

NFL Mock Draft 2.0

Cleveland Browns - Sam Darnold - QB USC: It's no secret that the Browns have had a revolving door at the QB position over the past 20 years. It's time to change that and take the most NFL ready QB here at number 1. A ton of people have Josh Allen here including Mel Kiper who has rode this stupid train since the 2016 National Championship. Why take a project over a finished product? Darnold can make all the throws now and checks off all the boxes now whereas Allen has questions regarding his accuracy.

New York Giants - Bradley Chubb - DE NC State: The trade of JPP opened up a huge hole on the D-line that Chubb can come in and fill right away. This should be a no brainer and a home run for the Giants who need pass rushers to get after the QBs in this division.

New York Jets - Josh Allen - QB Wyoming: The Jets made a huge splash in moving up to the 3 spot. Instead of waiting to see how the board falls, they were the aggressors and went to get their guy. The pressure is all on them though now to make sure that this pick hits. Josh Allen isn't as polished as the other QBs but the upside is tremendous. He's a huge body, rocket arm, and high IQ guy. His accuracy is a huge issue for me so as long as he sits immediately to learn how to play the position, I think this works out.

Cleveland Browns - Saquon Barkley - RB Penn State: With the first pick the Browns took their QB of the future and with this pick, they complete their backfield for years to come. Barkley's combine has everyone drooling over the thought of him on an NFL field. He's the best pound-for-pound athlete in this draft so I cannot see the Browns passing on him.

Denver Broncos - Minkah Fitzpatrick - DB Alabama: Everyone believes QB should be the play here but I'm going in a different direction because I truly believe that GM John Elway believes in Case Keenum. He was incredible last year leading the Vikings to the NFC Championship game so why not give him the keys to the kingdom? Fitzpatrick would add a dynamic to help restore this defense back to the Orange Crush dominance. He's a hybrid CB/S so he can do it all. Vance Joseph will have some fun creating schemes around this guy.

Indianapolis Colts - Quinton Nelson - G Notre Dame: The Colts have 3 words to live by in all of 2018 and beyond: protect Andrew Luck. A guard in the top 10 will always be baffling to me, but looking at the tape you realize this guy isn't an ordinary guard. With the way guards are getting paid today, Nelson's value has skyrocketed. He's an absolute mauler of a run blocker and will punch defenders in the mouth in pass protection. Let me reiterate my point about protecting Andrew Luck because he's that important to the success of this franchise.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers - Derwin James - S Florida State: In the past 5 years, they held this spot twice taking S Mark Barron and WR Mike Evans. 50% isn't bad but to avoid drafting this high again the Bucs need to hit on this pick. I think they do in getting James here at 7. Before the 2017 college football season, he was considered the best defender in this class. Due to a subpar season he sort of fell, but his outstanding combine solidified him as a blue chip prospect.

Chicago Bears - Denzel Ward - CB Ohio State: He's the best pure cover corner in this draft and with huge need at that position, they get they get the guy who can come in and fill a gaping hole on that defense right away. Ward was the fastest player at the combine posting a 4.32 40 yard dash which further helped solidify his status as the number 1 corner in this class. With the Bears spending a ton of money on the offensive side of the ball, GM Ryan Pace and head coach Matt Nagy can use this class to focus on the other side. Adding Ward here could be a home run in a division boasting QBs Aaron Rodgers, Matt Stafford, and now Kirk Cousins.

San Francisco 49ers - Roquan Smith - LB Georgia: It's no secret that the 49ers need help on the defensive side of the ball even with their 5 of the past 6 first round picks being on that side. Smith is a rare talent where I believe he is still trying to reach his full potential. Watching him last year leading the Bulldogs defense was incredible because he was in on every play. Sticking him next to Reuben Foster at the WLB would give the 49ers one of the best young linebacking corps in the NFL.

Oakland Raiders - Trumaine Edmunds - LB Virginia Tech: Jon Gruden needs to make a splash here and Edmunds can do just that at the 10th overall pick in the draft. He's a monster frame at 6'5" and 250 pounds with the ability to play inside and outside. Creating a pass rush opposite of Khalil Mack should be the priority for Gruden who is taking over a defensive unit near the bottom of the league in sacks.

Miami Dolphins - Vita Vea - DT Washington: With the release of Ndamukong Suh, there is a huge hole that needs filled on the defensive line where Vea is a huge body that can eliminate that huge hole. He's a skyscraper of a human being at 6'4" and 350 pounds but he's also extremely strong finishing 2nd in the combine at 41 reps on the bench press. He's going to demand double teams which will help isolate Cameron Wake on the outside to get after the passer.

Buffalo Bills - Josh Rosen - QB UCLA: The Bills had to trade up to get a QB since they traded Tyrod. AJ McCarron is signed there to a 2 year deal but Rosen is the QB of the future for this team. He's got tremendous upside and poise in the pocket. Him and McCarron battling it out for the starter in preseason will be extremely intriguing because people question (including his former head coach) Rosen's work ethic saying he needs to be challenged. What's more challenging than going to a division dominated by the Patriots since the turn of the century? Washington Redskins - Da'Ron Payne - DL Alabama: Even with the Redskins spending their 2017 1st round pick on Jonathan Allen, they still need additional help on that unit. Payne is a freak athlete on the d-line and can wreak havoc in both run and pass situations. He's stronger when defending the run so he will play inside on this line that needs a ton of help at that position.

Green Bay Packers - Jaire Alexander - CB Louisville: With the trade of Damarious Randall, there is a hole in the secondary that needs filled. Alexander is one of the more interesting corner prospects in the draft because he's a great combo of size and speed for today's NFL. Putting him opposite of last year's 1st round selection of Kevin King could give the Packers a good young tandem with tremendous upside for years to come.

Arizona Cardinals - Baker Mayfield - QB Oklahoma: The 2017 Heisman winner was nothing short of magnificent in an Oklahoma Sooners uniform last season. It's unfortunate that his height drops him this far because I believe he is the best QB in this class. He can make all the throws even for his size and led the Sooners to the DT NCAA College Football Playoff. The man is a gamer who carries a certain swagger where teammates will follow. Arizona faithful would love this guy leading this franchise.

Baltimore Ravens - Calvin Ridley - WR Alabama: Joe Flacco needs more weapons and Ridley is considered the most complete receiver in this draft. He doesn't wow with size standing only at 6'0" but he got top end speed boasting a 4.43 40 yard dash from the combine. With precise route running and Breshad Perriman not taking off in the NFL due to health, he could slide in as the number 2 behind newly acquired Michael Crabtree.

San Diego Chargers - Taven Bryan - DT Florida: with Brandon Mebane up there in age and Corey Liuget sitting out the first four games due to a PED suspension, Bryan makes sense here for the Chargers at 17. He projects as a 4-3 defensive tackle so he will slide perfectly into their

4-3 scheme. Bryan was a relentless pass rusher on the interior line for the Gators, so putting him in a unit headlined by Joey Bosa and Melvin Ingram will create havoc for opposing quarterbacks.

Seattle Seahawks - Marcus Davenport - DE UTSA: I think at this point it is no secret that the Seahawks are entering a rebuild. They tore down the Legion of Boom defense by moving on from Richard Sherman and Michael Bennett. A corner would make sense here but with Davenport falling, they cannot pass on the value here. Davenport is evaluated as raw which reminds me of Ziggy Ansah coming out in 2013. He is an athletic freak who will need time to develop, but Seattle will be the perfect place to do so.

Dallas Cowboys - DJ Chark - WR LSU: It's been highly speculated that Dez Bryant will be released because he will not take a pay cut. Whether he is or is not, the Cowboys are in desperate need of playmakers on the outside. Chark wowed NFL scouts with his blazing 4.34 40 yard speed and explosive 40 inch vertical at the combine. He's a big body standing at 6'3" and weighing 200 pounds so he would be a nice big target for an offense losing Brice Butler to free agency and possibly cutting ties with Bryant.

Detroit Lions - James Daniels - C/G Iowa: Matt Stafford is the franchise and if the Lions are going to have to protect him in order to maximize their window with him in the middle of his prime. Daniels is the top center prospect in this draft class but is athletic enough to play the guard position. He would have to add some weight to his frame in order to play guard in this league if the Lions choose to start him there.

Cincinnati Bengals - Will Hernandez - G UTEP: Marvin Lewis is the longest tenured coach in the NFL and in order for him to retain his job next year, I believe he has to make the playoffs.....right? His most successful teams have been solid running teams. Mixon appears to be the bell cow coming into this season and he's going to need someone to clear space for him. Hernandez is a powerful guard who can pull, anchor to open a hole, and get to the second level to attack linebackers and safeties. He's shot up draft boards with his amazing combine and Senior Bowl performances.

Buffalo Bills - Mike McGlinchey - OT Notre Dame: This is the actual pick of the 2 Bills first rounders and with the first being the QB of the future in Rosen, the protector of his backside would be perfect here at this spot in the draft. McGlinchey is a mammoth of a human standing at 6'8" and 312 pounds so he can add more muscle to his frame if necessary. He's very instinctive when it comes to dealing with opposing rushers and with the trade of Cordy Glenn, he will have the opportunity to protect Rosen or McCarron's backside right away.

New England Patriots - Mike Hughes - CB UFC: This guy is a perfect fit for a Bill Belichick defense who loves to run the cover 2. Hughes really stood out as one of the leaders and playmakers of the undefeated UCF Knights. He has the ability to play inside or outside but I see him in the slot immediately due to the trade of Jason McCourty. Getting him at this position is a steal because he has the potential to be the most impactful corner in this draft right away.

Carolina Panthers - Derrius Guice - RB LSU: If not for Barkley and all of the hype surrounding him, Guice would easily be the top ranked RB prospect in this draft. He's the perfect mix of size, speed, and overall ability for today's NFL. Guice has great hands so he could be an every down back and showed that ability even being second fiddle to Leonard Fournette 2 years ago. A backfield of Guice, Christian McCaffery, and Cam Newton could potentially be extremely scary for opposing defenses.

Tennessee Titans - Leighton Vander Esch - Boise State: In order for this franchise to continue to build off of their 2017 success and make it back into the playoffs, they will have to continue

to find playmakers on the defensive side of the ball. Avery Williamson left the franchise via free agency so Vander Esch can fill that void. With new head coach Mike Vrabel taking over this team, it seems like a guarantee he takes a linebacker with his first pick. Vander Esch was only a 1 year starter at Boise State, but his highly impressive combine and tremendous upside has him flying up draft boards.

Atlanta Falcons - Christian Kirk - WR Texas A&M: Kirk is one of the fastest receivers in this draft and him in this high flying offense alongside Julio Jones would be incredible for Matt Ryan. He has the ability to blow the top off the defense from the slot and the outside. With Taylor Gabriel leaving for the Chicago Bears via free agency, he will have the chance to make an immediate impact for a pass-friendly offense.

New Orleans Saints - Hayden Hurst - TE South Carolina: Hurst might be one of the most naturally gifted prospects in this draft class. He was a former baseball prospect spending time in the Pittsburgh Pirates farm system but decided to pursue a career in football. He walked on to the football team and now is regarded as the top TE prospect. He's an incredible route runner making everything look smooth. Drew Brees can obviously still sling it but has not had a playmaker at the TE position since Jimmy Graham left years ago.

Pittsburgh Steelers - Rashaan Evans - ILB Alabama: The Steelers need to find a replacement for Ryan Shazier since no one knows when he will be back. This team is a playmaker or two on the defensive side of the ball from winning a Super Bowl and Evans has the chance to come in and make an instant splash. Like Shazier, he is a little undersized but can add muscle to his big frame. He plays sideline to sideline which is exactly what this team needs on a defense in need of this type of playmaker.

Jacksonville Jaguars - Connor Williams - OT Texas: Based off of the success last year of Doug Marrone wanting to pound the ball down the field, I'm going to assume that will not change. By adding Williams, Marrone can continue to feed Fournette and punish opposing defenses. Williams has the size for both tackle and guard, but with the signing of Andrew Norwell, I think it's a safe assumption Williams will play tackle.

Minnesota Vikings - Billy Price - C Ohio State: Because of the injury this could seem like a reach, however, the Vikings just invested \$84 million in Kirk Cousins. Price was the anchor for the Buckeyes being a four year starter. If not for his unfortunate pectoral injury, he'd be the best center prospect in this draft hands down.

New England Patriots - Tyrell Crosby - OT Oregon: With the departure of Nate Solder, there is a gaping hole protecting the backside of Tom Brady. Crosby will probably step in right away to fill that void. He's got a ton of versatility playing on both sides of the line at guard and tackle. Bill Belichick will have his hands full grooming Crosby for game 1 since there is no one else to fill the void. He's seen this situation before though with Nate Solder who was the last guy to fill the void at Brady's backside.

Philadelphia Eagles - Harold Landry - OLB Boston College: The Super Bowl champions are in need of additional pass rushers if they are going to repeat. They were one of the most underrated defenses last year but were exposed in the Super Bowl only sacking Tom Brady once (albeit a strip sack to seal the Lombardi Trophy). They did retain Nigel Bradham and add Michael Bennett to the defensive line, but adding Landry could generate enough of a rush to get them out of the middle of the pack in the sack category. Landry is you typical stand-up 3-4 edge rusher and can play either side. He didn't wow with his 40 time, but has a great first step and is smart with his hands.