Draft IQ Inc. Presents

2010 NFL DRAFT PREVIEW

The Ultimate Puzzle

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The Draft in 2010
Injuries leave Questions
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100+ Player Ratings

Path to the Draft: Defense is the name of the game

The 2010 draft class is being called one of the deepest classes for defensive players in recent memory. The debate rages on, as it does every year, between the players at the top of each position, and future NFL starters will likely be taken in the middle rounds of the draft.

The NFL picked a good time to take the first three rounds into prime time, as the first two rounds are stacked with solid players who will contribute to their new teams right away, and many studs will inevitably slip into round three as teams draft for need over best player available. Nebraska's Ndamukon Suh and Oklahoma's Gerald McCoy are dominating the headlines for the top defensive tackles, but the players that will follow also have huge upsides (and backsides!). Alabama's Terrence Cody, or "Mount Cody" as he's known by his opponents, clogs up the middle in a fashion not seen since former NFL giants Sam Adams and Ted Washington. Tennessee's Dan Williams and UCLA's Brian Price will give teams a solid presence in the middle while showing off their athleticism.

Suh Sitting at the Top

At other positions, the best player isn't as clear cut. The jury is still out on which safety, Tennessee's Eric Berry or Texas' Earl Thomas, will go off the board first. Both are spectacular athletes and playmakers. Teams can take their pick as to what type of DE they want at the top of the draft. Georgia Tech's Derrick Morgan had one solid seaso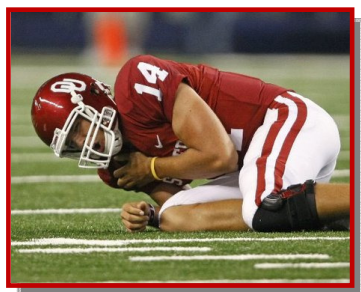n in the SEC, racking up 12 sacks. South Florida's Jason Pierre-Paul has all the physical tools to be a dominant pass rusher, but is extremely raw. Michigan's Brandon Graham has a relentless motor, but may be undersized at 6'2", 265 lbs. Linebacker offers something for everyone as well, with dominant inside LB's such as Alabama's Rolando McClain and Florida's Brandon Spikes, and talented outside LB's in Missouri's Sean Weatherspoon and Texas' Sergio Kindle.

Weatherspoon is at the top of the charts

Offense will no doubt play a big role in the draft. Oklahoma QB Sam Bradford is likely to be the top pick, and there could be starting RB's taken as deep as round 4. Offense typically steals the headlines in the NFL, but when we look back at 2010, this class will likely be remembered for the number of solid defenders it contributed to the NFL.

Injuries = More Questions than Answers for Top Players

Top QB's & TE's face injury question marks heading into draft

Sam Bradford, QB, Oklahoma: Bradford missed most of 2009 with a shoulder injury in his throwing arm. He had surgery on the sprained joint and showed he hasn't lost arm strength or the trademark accuracy at his pro day. Most teams will proceed with some caution, however, when looking at investing millions in a potentially damaged franchise QB.

Jimmy Clausen, QB, Notre Dame: Clausen played in 2009 with a broken toe on his right foot, which is the foot he plants to throw on. Like Bradford, Clausen showed no lingering effect of the injury at his pro day, but it should be noted that Clausen did not run the 40-yard dash during the workout.
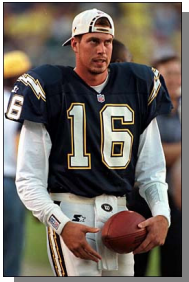
Colt McCoy, QB, Texas: Suffering a pinched nerve in his shoulder during the BCS title game was a huge blow to McCoy's draft stock. Questions already lingered about his size and arm strength, and now you can add durability to the list of concerns.

Jermaine Gresham, TE, Oklahoma: Heading into 2009, Gresham was considered the top TE in college football. Even after missing the 2009 season because of torn cartilage in his knee, Gresham is considered the odds on favorite to be the first TE taken in the draft. Teams don't appear to be worried, and Gresham appears to be fully recovered from the injury.

Rob Gronkowski, TE, Arizona: Gronkowski may be more of a complete package at TE than Gresham, but a back injury knocked him out of the 2009 season. Like Gresham, Gronkowski has proven he's healthy and ready to pick up where he left off, when he caught 47 balls in 2008.

Other notable injuries: Cal RB Jahvid Best (2009 concussion), Tennessee RB Montario Hardesty (2005 ACL, 2007 ankle sprain, 2008 stress fracture), Minnesota WR Eric Decker (2009 lisfranc sprain), Syracuse DT Arthur Jones (2008 torn pectoral muscle, 2009 torn meniscus).

Cover Story: 2010 Draft is the Ultimate Puzzle

The NFL Draft has been called an "inexact science." Draft IQ has analyzed the NFL draft for more than a decade and when looking back on more than ten years of our examination, we have a different take. The draft, now more than ever, is simply the ultimate puzzle, often times a puzzle without all the pieces.

What does that mean, you ask? Quite frankly there are too many unknown factors that come into play after a player is drafted that affects how each prospect translates to the pro game. Money, fame, injuries, coaching staff, schemes…all of these factors come into play *after* the draft, which makes the hours and hours of breaking down college tape and examining workout numbers sometimes meaningless.

Leaf: Biggest Bust Ever?

Russell: Career anything but thumbs up

Washington State QB Ryan Leaf, considered by many to be the biggest bust in NFL history, was called a "sure thing" by his college coach when he was drafted #2 overall by San Diego in 1998. The reality was Leaf was too immature to handle the fame and fortune that comes with the NFL, and was out of the league in three years. Fast-forward nearly a decade to 2007, when the Raiders took LSU QB Jamarcus Russell #1 overall and now face a similar situation. Russell has all the talent in the world, but is known to have an extremely questionable work ethic. He lost his job last year to 2006 6th round pick Bruce Gradkowski (who Draft IQ predicted would be a starting QB in the NFL).
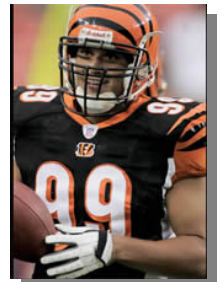
Steve Emtman, the #1 overall pick in 1992, started only 19 games in an injury-plagued career. 2005 first round pick David Pollack broke his neck 16 games into his career and never played again. All the talent in the world can't save players from serious injury.

Emtman: 19 Career Starts

Pollack: Talent Can't Fix Injury

Many teams fail to have a strong draft philosophy that guarantees the players they draft match the scheme their coaches run. Some teams draft for need, while others draft to fill obvious holes on their rosters. The fact that every team approaches the draft different creates a puzzle all its own when it comes to "draft experts" such as us trying to put together the "ultimate puzzle" known as the NFL Draft in the year 2010.
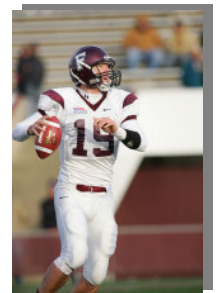
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Do not operate heavy machinery…

When examining our Super Sleepers!

Draft IQ loves nothing better than uncovering those hidden gems that slip into the late rounds of the draft, so without further ado, here is the 2010 sleeper list!

Quarterback

John Skelton, Fordham: Skelton could be considered Joe Flacco lite. He shares the physical tools Flacco possesses, but will need a bit more seasoning before he's ready to be handed the keys to an NFL offense. Fordham, by the way, bills itself as the Jesuit University of New York and is located in the Bronx.

Skelton: Small School, Big Talent

Matt Nichols, Eastern Washington: Technically solid prospect whose size is his biggest limitation, somewhere between 6'1" and 6'2". Four-year starter at Eastern Washington and boasted a 33-6 TD to INT ratio his senior season.

Wide Receiver

Jacoby Ford, Clemson: Ford is a speedster with a knack for the big play. He gives you added value as a return man as well. Given the right situation, Ford may become a team's go-to deep threat.

White: Walk-On to #1 Wideout

Freddie Barnes, Bowling Green: Barnes is a converted QB who caught 155 balls for 1,770 yards and 19 TD's in 2009. "Coming into his own" may be an understatement, and Barnes may have the surest hands in the draft.

Blair White, Michigan State: White is a scrapper in every sense of the word, going from a walk-on as a freshman with zero catches, to being the team's #1 receiver and making 70 receptions his senior year. He'll catch on with someone playing special teams, but could work his way to a possession receiver role. Don't bet against him.

Sleepers Cont.

Tight End

Andrew Quarless, Penn State: There are tons of character questions that come with this sleeper, as he was suspended on three separate occasions during his career with the Nittany Lions. A team willing to look past those issues will get a player with great size (6'4", 250 lbs.) and speed. Developed into a solid pass-catcher last season with 41 receptions. Quarless also caught the game-winning TD with :06 left in the East-West Shrine Game.

Linebacker

Larry Hart, Central Arkansas: Hart is a small-school stud who dominated FCS competitors to the tune of 21 tackles for loss and 16 sacks in two seasons. His early role will likely be a 3rd down pass rusher, and could develop to a solid every-down player.

Hart: Pass Rush Threat

Cornerback

Jamar Wall, Texas Tech: Wall is a physical corner who boasts a solid all-around game. While he doesn't excel in one particular area, Wall had the tools to become a starting corner in the future.

Thurmond: High Risk-Reward Pick

Walter Thurmond, Oregon: Thurmond is an experienced and athletic corner who may have already seen his best days due to a major knee injury suffered at the beginning of the 2009 season. If Thurmond can recover from the injury, he'll make the team that takes a chance on him very happy.

Safety

Cody Grimm, Virginia Tech: Grimm lacks the measurable that make scouts drool, specifically size and speed, but he more than makes up for it in football IQ and athleticism. Grimm will likely be drafted late as a special teamer, and begin working his way up the depth chart.

Grimm: Too Slow for the NFL?

Mock My Words...it's the 2010 Mock Draft!

1. St. Louis Rams
Sam Bradford, QB, Oklahoma: The Rams have made no move to solidify the position in the offseason, and the franchise needs a new face.

2. Detroit Lions
Ndamukong Suh, DT, Nebraska: The Lions were horrid on defense last season, and Suh will help out immediately.

3. Tampa Bay Buccaneers
Gerald McCoy, DT, Oklahoma: The Bucs are still rebuilding their defense, and McCoy greatly helps the cause in Tampa.

4. Washington Redskins
Trent Williams, OT, Oklahoma: Washington will likely trade out of this pick, but if they keep it they need to replace Chris Samuels on the line.

5. Kansas City Chiefs
Russell Okung, OT, Oklahoma State: K.C. can pair Okung with Branden Albert to block for Jamaal Charles and newly acquired Thomas Jones.

6. Seattle Seahawks
Eric Berry, S, Tennessee: The Seahawks have several needs, but with the top offensive linemen off the board, they go defense and get a real talent.

7. Cleveland Browns
Dez Bryant, WR, Oklahoma State: The Browns are in desperate need of a playmaker, and team president Mike Holmgren rolls the dice with Bryant.

8. Oakland Raiders
Jason Pierre-Paul, DE, South Florida: The only thing for sure here is the Raiders pick won't make much sense. Davis probably made his mind up about this selection the moment he saw JPP's YouTube backflip video.

9. Buffalo Bills
Jimmy Clausen, QB, Notre Dame: New Head Coach Chan Gailey does a few JPP backflips of his own when Clausen falls to the Bills at #9.

10. Jacksonville Jaguars
Derrick Morgan, DE, Georgia Tech: The Jags are still searching for that elusive pass rusher, and hope they finally get the right guy here.

Mock Draft Cont.

11. Denver Broncos
Rolando McClain, LB, Alabama: The Broncos have a gaping hole at middle linebacker, and this pick makes perfect sense.

12. Miami Dolphins
Earl Thomas, S, Texas: Thomas is a great addition to a young and talented secondary that includes last year's 1st rounder, CB Vontae Davis.

13. San Francisco
Brian Baluga, OT, Iowa: Baluga pairs with Joe Staley to create a formidable tackle duo by the bay.

14. Seattle Seahawks
C.J. Spiller, RB, Clemson: Head Coach Pete Carroll ignores other needs and goes with a legit playmaker in Spiller.

15. New York Giants
Anthony Davis, OT, Rutgers: Davis slips to the middle of the first round due to character concerns. The Giants are happy to grab him at 15.

16. Tennessee Titans
Dan Williams, DT, Tennessee: The Titans didn't even have to leave the state to find what they hope will by Albert Haynesworth's replacement.

17. San Francisco
Joe Haden, CB, Florida: San Fran is thrilled to grab Haden this deep in round one, and he'll begin the season as their starting nickel corner.

18. Pittsburgh Steelers
Sean Weatherspoon, LB, Missouri: Pittsburgh adds a tremendous playmaker and smart defender to a rebuilding defense.

19. Atlanta Falcons
Brandon Graham, DE, Michigan: Now that the offense is clicking, Mike Smith turns his attention to defense with the first pick.

20. Houston Texans
Kyle Wilson, CB, Boise State: The Texans lost Dunta Robinson to free agency, and Wilson gives them a solid cover guy and playmaker.

21. Cincinnati Bengals
Bruce Campbell, OT, Maryland: The Bengals have other needs, but the team has a history of making curious picks, and this falls right in line.

Mock Draft Cont.

22. New England Patriots
Jermaine Gresham, TE, Oklahoma: The Pats missed Wes Welker last season, and Gresham gives Brady another option in the passing game.

23. Green Bay Packers
Sergio Kindle, LB, Texas: Kindle will pair with A.J. Hawk and Clay Matthews to create an intimidating LB group for the Pack.

24. Philadelphia Eagles
Maurkice Pouncey, C, Florida: Philly takes the best offensive lineman available, and will probably move him to Guard.

25. Baltimore Ravens
Brian Price, DT, UCLA: The Ravens will have a few offensive weapons to choose from here, but start reloading on defense by grabbing Price.

26. Arizona Cardinals
Jerry Hughes, LB, TCU: Even though they added Joey Porter in the offseason, the Cardinals need to get younger and more talented at LB, especially after the loss of Karlos Dansby.

27. Dallas Cowboys
Demaryius Thomas, WR, Georgia Tech: The Cowboys desperately need to restock their aging offensive line, but Jones can't pass up this talented WR.

28. San Diego Chargers
Ryan Mathews, RB, Fresno State: The Chargers get lucky as the top all-around back falls to the bottom of the first round.

29. New York Jets
Jared Odrick, DT, Penn State: Odrick joins a stacked defense with a brilliant defensive-minded coach, so he should develop quickly in this situation.

30. Minnesota Vikings
Patrick Robinson, CB, Florida State: Robinson is an immediate upgrade to a secondary that includes Cedric Griffin, coming off an ACL injury.

31. Indianapolis Colts
Charles Brown, OT, USC: Brown may take a year to develop, but protecting Peyton Manning is a top priority in Indy.

32. New Orleans Saints
Daryl Washington, LB, TCU: The Saints biggest need is on defense, and they have a hole at OLB, so this pick makes sense to wrap up round one.

THE RATINGS

Quarterback: Only a few instant starters, with some late round talent.

Who We Love: Jarrett Brown

Brown is raw, but is smooth as silk at QB.

1. **Sam Bradford, Oklahoma**: Tom Brady-like accuracy, and has proven he's over the injuries that cost him all of 2009.

2. **Jimmy Clausen**: Clausen may be the most pro-ready QB, operating the Charlie Weis offense at Notre Dame for three-and-a-half years.

3. **Jarrett Brown, West Virginia**: Brown is a project, but he throws a beautiful ball and has all the tools to become a solid NFL pro. Reminds us of David Garrard.

4. **Tony Pike, Cincinnati**: Pike led a high-powered Bearcats offense, and has the physical tools to do the same in the NFL.

5. **Tim Tebow, QB, Florida**: Other QB's with quirky deliveries have succeeded in the NFL, and Tebow is a gritty player with all the intangibles you want in a leader.

6. **Colt McCoy, Texas**: McCoy has the intangibles you want in a QB, but we question his size and arm strength to become a top QB in the pros.

7. **Dan LeFevour, Central Michigan**: Four-year starter threw for more than 12,000 yards and 102 TD's and Central Michigan. Has all the tools to succeed.

8. **John Skelton, Fordham**: Skelton stands nearly 6'6" and capped off his career with a 3,700 yard senior season. Tremendous arm strength, but accuracy is questionable.

9. **Zac Robinson, Oklahoma State**: Robinson lost his top two targets from 2008 in TE Brandon Pettigrew and WR Dez Bryant, and it showed in his stats. Robinson could rebound with some good coaching.

10. **Matt Nichols, Eastern Washington**: Nichols put up incredible stats in the FCS, and may catch on as a backup in the NFL, waiting for an opportunity to come along.

Running Back: Incredibly deep class where the middle rounds offer talent close to those available in round one.

Who We Love: LeGarrette Blount

Blount has some off-field issues, but is fun to watch on the gridiron.

1. **Ryan Mathews, Fresno State**: Mathews gets the nod here as our #1 rated back because he is the most well-rounded of the group and can be an every down back in the NFL.

2. **C.J. Spiller, Clemson**: Spiller is an electric back who is a threat to score any time he touches the ball. The question is can Spiller carry the load in the NFL? He'll likely be part of a rotation.

3. **LeGarrette Blount**: Blount is a huge risk-reward pick. He reminds us of his former running mate at Oregon, Jonathan Stewart. Averaged 7.3 yards a carry in 2008, when he rushed for 1,002 yards.

4. **Jahvid Best, California**: Best is a burner with incredible moves, but there are many questions marks surrounding his durability – specifically the concussion that knocked him out of his senior season.

5. **Jonathan Dwyer, Georgia Tech**: Dwyer played in an unorthodox triple-wing offense at G.T., but ran for nearly 1,400 yards twice in the SEC – an impressive feat.

6. **Montario Hardesty, Tennessee**: Hardesty has battled injuries his entire career, including a torn ACL and stress fracture in his leg. He is a strong runner with good speed, and is known for his strong work ethic. Hardesty may be a mid-round steal.

7. **Toby Gerhart, Stanford**: Tough runner who may need to switch to fullback or be the power option in a time-share situation. Finished 2nd in the 2009 Heisman Trophy race.

8. **Dexter McCluster, Mississippi**: At 5'8" McCluster will never be an every down back, but the team that drafts him will find ways to put the ball in his hands and watch him go to work. Extremely elusive and can return kicks.

9. **Anthony Dixon, Mississippi State**: Dixon is a four-year starter and two-time 1,000 yard rusher. Powerful runner with decent speed, Dixon's off-field issues that include a DUI arrest may cause him to slip on draft day.

10. **Joe McKnight, USC**: Shifty runner who was supposed to be the successor to Reggie Bush at USC, but never fully developed into the talent he was expected to be. He does have a thousand yard season under his belt and could be used as an explosive change of pace in the NFL.

Fullback: There are only one or two of the "traditional" FB type in this class.

1**. Rashawn Jackson, Virginia**: Converted LB who displays great athleticism, which is a new demand for many teams looking for a fullback.

2. **Manase Tonga, BYU**: Athletic runner and good receiver who could improve his blocking skills.

3. **John Conner, Kentucky**: Conner is a throwback FB who will line up in an I-formation with one purpose – find his man and block.

4. **Cory Jackson, Maryland**: Jackson is a load at 6'0", 250 lbs., but has limited experience as a runner, with only 17 carries in four years.

5. **Richie Brockel, Boise State**: Brockel has a nose for the endzone, with 8 TD's on 32 career catches.

Wide Receiver: There is only one surefire first-rounder in this group, but several quality players to be had in rounds 2-5.

Who We Love: Eric Decker

Decker will find holes in a defense and make every tough catch.

1. **Dez Bryant, Olahoma State**: Bryant could be the most talented WR entering the NFL in years, but he also has the most question marks. He missed nearly all of 2009 after being suspended for violating NCAA rules, and scouts wonder how he'll handle the fame and fortune that comes with being a first round NFL pick.

2. **Golden Tate, Notre Dame**: Tate has amazing knack for picking up yards after the catch, which will make him an extremely valuable possession receiver in the NFL.

3. **Demaryius Thomas, Georgia Tech**: Tremendous athlete with great size (6'3") whose development was partially stunted due to Georgia Tech's rushing offense. He still managed 1,154 yards on just 46 catches, a ridiculous 25.1 yards per catch average.

4. **Mardy Gilyard, Cincinnati**: Twitchy receiver who evokes images of Chad Ochocinco. Should develop into a dangerous threat as a receiver and a return man.

5. **Damian Williams, USC**: Classic west-coast receiver with good hands and a strong feel for the game.

6. **Eric Decker, Minnesota**: An intriguing possession receiver in the Kevin Walter mold who is coming back from a lisfranc injury.

7. **Brandon LaFell, LSU**: Good size for a possession receiver but struggles with concentration issues. LaFell could have received more attention with better QB play.

8. **Jordan Shipley, Texas**: Shipley was one of college football's most reliable receivers, and could develop into a Wes Welker-type slot receiver in the pros.

9. **Arrelious Benn, Illinois**: Benn has all the talent in the world, but played in an awful system at Illinois with a sub-par QB. With some nurturing in the pros, Benn could realize his potential.

10. **Jeremy Williams, Tulane**: Williams has battled knee injuries his entire career, but when healthy (including his senior season) he is a sure handed receiver with good football IQ.

Others to Watch: Taylor Price, Ohio; Dezmon Briscoe, Kansas; Shay Hodge, Mississippi, Emmanuel Sanders, SMU

Tight End: A weak class that has injury question marks at the top and quite a few projects in the middle rounds.

Who We Love: Anthony McCoy

If McCoy can get his head on straight, he'll be a force in the NFL.

1. **Jermaine Gresham, Oklahoma**: Coming off a torn ACL, Gresham is the most explosive all-around weapon at the position. Played in a spread offense at Oklahoma, but can hold his own as a blocker.

2. **Rob Gronkowski, Arizona**: Like Gresham, Gronkowski missed 2009 with an injury (back). Gronkowski is the total package at TE, but lacks the explosiveness of Gresham.

3. **Anthony McCoy, USC**: McCoy is the last of the top all-around TE's in this class, but has some character issues off-field (multiple academic suspensions).

4. **Aaron Hernandez, Florida**: Pass catching TE that can be used in multiple ways on the field. Doesn't have great size and will need to improve his blocking.

5. **Jimmy Graham, Miami**: Graham is a project with tremendous size (6'7", 259 lbs.) who only played one year of college football. With the right coaching, Graham could become a star.

6. **Tony Moeaki, Iowa**: The knock on Moeaki is durability issues, but when healthy he does everything good, not great.

7. **Ed Dickson, Oregon**: Dickson was very productive while used in a variety of ways at Oregon, but that's the problem – what to do with him in the pros? Doesn't excel as a blocker.

8. **Dennis Pitta, BYU**: Great pass-catcher with a fine understanding of the position, but isn't a great athlete and lacks the top end speed.

9. **Andrew Quarless, Penn State**: Good size and speed, but never developed into the stud they thought he would become in College Station. He may be hitting his stride as he enters the pros.

10. **Michael Hoomanawanui, Illinois**: Another Illinois player that you wonder how good he might have been with better coaching and QB play.

Offensive Tackle

Okung

1. Russel Okung, Oklahoma St.
2. Trent Williams, Oklahoma
3. Bryan Baluga, Iowa
4. Anthony Davis, Rutgers
5. Charles Brown, USC
6. Bruce Campbell, Maryland
7. Selvish Capers, West Virginia
8. Rodger Saffold, Indiana
9. Vladimir Ducasse, Massachusetts
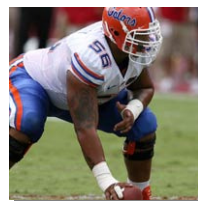10. Jason Fox, Miami

Offensive Guard

Iupati

1. Mike Iupati, Idaho
2. Jon Asamoah, Illinois
3. Mike Johnson, Alabama
4. Mitch Petrus, Arkansas
5. John Jerry, Mississippi
6. Brandon Carter, Texas Tech
7. Zane Beadles, Utah
8. Shawn Lauvao, Arizona State
9. Mike Tepper, California
10. Dace Richardson, Iowa

Center

1. Maurkice Pouncey, Florida
2. Matt Tennant, Boston College
3. J.D. Walton, Baylor
4. Jeff Byers, USC
5. Eric Olsen, Notre Dame

Pouncey

Defensive End: Quite a few pass-rush specialists available in this class.

Who We Love: Everson Griffen

Griffen has all the tools and may be just now evolving into a top DE.

1. **Derrick Morgan, Georgia Tech**: Solid defender and relentless pass rusher who racked up 12 sacks last season.

2. **Everson Griffen, USC**: A one-year starter who has all the tools but is raw.

3. **Brandon Graham, Michigan**: A bit undersized but relentless motor and a nose for the ball.

4. **Jason Pierre-Paul, South Florida**: JPP is a tremendous athlete but has to prove he's more than a one-trick pony pass rusher.

5. **Carlos Dunlap, Florida**: Dunlap has big character issues (DUI just before bowl game), but someone will take a chance on this talented prospect.

6. **Corey Wooton, Northwestern**: Tough, smart player who saw his sack total drop from 9 as a junior to 4 as a senior as he battled injuries.

7. **Greg Hardy, Mississippi**: Hardy can get to the QB when healthy, but durability has been a concern his entire college career.

8. **Ricky Sapp, Clemson**: Sapp has the motor to get to the QB, but not much else. He'll need to be coached up to be an every-down player.

9. **Alex Carrington, Arkansas State**: Good size and speed but will have to prove he can play against the big boys.

10. **C.J. Wilson, East Carolina**: Can play both inside and outside, so teams looking for a versatile reserve will see value in Wilson.

Defensive Tackle: There was early talk of the top two prospects going #1 and #2 in this year's draft. There's plenty of talent behind them.
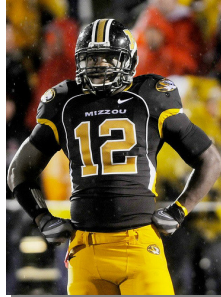
Who We Love: Terrence Cody

The big man swallows defenders…and may eat them for dinner!

1. **Ndamukong Suh, Nebraska**: Suh constantly finds his way into the backfield, and may see less double teams in the pros.

2. **Gerald McCoy, Oklahoma**: May be a better pass-rusher than Suh, but didn't put up the gaudy numbers and doesn't have the same strength.

3. **Dan Williams, Tennessee**: Really came on his senior season at Tennessee. Now he must prove it wasn't a one-year fluke.

4. **Bryan Price, UCLA**: Stout against the run at a solid 6'2", 300 lbs.

5. **Terrence Cody, Alabama**: "Mount Cody" dropped 20 pounds to get down from 375 lbs. at the Senior Bowl to 355 lbs. at the combine, an impressive feat. Won't be an every down player, but the classic nose tackle in a 3-4 defense for the first two downs.

6. **Jared Odrick, Penn State**: Versatile athlete who can play inside or play end in a 3-4 defense.

7. **Tyson Alualu, California**: Outgoing prospect that played a bit out of position at Cal, playing NT in the 3-4 despite being "only" 292 lbs. He should prosper in the 4-3 in the pros.

8. **Lamarr Houston, Texas**: Great athlete who displays an uncanny agility for a 300-pounder. Good motor should win over scouts and coaches.

9. **Arthur Jones, Syracuse**: Great athlete who suffered a torn pectoral muscle after the '08 season and battled a torn meniscus in '09. If he can shake the injury bug, Jones could be a mid-round steal.

10. **Torrell Troup, Central Florida**: Troup's stats declined from his junior to senior season, but his tireless work ethic did not.

Linebacker: Take your pick from this class – from the blitzers to the coverage specialists.

Who We Love: Sean Weatherspoon

Weatherspoon is electricity on the field and fun to watch.

1. **Rolando McClain, Alabama**: McClain is a field general who will punish the opposition.

2. **Sean Weatherspoon**: Nonstop motor who can play all three spots on the field.

3. **Sergio Kindle, Texas**: Pass-rush specialist who lays the wood. Will need to work on coverage skills.

4. **Daryl Washington, TCU**: Speedy 'backer who racked up 109 tackles as a senior.

5. **Sean Lee, Penn State**: Talented inside player who recovered from a serious knee injury to have a solid senior year.

6. **Brandon Spikes, Florida**: Spikes had a productive career at Florida, but some terrible post-season workouts may drop this Gator down a few spots.

7. **Jerry Hughes, TCU**: Will begin his career as a pass-rush specialist as he learns the art of pass coverage.

8. **Navorro Bowman, Penn State**: Extremely talented player who has battled injuries and off-field trouble. If he can clean up his act, Bowman could be a pleasant surprise.

9. **Pat Angerer, Iowa**: Wins the award for best name for a linebacker in the class. Angerer is undersized but has great instincts and a knack for finding the ball.

10. **Rennie Curran, Georgia**: Curran flies all over the field in search of contact. Strong and fast, Curran lacks the size needed to be an all-star, but should be a solid producer.

Cornerback: There's some debate as to who belongs at the top, and several could go in round one.

Who We Love: Kyle Wilson

Wilson says he's number one, and often proves it on the field.

1. **Kyle Wilson, Boise State**: Wilson is speedy and versatile, able to fit into any scheme. Also one of the most confident individuals in the draft – a valuable trait as a corner.

2. **Patrick Robinson, Florida State**: Robinson may have the most talent of all the corners in this class, but he hasn't put it all together yet. We'll see if he does in the pros.

3. **Joe Haden, Florida**: Lack of top speed will limit Haden to a zone defense.

4. **Devin McCourty, Rutgers**: Good speed and ball skills, with added value as a dangerous return man.

5. **Perrish Cox, Oklahoma State**: Speedster who can also lay some big hits. Some off-field issues may scare a few teams, but Cox should develop into a solid NFL corner.

6. **Syd'Quan Thompson, California**: If Thompson was three inches taller (5'9") he could possibly be at the top of the list. Plays bigger than his small stature, but will be exposed against taller wideouts in the NFL.

7. **Jerome Murphy, South Florida**: Physical corner with good ball skills, but susceptible to fakes.

8. **Kareem Jackson, Alabama**: Jackson is a solid but not spectacular corner. Average size, average speed, will probably be an average starter in the league.

9. **Dominique Franks, Oklahoma**: Franks is a raw prospect, but has the talent to develop into a number one corner.

10. **Chris Cook, Virginia**: Physical player who can play corner or safety. Stock rose with a good week at the Senior Bowl.

Safety: Talented group with some enigmas along the way.

Who We Love: Myron Rolle

We'll watch this Rhodes Scholar with great curiosity.

1. **Eric Berry, Tennessee**: Berry is nearly the complete package at safety, lacking only size at 5'11". Natural leader and playmaker.

2. **Earl Thomas, Texas**: Thomas is more of a coverage safety who will struggle against some of the bigger running backs in the NFL.

3. **Nate Allen, South Florida**: Athletic "center field" type safety that specializes in pass coverage.

4. **Taylor Mays, USC**: Mays is incredibly gifted, but there are many questions about his coverage ability. Enigma #1.

5. **Morgan Burnett, Georgia Tech**: Smart player who has the speed to be a coverage guy in the NFL, rather than an in-the-box kind of player.

6. **Kam Chancellor, Virginia Tech**: The opposite of Burnett, Chancellor specializes in run support but will struggle in coverage.

7. **Myron Rolle, Florida State**: Rhodes Scholar who studied for a year at Oxford, so there's no questioning his intelligence. Worked diligently to stay in shape during his year off, and should shake off the rust to become a solid pro. Enigma #2.

8. **T.J. Ward, Oregon**: Smaller player who makes up for it with aggressiveness. Ward is a smart player who could develop into a quality starter.

9. **Chad Jones, LSU**: Raw but talented player who only started for one season at LSU.

10. **Reshad Jones, Georgia**: Powerful in-the-box safety who also flashes ball skills when in the right position.

Report Card

How we fared last year

Our grades for last year's projection of the 2007 NFL rookie class:

Darrius Heyward-Bey, WR (Drafted by Raiders): Heyward-Bey was the first receiver taken off the board last year by Oakland, and he had a miserable season. We didn't overreact to his amazing pre-draft 40-time, with DHB listed as our #7 WR. Verdict: HIT!

Rashad Jennings, RB (Drafted by Jacksonville): We had Jennings rated as our #3 RB, and were left scratching our heads on draft day when he fell to the 7th round. Decent first year, averaging 5.2 yards a carry in 15 games of action. Verdict: Undecided

Eben Britton, OT (Drafted by Jacksonville): We said Britton would need to move from his left tackle position in college to the right side in the pros, which is exactly what Jacksonville did, naming Britton the opening day right tackle. Verdict: Hit!

Jeremiah Johnson, RB (Signed as college free agent by Houston): We had Johnson rated as our #6 RB, ahead of Shonn Greene. Johnson wasn't even drafted, and signed as a college free agent with Houston. He was placed on injured reserve in pre-season. Verdict: Miss!

James Casey, TE (Drafted by Houston) Casey was our #3 rated TE, but saw little action after being drafted in the 5th round. Caught 6 passes for 64 yards in action at TE and FB. Could blossom this season in Houston's pass-heavy offense. Verdict: Undecided