxwell Hairston at No. 28 — jumping just ahead of the cornerback-needy Commanders. This is a surgical move for Buffalo, as Hairston is considered a consensus top-3 cover man in the draft and arguably the most natural zone corner in the class. A ballhawk with exceptional instincts, Hairston snagged 5 interceptions in 2023, leading to very few QBs throwing his direction in 2024. His fluid hips, elite reaction time, and willingness to stick his nose in the run game make him an ideal fit in Buffalo's scheme. Hairston's addition immediately fortifies a secondary that struggled with depth and durability last season. Hairston has the twitch and toughness to start Day 1, and SSS sees him as one of the draft's true plug-and-play defenders. As the AFC arms race continues, you don't keep pace by standing still. With QB Josh Allen entering his prime and the offense already humming, fortifying the back end against elite passing attacks is a no-brainer, especially when you're one of the elite teams measured by January success only.

THE EXTRA POINT – Buffalo and Baltimore have one major thing in common: they've been frequent passengers on Kansas City's postseason pain train. But after watching the Philadelphia Eagles dismantle the Chiefs in last year's Super Bowl, the rest of the league smelled something in the air — vulnerability. The once-mythical aura of Patrick Mahomes and Andy Reid dissolved faster than the Death Star's shields in the final act of Star Wars. No Jedi mind tricks, no fourth-quarter magic. Just Philly laying the blueprint — press the receivers, pressure Mahomes, and dare their wide receivers to beat you.

29. Washington **Malaki Starks** **S** **Georgia**

The Washington Commanders add another piece to their defense by selecting Georgia safety Malaki Starks. One of the most instinctive and versatile defensive backs in the class, Starks brings elite range, anticipation, and tackling ability, the kind of center-field presence that allows a defense to play fast and free. His tape at Georgia speaks volumes and he has the kind of game awareness that can't be taught. Plug him in the rotation and suddenly Washington has a back-end player capable of covering ground from Capitol Hill to the Chesapeake Bay. Make no mistake — this isn't a luxury pick. It's part

the championship dirt — and the Chiefs know it. Dynasties don't last by accident. They endure through calculated retooling, and the Chiefs' front office is still one step ahead of the game. This pick helps Kansas City mitigate the inevitable attrition that comes from playing deep into January (or February) every year. Walter Nolen isn't just a plug-and-play addition — he's a symbol of the Chiefs' commitment to sustaining success. If you want Mahomes throwing in comfort and winning in February, you'd better have guys on both lines who can control the flow the game and with this pick, Kansas City just found another one.

THE EXTRA POINT — *Kansas City rebounded from its Super Bowl LIX loss to the Eagles with the kind of quiet aggression that only a confident powerhouse can pull off. Instead of panic trades or splashy overhauls, the Chiefs played it smooth, tagging star guard Trey Smith, landing future blindside protector Jaylon Moore to shield Mahomes' golden arm, and beefing up the secondary with the addition of Kristian Fulton. They also retained their defensive play-caller in linebacker Nick Bolton and doubled down on wide receiver familiarity by re-signing both Marquise "Hollywood" Brown and JuJu Smith-Schuster. The result? The Chiefs may have lost the trophy, but they won the offseason war. Their rebuild-on-the-fly resembles an orchestra tuning up for an encore — and with Mahomes at the podium, the next symphony might play in February once again.*

32. Philadelphia	Kenneth Grant	DT	Michigan
------------------	---------------	----	----------

With the final pick of the 1st Round, S'feld sees the Philadelphia Eagles doing what teams in the final slot do: taking the best player available that fits a glaring need. Michigan defensive tackle Kenneth Grant is the name that lights up the card at Pick #32, and it's a vintage Howie Roseman selection — a hulking interior force (6'4", 335 lbs) who eats double teams for breakfast and still finds a way to disrupt passing lanes with his surprising burst. Philly's defensive front has aged quickly, and while DT Jalen Carter has become the new face of the line, Grant gives the Eagles another versatile, anchor-level player who can keep the interior rotation fresh and ferocious. With safety, EDGE, and corner still on the needs list, this isn't just a smart pick — it's a classic Eagles pick: trench-built, tough, and tailor-made for playoff football. Most teams flinch when the board doesn't fall their way, but Roseman and company simply find value, and S'feld believes Grant is the kind of high-floor, high-ceiling prospect who will thrive under DC Vic Fangio. In a year where the bulk of Philly's concerns rest on the defensive side of the ball, they keep the tradition of stockpiling the line of scrimmage alive. When in doubt, keep adding bricks to the wall. Roseman is on a heater with everything he touches right now, and if this run continues, don't bet on him cooling off in 2025.

THE EXTRA POINT — *What Philly did from 2023 to 2024 is like watching someone fall off a cliff, hit every rock on the way down... and then land in a heaping pile of roses. After one of the most infamous late-season collapses in recent memory in '23 (losing 5 of their last 6 regular season games, not including a soul-sucking playoff loss at Tampa Bay), most teams would've imploded or hit the reset button. Not the Eagles. Instead, they leaned into the chaos, kept their head coach, rebuilt the defense, and went on a Super Bowl tear the following year — led by a unit that had been their biggest liability. It's not often a team turns its weakness into a title-caliber strength in one offseason, but that's exactly what Philly did. Oh, and adding a near 2,000-yard running back from*

your rival didn't hurt either. When the Birds finally took down the Chiefs, it wasn't luck — it was proof that sometimes it's always darkest before the dawn.