

2020 S'FELD SCOUTING SERVICES NFL DRAFT PREVIEW

1. Cincinnati Joe Burrow QB LSU

Has there ever been a more meteoric rise than that of LSU's Joe Burrow? A year ago at this time I'm not sure anyone would have had him as a 4th Round selection let alone the #1 overall pick. In 2019 he threw 16 TDs against 5 interceptions. Last year? 60! Count 'em! 60 TDs and only 6 picks! From being on the edge of oblivion to hoisting a Heisman it has been Joe's world and we are all just living in it. So this pick should be relatively straightforward. SSS doesn't see another team even being able to offer a king's ransom to be able to swing a deal with the Bengals. Cincy strikes me as a conservative, "hold the line" team in this spot more than a team that would try to trade down and roll the dice with one of the lesser QBs who may fall them. No need to think twice, just do as Steve Miller would suggest and go on, take the money and run. And I don't know how you don't root for this pick to work for the Bengals. Eventually, a team like Cincy deserves to get rewarded with the right move at the right time. For their sake let's hope this 1st Round draft selection of a QB works out more like Carson Palmer in 2003 than Akili Smith in 1999 and David Klingler in 1992.

THE EXTRA POINT – *The beauty of this pick for the Bengals is that they really won't have to look in the rear-view mirror if for some reason Burrow flails in Cincy and flames out. Unlike in past year's when there are multiple arguments for multiple quarterbacks like what Cleveland faced taking Baker Mayfield in 2018 and what Philly and the LA Rams faced to a degree in their trades to the top in 2016, no one is going to criticize them for making this pick. Oregon quarterback Justin Herbert and Utah State quarterback Justin Love just aren't good enough to be considered as the top QB. Last year the assumption was that everyone would be "Tanking For Tua" but because of his serious injury that forced him out of the second half of the season, you wouldn't dare select an injury risk like Tua over a guy who played with the utmost confidence while compiling video game stats to a level we have never seen like Burrow. The only mistake the Bengals can make here is A.) overthinking this pick, B.) trading out of this pick or C.) pulling a Mike Tice and failing to submit Burrow's name to Roger Goodell before their time on the draft clock expires. And as much as you all know how hard SSS has been on the Bengals in the past – they aren't making any mistakes here. They will get their guy and hopefully for their sake they will build around him to give him a chance to show some semblance of the success he had dominating the SEC and the nation last year on the Bayou.*

2. Washington Chase Young DE Ohio State

As much as SSS hopes that Joe Burrow works out well for the Bengals, we KNOW without question that Chase Young is going to work out for the Redskins. They have been wanting to submit this pick from the moment the season ended and the draft slots were official. And if you didn't think Washington wanted a player of this caliber before, they definitely did once they brought on Ron Rivera as head coach. From the moment of Rivera's introductory press conference Chase Young might as well have turned in his scarlet and grey jersey for the burgundy and gold. He was signed, sealed and delivered to the Redskins. Rivera is salivating at

the opportunity to get the player that SSS feels is the best overall player in the draft and a surefire star. Can't miss. Won't miss. These first two announced picks will be soooo easy to make that even Steve Harvey could do it. The craziest part about Young? He hasn't even come close to reaching his full potential. In college Young could play three full games of chess while the offensive tackles that he was going up against were stuck on there first move of checkers. He made it look too easy. A heat-seeking missile with a huge play making radius, Young's explosiveness is unmatched and once he gets his hands on a ball carrier, it's all over. This is a franchise-altering pick in the most positive way possible. Teams better get used to hearing "Hail To The Redskins" once again.

THE EXTRA POINT – *For 12 of the past 14 seasons the Washington Redskins have finished either 3rd or 4th in the four-team NFC East. The team has won one playoff game since the turn of the century. For a storied franchise like Washington's that is a very bitter pill to swallow. Jack Kent Cooke is rolling over in his grave wondering how this proud franchise has failed to recapture its success from the 80's and early 90's. Well, SSS believes that the long arduous wait may finally be over. We are firm believers and staunch defenders of Ron Rivera and after trudging through bad coaching hires or ones that couldn't work with owner Dan Snyder, we believe Rivera can both win and smoke a proverbial peace pipe with Snyder. Every NFL team that Rivera has been associated with has had benchmark success. He helped the Eagles go to three straight NFC Championships as an assistant coach under Andy Reid in Philadelphia. He served as the defensive coordinator for Chicago's 2005 playoff team that finished second in defense along with coaching their 2006 Super Bowl team. He helped the Chargers reach three straight postseasons and an AFC Championship in 2007. And in his first head-coaching role, he took the Panthers to four postseasons and Super Bowl 50. SSS doesn't believe there is any randomness involved with that. Rivera is a legitimate coach and has learned a ton from his head coaching experience in Carolina and will apply it here. He is a true professional with some promising pieces involved on both sides of the ball. SSS believes that with the addition of Young, the Redskins could be the surprise playoff team no one sees coming in the NFC. Teams probably better start preparing to hear a whole lot more of "Hail To The Redskins" in 2020.*

*****TRADE*** (Detroit trades with Jacksonville, giving up Pick #3 to acquire Picks #9, #20, #137 and 2020 3rd Rounder)**

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| 3. Jacksonville | Tua Tagovailoa | QB |
| Alabama | | |

The Jaguars coming in hot!!! That's right. SSS has identified a team that not many are discussing in pre-draft hype as the one that is going to be the talk of Thursday night's festivities with a bullet. Sometimes the things that make the least sense are the things that in actuality make the most sense of all. Let SSS guide you through the enchanted forest that ultimately leads the Jags to a pot of gold. First, the team has the draft capital to make the move to get into the top 3 to secure Tua. Second, Nick Foles was barely in town long enough for a cup of coffee before Jaguars General Manager David Caldwell realized that he was injury-prone and not ready to be this team's savior. So that leaves Gardner Minshew and while several media outlets have tried to sell some sort of promise of what Minshew could be, SSS ain't buying it. But the most important reason that Tua will soon be donning the black and teal is that team owner Shahid Khan sees

dollar signs in Tagovailoa. Not the dollar signs he will have to shell out, but the dollar signs that will line his pockets with an attraction like Tua. The Jaguars are a team that needs the sizzle just as much as the steak. Unlike other teams that can sell out crowds even with sub-par performances year after year, the Jags don't have that luxury. They need an attraction. A needle-mover! A star! And Tua is the closest thing to a Vegas attraction in this draft. More importantly, he is a quarterback that outside of injury would likely be the #1 pick over Burrow if healthy. Is there risk? Sure - but not as much for the Jags as other teams. They don't draw fans now anyway so if Tua doesn't live up to the hype, they won't lose any more fans than they already don't have. And his ceiling is otherworldly. It doesn't take Albert Einstein to put the equation together that draft capital + a bad QB situation + an owner's desire for a better attraction = Tua Tagovailoa. Aloha!

THE EXTRA POINT – So SSS has already laid out how Tua's ceiling is insanely high. That being said, while many nicknamed him "Touchdown Tua" throughout his career he easily could have been labeled Tent Time Tua as well. I'm not sure there was a game in his last season and a half in which Tagovailoa wasn't in the injury tent once or twice a game. His various injuries always seem to limit his mobility to a degree but his accuracy and touch is unmatched. The key for any team investing in Tua is going to be that you will have to also invest in plenty of Saran Wrap as well. But for all those media outlets that claim Tua will slip because of his injury issues, SSS says this – it only takes one team out of 32 to not worry about his past injuries and want the Tua that destroyed SEC secondaries. While SSS believes that Jacksonville provides the Lions with the best trade haul for Tua, SSS knows that if it isn't Jacksonville, someone else will happily fill that void and claim Tua for themselves.

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| 4. New York Giants | Isaiah Simmons | LB |
| Clemson | | |

SSS is rolling the dice on this pick in a big way. While it would be very easy and also understandable to slot an offensive tackle to the Giants here, SSS doesn't believe the upper echelon OTs are worthy of #4 overall. While Giants General Manager Dave Gettleman will have his pick of the litter if he wants to select Tristan Wirfs of Iowa, Mekhi Becton of Louisville, Jedrick Wills of Alabama or Andrew Thomas of Georgia, SSS just doesn't think he will pull the trigger on need over value. You would be hoping that those guys pan out for you at #4 overall. With as many holes as the Giants need to fill, Gettleman can't bank on hope. He needs results. And as Gettleman looks deep into the mirror, it will be the value pick of Clemson LB Isaiah Simmons that stares back. Simmons is definitely the fairest of them all and no other LB in the 2020 crop can even touch this hybrid talent. Do you know what defensive coordinators love most? Exotics. No not Joe Exotics, although Simmons did play like a Tiger King during his time at Clemson. SSS is referring to exotic looks that defenses love to run in disguising their looks and packages. Who can provide you with that sort of defensive look to create mismatches and complex alignments? Simmons. Along with his versatility, Simmons has amazing range and can make plays from sideline-to-sideline. While new Giants head coach Joe Judge has more of a special teams background, he will love what he gets on the defensive side of the ball from Simmons.

THE EXTRA POINT – If ever there was a GM who had to feel as big as Tiny Tim after a draft it was Gettleman last year. He was absolutely crucified for taking QB Daniel Jones as early as he did at #6 last year and also for taking him over Dwayne Haskins. But do you hear that sound coming from the cheap seats now? Crickets. Jones actually showed flashes of brilliance last year with a 32-31 win on the final drive over Tampa for his first career win and a 5 TD, 0 INT performance in a 41-35 OT win over Washington in Week 16. For the season he threw 24 TDs against 12 picks and didn't look like a guy who was afraid of the big stage. While SSS wasn't all that fond of the Daniel Jones pick last year either, we do believe from what we have seen from Jones during his rookie campaign that Jones has a really good chance to take another big step forward in 2020. Gettleman won't get a lot of apologies from the media, but SSS isn't afraid to tip our cap to the Giants GM.

**5. Miami Justin Herbert QB
Oregon**

SSS believes that if the Miami Dolphins truly want Tua Tagovailoa, they will get him. While they are on the outside looking in at the #5 draft slot, the Dolphins have as much draft capital as anyone and by a wide margin. Three 1st Round picks, two 2nd Round picks and 14 picks overall. They can go and get anyone they want. But you know what? We don't think the Dolphins will reach for Tua. Will they take him if he falls to them. Probably. Will they trade up to get him. We don't think so. The Dolphins are going to begin their building process this Thursday by using their picks to build their base as opposed to going all in for a guy I'm not sure they believe in. Tua's injury may have changed their thinking but the Dolphins most definitely were not giving up on the season last year. After all the speculation and ridicule they received for trading away their best players and starting so slowly in 2019, everyone would have guessed right that the Dolphins ended up with their franchise quarterback with their first pick. But everyone would have been wrong when told it was Oregon signal caller Justin Herbert.

THE EXTRA POINT – Remembering Tanking for Tua? Everyone, and I mean everyone was convinced after all the offseason and regular season trades that Miami made in 2018 and 2019 that there was only one reason they were doing it. To get Tua Tagovailoa. Who could possibly forget the heart the Dolphins showed in a season opening nailbiter they lost to the Ravens 59-10. Or the down-to-the-wire heartbreaking 43-0 shutout at the hands of the New England Patriots in Week 2. When the Dolphins dropped to 0-7, people were ready to proclaim that Miami may be looking at a 0-16 finish. But if you take a look at where the Dolphins are drafting you notice one thing. Pick #5 means that four teams were worse than them. So what happened? Magic! Ryan Fitzmagic that is! Fitz has and always will be an equal opportunity quarterback. So as bad as he can be is also as surprisingly good as he can be, and the Dolphins not only looked like real football team down the stretch, they beat good teams in Indianapolis, Philly and the Patriots to reach 5 wins.

**6. Los Angeles Chargers Andrew Thomas OT
Georgia**

If you don't think the Chargers are desperate for help on the offensive line than look no further than the 3-year, \$30 million deal they gave former Packer Bryan Bulaga to hold down their right

tackle spot. Don't get it twisted – SSS has the utmost respect for Bulaga and he was a warrior during his time in Green Bay, but he is 30 years old and has suffered two torn ACLs (2013 and 2017). He still has graded out rather high in recent years but how much longer can his body hold up with his history of knee injuries? That is why they really have no other choice but to take the best possible left tackle candidate they can get. SSS believes that is Georgia OT Andrew Thomas for a couple reasons. First, Thomas is a natural left tackle who stood up very well in the week-in, week-out SEC grind. Second, Tristan Wirfs of Iowa and Jedrick Wills of Alabama played right tackle as opposed to left. And while Mekhi Becton of Louisville has his supporters, he is too heavy for SSS liking and does not necessarily have a high floor, let alone a high ceiling to take at #6. The prescription for a team with this little depth upfront is Thomas and the Chargers are hoping he may be just what the doctor ordered to rebuild this line from the outside-in.

THE EXTRA POINT – Bill Murray might as well coach the Chargers and hold the draft on Groundhog Day as opposed to April 23rd because if ever there was a team that always seems to have the same primary need every single year it's this crew. Offensive tackles come and go through a turnstile with the Chargers and of course, here they are - again needing someone to help keep their quarterbacks vertical as opposed to horizontal. Philip Rivers can attest to this long-standing tradition the Chargers have of making their QBs more familiar with the ER than a TD. But it is hard for SSS to feel bad for these Chargers because while they always seem to need help with their O-line, they never want to address it in the 1st Round. Los Angeles has only taken an offensive lineman in the 1st Round once since 1987. And we wonder why they never have great offensive lines? SSS doesn't believe they can continue this trend, especially with Tyrod Taylor replacing ultra-durable Philip Rivers under center. Rivers was a saint for putting up with as much punishment as he did and for succeeding at the level he did while always being under duress.

| | | |
|-------------|---------------|----|
| 7. Carolina | Derrick Brown | DT |
| Auburn | | |

I don't think the Carolina brass were expecting Ohio State cornerback Jeff Okudah to last until pick #7 but alas here we are. It will be very tempting for Carolina to select everyone's top defensive back here, but the top defensive tackle is also available to them as well. That being said, Carolina's run defense last season was so bad that its DVOA (Defense-adjusted Value Over Average) was the worst by any team since the 1996 Redskins. Ouch. The Panthers lost last year's starting defensive tackles Gerald McCoy and Dontari Poe to the Cowboys and there wasn't much to write home about behind those two, so to a degree Carolina is starting from scratch. One of the first directives in the SSS rulebook is to build your defense from the inside out and while we don't know if Carolina General Manager Marty Hurney reads the SSS rulebook, we are going to assume he does. It is never a good sign when the top four needs on your football team are defensive line, cornerback, edge rusher and linebacker. See a theme here? And while people may think that SSS is all wet with this projection, the well has actually run dry for the entire Panthers defense. Brown can be that player that helps flatten the curve for the Carolina defense with his size, strength and ability to make like a Thanksgiving turkey and gobble up opposing blockers. Brown is a motivated player the should serve as a building block for the Panthers future.

THE EXTRA POINT – What a difference a year makes in Carolina. From Ron Rivera to former Baylor head coach Matt Rhule. From former Super Bowl QB Cam Newton to New Orleans backup Teddy Bridgewater. This upcoming season will definitely be a great test for is the grass greener on the other side? SSS isn't convinced that Rhule will be as effective at the NFL level as he was at the collegiate. His style of coaching seems perfect for the college setting but NFL executives must be higher on him than SSS because multiple teams were vying for his services before he awarded the Panthers the final rose. In much the same way that Carolina won the Rhule sweepstakes, they also navigated trouble waters to land Teddy B., who saw his value rise significantly after filling in for the injured Drew Brees. Can Teddy truly return to his top form from several years ago with the Vikings and be a viable starter? History says that is unlikely and SSS sees Carolina as more of a 6 or 7 win team, especially with the rapid improvement of this division now that Tom Brady has found a home in the NFC South.

8. Arizona Tristan Wirfs OT Iowa

It should come as no surprise that the team making its first selection this high and following Carolina in the draft has as much if not more problems on defense than the Panthers do. Most teams with good to great defenses aren't drafting in the top 10. The Cardinals allowed more yards than any team last year so while it would be easy to think they would address defense like Carolina did, it would also be wrong. Each situation is different and for Arizona, protecting quarterback Kyler Murray should dictate what they do. Because of a shrewd trade to acquire running back Kenyan Drake last season and Houston's mind-boggling trade of DeAndre Hopkins to the Cards, there is some sweet juice with no pulp to weigh down Arizona. General Manager Steve Keim has made a child's finger painting look like the Mona Lisa almost overnight with these transactions. Now imagine adding Tristan Wirfs to the fray at right tackle. Wirfs turned the NFL combine into his own personal playground with his freakish strength and athleticism. Iowa has a long line of offensive line success stories under head coach Kirk Ferentz and as one Iowa offensive line legend walks away from the NFL after many successful years (Marshal Yanda), another one prepares to take his place in Wirfs. SSS has been critical of Arizona's poor management over the past few years but their recent surge and quality acquisitions also prove that it only takes a few key moves to right the ship.

THE EXTRA POINT – SSS has already referenced that we are excited to see what the Washington Redskins will do this year as our expectations for that team have grown. The same can be said for Arizona who can really put themselves in a good position with a solid 7-round draft. If you consider that the vaunted NFC South now looks as though it may be weakening, the team that benefits the most from that narrative is the Cardinals. San Francisco won the division and should still be a quality team, but following up a season after a Super Bowl loss has been historically difficult. The LA Rams go-for-broke attitude the past few years almost netted them a Super Bowl championship but now they are facing a margin call and have already lost key assets in Todd Gurley and Dante Fowler, while having given up several 1st Round assets. The Rams are firmly in Arizona's crosshairs. And Seattle's season was made last year by winning almost every close game. That trend is sure to regress to the mean moving forward. For head coach Kliff Kingsbury, the days of development in the desert are over. It's time to see if he can get these birds to take flight.

Despite the fact that Cleveland is at #10 overall, their scouting department and new GM Andrew Berry have to feel more like they can just sit back and let the draft come to them. Why? Because SSS doesn't see how they don't take whichever of the top 4 offensive tackles falls to them at this spot. They could trade down, but simply selecting their top OT is the reasonable and smart decision. Thomas and Wirfs are gone so it comes down to Mekhi Becton or Jedrick Wills and SSS has a hunch Becton gets the nod. The fact that Wills was on the right side while Becton occupied the left makes us confident in Becton here, especially considering that Cleveland signed free agent tackle Jack Conklin at right tackle. Additionally, when you have quality of running backs that the Browns do you need a road grader and Becton fits the bill. When you look at Becton's biggest weaknesses they revolve around his weight and his discipline. Both of those things can be corrected or addressed. The big fella is surprisingly nimble for 6' 7" and 365 pounds. His size alone can make up for mistakes in technique. SSS is not saying that there aren't some potential issues with Becton, but the ball is really in his court to see how good he can be and SSS is betting on the commitment over complacency with Becton.

****THE EXTRA POINT*** – You know who SSS seemed to see in commercials every time we turned the TV on last offseason? Baker Mayfield. You know who SSS seemed to see getting sacked, picked off or pissed off every time we turned on the TV during last year's regular season? Baker Mayfield. Momentum is a funny, funny thing and after the Browns won 5 of their final 7 games in 2018, everyone and their brother got sucked into Baker & the Browns. They acquired Odell Beckham Jr. They added Kareem Hunt. They promoted Freddie Kitchens. And even Las Vegas got sucked into the fallacy that the Browns were a viable threat by making only New England and Kansas City bigger favorites to get to the Super Bowl than the Browns. So what happened? What has happened in Cleveland almost every year since they were re-established as a franchise in 1999. Nothing good. The Browns couldn't even deal with "success" when people considered their 7-8-1 season a success. These are very difficult shoes that new head coach Kevin Stefanski is stepping into. The Browns haven't won a playoff game since they were the old Browns (or current Ravens). Is there reason to believe Coach Stef can turn it around? Maybe. But he is going to need a lot of help from his players and organization and more importantly, a lot of prayers.*

11. New York Jets

Jerry Jeudy

WR

Alabama

At S'feld Scouting we don't play favorites or root for one team over another, but we have to be honest in saying we are uber-excited to see how this pick plays out for the Jets. SSS has Jerry Jeudy and CeeDee Lamb as the top 2 receivers in the draft and from our player rankings they could easily be 1a and 1b. Both players are going to have an immediate impact wherever they land but for Jeudy he will get a chance to be freed from the kennel and be the alpha dog for the Jets. SSS has seen very few receivers that run routes as crisp as Jeudy. His precision along with his speed will give quarterback Sam Darnold that kind of catch-all receiver that can act as a Swiss Army knife beating you multiple ways and taking the top off the defense. The Jets get need and value in the same pick as there is no way they can pass on either Jeudy or Lamb here with Jamison Crowder and Breshad Perriman serving as their current top two wideouts. Crowder & Perriman scare no one it would be hard to see Darnold continuing to make progress as a passer with such limited options. The Jets were one of only a handful of teams that averaged less than

200 yards passing per game last year and you aren't going to be very successful with a stat like that. Jeudy is not only a perfectionist in his route running but can win on 50-50 balls and will make safeties think twice about approaching the line of scrimmage. Alabama has an impressive lineage of elite receivers that have become NFL superstars from Julio Jones to Amari Cooper to Calvin Ridley, and Jeudy is ready for the torch to be passed on to him.

THE EXTRA POINT – We mentioned with the Lions how well they started the season before the four walls collapsed around them. Well on the flip side of that coin are the New York Jets. The Jets stumbled out of the blocks to a 1-7 start and SSS will admit, it didn't look good for Adam Gase and the Jets. But unlike the Lions who seemed to throw in the towel on the season, the Jets took off winning six of their final eight games to finish 7-9. The Jets are following the same pattern that had Cleveland fans believing that they were ready to make the jump to the next level after 2018. As we referenced earlier, the Browns melted under the pressure of expectations. For Coach Gase the time is now to prove his worth as a head coach especially with Tom Brady no longer torturing the Jets in New England and the rest of the division up for grabs.

12. Las Vegas

CeeDee Lamb

WR

Oklahoma

The Raiders are in the same boat (but at least 6 feet apart) as the Jets who select right before them. They have a great need for more playmakers and they will most assuredly get one at Pick #12. Darren Waller emerged as a bona-fide superstar last season with 90 receptions for 1145 yards last year from the tight end position but quarterback Derek Carr needs more weapons than Waller. Enter CeeDee Lamb. If Lamb was a baseball player he would be regarded as a 5-tool superstar. He can beat you on all levels and can make even an average QB look like a good one with his ability to adjust to all throws and turn small gains into large ones. With Josh Jacobs already proving last season that he is a legitimate top-5 back, Lamb is the perfect compliment to help lead this offense to the slaughter of their opponents. A big play threat on every play, Lamb is the sort of player that former owner Al Davis would have loved. The ghosts of Al Davis will be bellowing "Just win baby" with this pick and Oakland will still have a chance to add another key piece to their draft puzzle when they use one of the picks they received from Chicago for Khalil Mack at #19.

THE EXTRA POINT – The Las Vegas Raiders. SSS is still having a hard time coming to terms with that name. It sounds like something straight out of the USFL. Unfortunately for the Raiders they aren't playing the likes of the New Jersey Generals, Chicago Blitz or Houston Gamblers in 2020. They will have much more difficult schedule but in fairness, General Manager Mike Mayock and head coach Jon Gruden far exceeded expectations in 2019. The Raiders were 6-4 through 10 games last year and had a very good year when you consider how people were laughing at their Antonio Brown situation before the season and the Khalil Mack trade of two years ago. Well the Raiders now have a chance to prove their naysayers wrong by utilizing these extra picks to go from surprising teams to supplanting them. SSS thought the Gruden regime would take a long time to get to a competitive level but the autumn winds have pushed the Raiders into a much better position to compete now.

16. Atlanta **CJ Henderson** **CB** **Florida**

So if you are the Atlanta Falcons, you have released CB Desmond Trufant, a starter for many years, and you are now looking at young corners Kendall Sheffield, Isaiah Oliver and Jordan Miller at corner. Yeesh. Why did they release Desmond Trufant again? This secondary is brutal. But no worries. It's not like you have to face Drew Brees and Tom Brady twice a year. Oh.....wait. Yeah, get CJ Henderson on the line, stat! There are two elite cover corners in this draft and Hendo is one of them. The possessor of blazing speed, Henderson showcases incredible footwork and tremendous closing skills that fool opposing quarterbacks into seeing openings that don't even exist. David Blaine wouldn't even be able to fool as many quarterbacks as Henderson does. Additionally, he isn't afraid to bring his lunch pail to work and get his nose in the middle of things when it comes to providing run support. When you face as many great passing teams as Atlanta does, it doesn't pay to cut corners, and CJ Henderson will deliver on his upside and give Atlanta a square deal.

****THE EXTRA POINT*** – The Atlanta Falcons are running out of time. Matt Ryan isn't getting any younger and Julio Jones is too good of a player not to have had more playoff success. The problem is that while head coach Dan Quinn was able to buy himself another year because his players love him to death, he may have set the Falcons back even further. Why? Because Dan Quinn reminds SSS of The Undertaker. Dead. Man. Walking. Dan Quinn isn't turning this team around this year. It's just not happening. The Saints aren't going anywhere. The Bucs just lapped Atlanta with their impressive acquisitions. And last but not least, Carolina has a new coach that people believe in. What does Atlanta have? Prolonged agony. That fan base deserves better. Falcons owner and Home Depot co-founder Arthur Blank should have done Falcons fans a favor and built Dan Quinn a new home..... far, far away from Atlanta.*

*****TRADE*** (Dallas trades with San Francisco, giving up Picks #17, #180 and a 2020 2nd Rounder to acquire Pick #13)**

17. San Francisco **Henry Ruggs III** **WR**
Alabama

So far the trades in the SSS Draft have worked out very, very well for the teams that have traded down. The Lions were able to slide down six spots, accumulate picks and still get the guy they wanted and the same holds true for the 49ers. General Manager John Lynch pulls off another great trade and stockpiles more picks and gets the guy most pundits feel is the third best wideout in the entire draft. With WR Deebo Samuel coming into his own last year and taking the league by storm in the second half of the season and into the postseason, the addition of Ruggs gives San Francisco the ability to attack any part of the field with multiple looks and weapons. Ruggs makes Ted Ginn look slow as molasses and with that kind of blazing speed, his deep route running alone will open things up for the 49ers run game with Raheem Mostert and give TE George Kittle cleaner looks over the middle and down the seam. The addition of Ruggs on draft night also serves notice to Marquise Goodwin and Dante Pettis that their careers are officially on the clock with the 49ers.

round and I can already hear Eagles fans yelling at us – “A safety? You think we are going to take a safety!!! Are you crazy S'feld?” Yes. I am. Crazy like a fox! The Eagles haven't drafted a safety in the 1st Round since 1984 so why do I think they are going to end that 36-year trend in 2020? Because it is the unexpected. And because McKinney is a different kind of safety. He is a coach on the field type player with toughness and a field IQ that is unmatched. If Nick Saban trusts you with his defense than I would have to believe that the Eagles would too. With his quick-twitch he plays less like a safety and more like a corner. His versatility will allow the Eagles to create better matchups with their sub-packages and while his anticipation is excellent, his desire to deliver hits with bad intentions will make him a fan favorite in the City of Brotherly Love.

THE EXTRA POINT – It is surprising to see the Eagles with as many needs as they have. It wasn't too long ago that SSS was writing that the Eagles could draft for value over need. Now they can still draft for value over need but unfortunately it is because they have so many needs. The linebacker position is barren right now and while they still have receivers Alshon Jeffrey and DeSean Jackson, I don't think there are too many believers that those guys are 16-game performers moving forward. Philly definitely needs to address receiver depth, which will be tempting for Roseman in a WR draft this deep. LSU linebacker Patrick Queen could also be an option here but the bottom line is this – over the past years Philly has been home to legendary safeties and while they just let one go in Malcolm Jenkins, they can easily add one back in the “X” Man.

| 22. Minnesota (from BUF) | Jaylon Johnson | CB | Utah |
|--------------------------|----------------|----|------|
|--------------------------|----------------|----|------|

Not many people saying they think the Vikings will pass on a cornerback in the 1st Round and while SSS likes to be a contrarian in most cases, we are afraid we have to jump on the bandwagon here. With CB Xavier Rhodes headed to Indianapolis and Trae Waynes and Mackensie Alexander dining on Montgomery Inn ribs in Cincinnati, the cupboard is essentially bare outside of former 1st Rounder Mike Hughes. Enter Jaylon Johnson who is one of the most underrated players in the draft. With solid ball skills and toughness to the core, Johnson brings a physical presence that head coach Mike Zimmer would embrace. His size, athleticism and length make receivers have to go the extra mile on each play to get open and Johnson has good recovery and recognition skills as well. Johnson played with a torn labrum last season but that shouldn't stop the Vikings from taking a corner with huge upside. With picks here at #22 and at #25, the Vikings have flexibility in terms of value plays, need based picks or trade potential up or down. If there is a trade SSS believes the Vikings would go down instead of up.

THE EXTRA POINT – SSS couldn't believe it. Just couldn't possibly believe it. Vikings General Manager Rick Spielman did it again. For the second time in less than eight years, Trader Rick dealt a receiver that he didn't want for a treasure trove of draft capital. But the beauty of this trade is that even more than when he traded Percy Harvin, everyone and their brother knew that the relationship between the Vikes and Diggs had soured and more than likely run it's course. Yet, Spielman still played Brandon Beane like a fiddle despite what little leverage it looked like he had. Just like the Pied Piper, Spielman played his tune for Beane and all of Buffalo's picks followed Spielman right out of town. SSS has nothing against the Bills personally, but if Stefon Diggs couldn't stop complaining about catching passes from Kirk Cousins, what is he

going to do with a guy like Josh Allen, who thinks he is more running back than quarterback. The most yards passing that Allen had in a game last year was 266 and six times he didn't clear more than 185 passing yards. There could be some loooooong, cold winters for Diggs in Buffalo but SSS is sure he will be the same great team guy in Buffalo that he was in Minnesota. Wink, wink.

23. New England

Zack Baun

OLB

Wisconsin

If ever there was a team that liked to take advantage of buying on discount it has been the New England Patriots. From Randy Moss to Legarrette Blount to Antonio Brown, if there is a great player to be had at a cheap overall cost, sign head coach Bill Belichick up. The same holds true here. Zack Baun had all sorts of things going for him. He had 19.5 tackles-for-loss and 12.5 sacks last season. He is a prospect who seemed to be putting it all together at the right time. From his lateral quickness to his loathsome attitude for his opponents, Baun's versatility and motor propelled the Wisconsin defense. Everything was trending upward for Baun until he had a diluted drug test at the NFL Combine, which stopped all his momentum dead in its tracks. So will teams flag Baun? Probably enough of them to allow New England to drop in at #23 and scoop him up. Belichick loves to feature a front seven that is versatile and for sure he would get that with the addition of Baun. After losing Kyle Van Noy, Jamie Collins and Elandon Roberts via free agency, Baun is the first brick to rebuilding Bill's wall.

THE EXTRA POINT – SSS mentioned early in the Draft Guide that we are definitely looking forward to seeing what the Bucs do with Tom Brady. That will be must-see television every time TB12 suits up. But equally as exciting is going to be watching the Pats WITHOUT Tom Brady. I know that there are pundits who say that Jarrett Stidham has the biggest shoes to fill in NFL history, but let's just think a little bit about who he is playing for. Belichick has found ways to win without Brady before whether it was playing Jacoby Brissett, Jimmy G or Kenny G. SSS knows this – the AFC East is still not very good and will always be New England's to lose until someone can dethrone them more than just once every 10 years.

24. New Orleans

Jordan Love

QB

Utah

State

The NFL's biggest open secret has been that Drew Brees is going on his farewell tour in 2020. It has been a great ride and a great run for Brees and SSS is hoping he has a few more bullets to fire before his gun is decommissioned. Therefore head coach Sean Payton has to figure out which direction he will be moving in 2021 and SSS feels like Jordan Love at #24 is worth the price for Who Dat Nation. Love's name has floated up and down draft boards for weeks but S'feld Services feels this is right around the range of where he will land. After seeing how important Teddy Bridgewater was in relief of Brees last year, the Saints know they need more than just a quality backup from this year's draft, they need a future. Love is the owner of a smooth, natural throwing style and while he has a big arm, he doesn't compromise by lacking touch. His strengths far outnumber his weaknesses and he may be undervalued because of the fact he played at Utah State.

THE EXTRA POINT – As excited as SSS is about enjoying Drew Brees for one more year, you have to admit, the window seems to have already closed after last year's home playoff loss to the Vikings. For the second straight year the Saints had their hearts ripped out.....in their home stadium.....when they were significant favorites. The Saints may not have been favored to win the Super Bowl last year but they definitely were the year prior and those two playoff losses to the Vikings and Rams just seemed to put a bow on a great career. But oh would could have been.

25. Minnesota

A.J. Epenesa

DE

Iowa

"Hello S'feld? What are you doing? The Vikings need a corner and a receiver, not a corner and a defensive end!" We hear you screaming from the other side of the screen but we're not listening. Why? Because this is an immense opportunity for the Vikings to get prime value on a player who is only slipping because he didn't have a great combine. Former NBA superstar Rasheed Wallace is known for the greatest statement in basketball – "Ball Don't Lie." Well S'feld is known for a similar statement that unfortunately doesn't get near the publicity that it should – "Tape Don't Lie!" Just put on the tape of A.J. Epenesa, grab some popcorn, snuggle with your significant other and enjoy the show. Epenesa has amazing hands at the point of attack and while I get that a 5.04 40 at the combine caused some groans, trust us when we tell you there will be far more groans coming from opposing QBs when Epenesa unloads on them from the blindside. SSS has Eppy trailing only Chase Young in our DE rankings and better yet – because of the way Iowa played him sparingly his first few seasons – he is a young coachable guy with plenty of tread left on the tire and a desire to dominate. It's surprising that Epenesa didn't go to Florida State because his tomahawk power chop is his staple and his ability to cause strip sacks is reminiscent of Khalil Mack. With Everson Griffen likely on the outs with the Purple, Epenesa give GM Rick Spielman and head coach Mike Zimmer a shiny new tool from the toolbox and one that will saw down offensive tackles while hammering the QB.

THE EXTRA POINT – SSS has seen some pretty ridiculous rankings in our time but we're not sure any were as ridiculous as NFL.com's General Manager rankings that came out last week. Seven GMs weren't ranked because they were considered too new to give rankings to. That left a top 25 of the best General Managers. Do you want to know who ranked 14th? Rick freaking Spielman. Yep Rick Spielman. At first glance I thought maybe the ranker made a typo and added a 1 in front of the 4 that shouldn't be there but I was wrong. #14. Do you want to know a few GMs ranked ahead of a guy who is better than Keyser Soze at convincing opposing GMs that he didn't fleece them while he cleans their clocks? Jerry Jones (#13). Good grief. Oh you mean the guy that single-handedly torched his own coach last year and saw the most injury-riddled team known to man (Philly) beat out his talent-rich Cowboys for the division? Brandon Beane (#12). Comical. Spielman proved to this guy in the Diggs trade that a nickel really can hold up a dollar. Les Snead (#10). This guy will be selling doughnuts at Krispy Kremes next year after torpedoing his team with bad deals and awful salary cap management. He is just rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic. John Lynch (#6). I get it. His team was in the Super Bowl last year. But boy, sure must have been hard to take that call from Chicago a few years where unprompted they offered everything but the Colonel's original recipe for you to move down one spot and basically double your draft supply. Where did you find the wherewithal to say yes! Listen, the bottom line

is Spielman is a top 5 GM without question and you can take that to the bank. Meanwhile NFL.com can take their GM rankings and shove 'em.

**26. Miami (from HOU) D'Andre Swift RB
Georgia**

Yep – that's right. Three 1st Round picks. Three offensive players. If you don't think hardcore and casual fans will be doing the floss after these picks than you don't know much about great dance moves. This pick just makes complete sense. The Dolphins traded away RB Kenyan Drake last season but they can get an even greater return with a back like Swift. Georgia backs have fared very well in the pros the past few years so there is no reason to think Swift won't be able to hang his coat on the same hooks as Todd Gurley, Nick Chubb and Sony Michel. This dude can flat-out play and Miami is smart to grab him here because those that think Swift is falling to the 2nd Round have been quarantined for too long. Swift is half-man, half-amazing and will take loads of pressure off whomever the Fish trot out at QB next year. The #1 back on the SSS Board, his decisiveness and understanding of following the lead of his blockers and being patient are what separates him from the rest. His ability to read and react is a lost art at this position and the Dolphins finish the first round with three solid picks, and forego social distancing to party at the club celebrating their opening night success.

****THE EXTRA POINT*** – We mentioned before that a few great picks can turn a team with not much going for them into a team that suddenly has shed the loser label. Don't think for one second that couldn't be the case for Miami and in short order. They won't be selling off quality players any longer. The building mentality has already crossed over its peak. This draft marks the beginning of GM Chris Grier and head coach Brian Flores attempting to put it all together and win games each and every Sunday.*

**27. Seattle Yetur Gross-Matos DE Penn
State**

So it appears that the Seattle Seahawks and defensive end Jadeveon Clowney are in limbo. How will it end? Who knows, but I don't think the Seahawks want to play the waiting game. The biggest need for the Seahawks is a pass rush specialist and Yetur Gross-Matos is a good one at #27. Seattle was able to bring back its two interior starters on the defensive line in Jarran Reed and Poona Ford, but it needs more from the outside. Gross-Matos gives the Seahawks some flexibility as he is a bit of a hybrid but more importantly, he is still growing as a player while already putting up significant numbers. He has the size and agility that coaches love and a plethora of moves we haven't seen the likes of since Kevin Bacon in Footloose. Seattle could make a play along the interior offensive line but Gross-Matos seems like a more valuable piece to the puzzle.

****THE EXTRA POINT*** – Okay, we have to come clean. SSS believes there is about a 5% chance that Seattle actually makes this pick. General Manager John Schneider has a bigger fear of making first round picks than he does contracting COVID-19. The Seahawks have traded their original 1st Round pick every year since 2011. That's right. Nine straight years of trading their 1st*

Round pick. Pretty sure the owners give you a gold watch if you get to 10. SSS just couldn't find a significant trade partner for what teams would covet here at #27 so we gave the Seahawks their best fit. But again – if you are a betting man or woman – get your ticket now that the Seahawks are trading out and you can thank me later.

28. Baltimore Patrick Queen ILB LSU

Everything that S'feld Services has heard this week from our sources indicates that linebacker Patrick Queen is the pick here for the Ravens if he is still available. The Ravens saw quite a few defensive linemen depart this offseason, but they upgraded by trading Calais Campbell and inking Derek Wolfe. That's great and all but that still doesn't answer the question of who is replacing inside backer C.J. Mosley. Mosley's loss after the 2018 was huge and if you watched Ravens games this past fall you could sense immediately that the Ravens were missing his presence. Queen is just the type of player the Ravens adore on defense with his seek-and-destroy mentality and high level football smarts. Queen was at his best when the lights shined brightest. His best games of the year in 2019 were against Georgia, Oklahoma and Clemson. He not only can be the centerpiece of a defense he WANTS to be the centerpiece of the defense. The biggest issue for the Ravens is that if they feel this way about Queen so will a few other teams and those teams will know that if they don't move in front of the Ravens, they aren't getting this playmaker.

THE EXTRA POINT – Two postseasons. Two underwhelming performances. QB Lamar Jackson has been a showstopper the past two regular seasons but the knock has been that he is solved by better defenses and better coaches in the playoffs. While it may be easy to say that "Oh, he's young. He'll get through it," SSS isn't so sure. If you have read our past Draft Reviews you know that we are not high on running quarterbacks. But I wouldn't even consider Jackson a running QB. He's a freaking running back. Eventually all QBs have to become more pocket passers and find a better mixture of passing and running like Seattle's Russell Wilson. Much like cooking, too much of one ingredient and not enough of another ruins the dish. Baltimore need to figure out a way soon to have Jackson season the playbook perfectly. Bon appetit!

**29. Tennessee A.J. Terrell CB
Clemson**

Is it their biggest need? No. But the positions that they have true needs at have suddenly dried up like tomatoes with the way the S'feld Draft cards have been dealt. Instead of potentially getting the EDGE rusher they wanted or one of the top defensive or offensive linemen, the Titans have been left with "meh." So grab one of the better players on the board and increase the depth of your secondary with A.J. Terrell. It's not Tennessee's fault that they were hoping to see an ace or a king in this spot and they have been dealt 2-7 offsuit. Terrell is a press corner who has decent size and the patience to not get rattled or out of position. He understands the game and has a quick burst and turns 50-50 balls into 80-20 balls in his favor.

THE EXTRA POINT – SSS has been a big fan of Tennessee General Manager Jon Robinson for years. The guy has made several good decisions during his time with the Titans that have led to the sort of season the team had last year. From hiring Mike Vrabel as head coach to being savvy

enough to see something in Ryan Tannehill that none of the rest of us did. Robinson has molded this team to his liking and given them an identity. With that being said, I am surprised that the Titans opened the checkbook for Derrick Henry. Is Derrick Henry a guy that you will be able to depend on long-term? As we have seen with the Todd Gurleys of the world, the running back position has a shelf life of raw sushi. Be we will continue to trust that Robinson knows something that we don't. We have trusted his decisions in the past and by the looks of things, the Titans aren't a team that looks like they will be falling off soon - especially in a paper-thin division.

**30. Green Bay
Clemson**

Tee Higgins

WR

C'mon Packers. Get another weapon for Aaron Rodgers before it's too late! Does anyone remember what Brett Favre did when he arrived at Minnesota after being labeled a shell of himself with the New York Jets in 2008? He got to Minnesota and had Sidney Rice. He had Percy Harvin. He had Adrian Peterson. And because of all that he almost had a NFC Championship. The Packers need to do right by the star QB and pick up Tee Higgins here. There are going to be several second tier WR targets here but Higgins makes sense to the Pack. You can no longer rely on jump off the cliff Geronimo Allison and Marquez Juan Valdez Scantling. I wouldn't trust the former or the latter to make my coffee. Devin Funchess isn't someone you can trust and Allen Lazard is good, but not next level. And what is it I always hear from Packer fans? "We own the team! We have stock!" Then please if your not going to do right by your fans, at least do right by your shareholders!

THE EXTRA POINT – I know they wont listen to me because they haven't listened to me for the past 15 years, but please for the love of humanity select a receiver in an early round for Aaron Rodgers! People ask me all the time, "Hey S'feld, who would you pick if you could pick anybody to try to stop Rodgers?" And I always reply, "That's easy, his front office." Don't ask me why, because I have never understood it but the Packers still haven't taken a skill position in the first round since 2005. So why am I projecting it now? Cause we are throwing caution to the wind and just like Charlie Brown, SSS is going to run and try to kick that football. And sure enough you can bet your bottom dollar that Packer GM Brian Gutekunst is going to play Lucy and pull it away at the last minute leaving S'feld Services to fly through the air and land on our back. And you know what? We will probably be back here next near doing this stupid dance again.

31. San Francisco

Kristian Fulton

CB

LSU

The 80's Celtics learned a very valuable lesson a long time ago that many teams should also learn from. Don't hold onto your superstars too long or fail to plan for their departure. The Niners have a lot of luxuries right now but the secondary has shown a few cracks and teams can never have enough defensive secondary help. That is why General Manger John Lynch goes to the well and brings up LSU corner Kristian Fulton. He fits San Fran's style and while he may not be the most coveted corner on the draft board he has a tendency to always be around the ball looking to make plays.

THE EXTRA POINT – Easy street. That is what the 49ers are living on right now. Easy street. They have rebuilt their team into something that looks a lot like what they had under former

coach Jim Harbaugh the last time they reached a Super Bowl. Amazing defensive linemen, intimidating defensive backs and a run-first, ask questions later philosophy. It's good to see that the 49ers realized what worked for them between the Jim Tomsula and Chip Kelly fiascos. If that isn't the most embarrassing spa in 49ers history than I don't know what is. But whether they figure it out on their own or just dumb-lucked their way back into prominence with a solid coaching hire and a few teams willing to break the bank to give them picks, the Niners figured it out and now have a chance with a relatively young QB and a few other rising stars on offense to try to erase the image of Tomsula and Kelly from their minds.

32. Kansas City

Kenneth Murray

LB

Oklahoma

I know there has been a lot of speculation about the Chiefs adding yet another weapon to their arsenal with a running back here but I think the Chiefs play it more conservatively. They may still have a chance to add to their running back depth but Kenneth Murray can solve a bigger question the Chiefs are facing such as how are they going to slow down opposing offenses. Some have Murray going in the teens but S'feld sees a drop for Murray that allows him to join the Super Bowl champion.

THE EXTRA POINT – *What a difference 20-25 minutes can make. In that time frame, SSS remembers looking at Andy Reid on the sideline down 20-10 and without the ball late in the Super Bowl and thinking, "He's never going to win one of these." And then lo and behold Pat Mahomes catches lightning in a bottle with a long bomb in the 4th quarter that keep the dream alive and leads to an improbable victory for Big Red. Good for Andy. Been a long time coming. And once you get the first one, they can come in droves, especially when you have the game's premier quarterback and he is still so very young. With the traditional Brady-Belichick dynasty dead, Reid may feel like he is drinking from the fountain of youth when he sees so much opportunity in front of him with this Chiefs team.*