The Mink is off to another trip to Philadelphia to attend the NFL draft with cousin Obey.  We annually match wits with the best NFL draft experts including Mel Kiper, Mike Mayock and Todd McShay.  Unfortunately, we do not get paid for it, but we have a pretty good track record of picking the results.

This draft is again one of the deepest drafts in recent memory due to a large number of juniors declaring for the draft – 95 in total, which are three off the record of 98 juniors in 2014. Each year more and more juniors are declaring for the NFL draft which improves the depth of the draft. As a result, you can get first round talent in rounds 2 and 3. This draft is extremely deep at most positions particularly running back, tight end, cornerback/safety and edge rushers. Teams will receive value in all rounds of the draft this year. In some cases, teams will be able to draft some starters in rounds 2-4 due to the depth of this draft.

We do not expect a lot of movement or trades in the first round due to the significant depth in this draft. Teams will sit back and wait for value to drop to them.

The strengths of the 2017 draft include:

1. Running Back – This is a deep draft for running backs. There are several blue chip prospects in this year’s draft class, but the draft is deep with talent that will allow teams to bolster the running back position in the first three to four rounds. We project that up to 15 running backs will be selected in the first three rounds including top prospects: Leonard Fournette, RB, LSU, Dalvin Cook, RB, Florida State and Christian McCaffrey, RB, Stanford. All three of these players will go in the first round and immediately upgrade the playmaking ability of your offense. Fournette is the best back since Adrian Peterson who he is often compared to. He combines vision, power, speed and athleticism to lead this class. At the combine, he ran the fastest 40 yard dash for a back over 240 pounds. Cook is the most explosive and complete back in this draft. Some teams may be concerned about his off field concerns but he was extremely productive at Florida State. He fits the “new” NFL offense and can beat you through the air and ground. McCaffrey is the son of Ed McCaffrey, wide receiver for the Denver Broncos. He is the “jack of all trades” running back in this draft. He is a tremendous all-purpose running back that set several NCAA records for all-purpose yards. He will contribute in the return game, receiving and running. You will be able to move him around the offensive formation to cause matchup problems. The next tier of running backs include: Joe Mixon, RB, Oklahoma, Alvin Kamara, RB, Tennessee and D’Onta Foreman, RB, Texas. Mixon may be the best running back in this draft. However, off field concerns due to a domestic assault in college has affected his draft stock. Mixon was part of a two man RB rotation at Oklahoma and was the most productive back in college with the ball in his hands. He will hurt you in the run game and is a receiving threat out of the backfield which fits today’s NFL offenses. Mixon is a first round talent but off field concerns will affect where he is selected. Kamara spent time at a community college and finished his career at Tennessee. He made the most of his opportunities at Tennessee particularly in the receiving game. He may be the best receiving back in this draft. Kamara is a lot like Jamaal Charles as a runner in that both are fast slashers who are built well with some power. Foreman is a popular name with many Viking fans and was one of the most productive runners in the nation leading CFB in rushing for 2,028 yards with 15 touchdowns. He is a load as a runner who can run over the opposition.
2. Tight Ends – This is the most athletically gifted tight end class in NFL history. At the combine, ten tight ends ran a sub “4.7” 40 yard dash. This fits well with the modern NFL offenses that like to run two tight end sets and stretch the middle of the field. We expect up to 10 tight ends to be drafted in the first three rounds of the 2017 NFL draft. The cream of the crop is O.J Howard, TE, Alabama. He possesses a unique size speed ratio having run the 40 in 4.51 at 6-5 250 pounds. This will be a matchup nightmare for ant defensive coordinator. As a receiver, Howard is a real weapon. He is naturally an extremely athletic and fast tight end that can get downfield quickly. We project Howard to go in the top ten of the draft which is extremely rare for a tight end. The next blue chip prospect is David Njoku, TE, Miami. He is often compared to some of the most athletic tight ends in the NFL in Vernon Davis and Eric Ebron. He has the size and speed to be a vertical threat and stretch the middle of the field. Njoku will also get selected in the first round. Gerald Everett, TE, South Alabama is also an extremely athletic tight end projected to go in the first or second round. He is often compared to Jordon Reed in the NFL. He is a legitimate receiving threat that posted a 4.62 40 at the combine. His skills will fit extremely well with the modern day NFL offenses. The fastest tight end in this draft is Evan Engram, TE, Ole Miss. He posted a 4.42 40 yard dash at the NFL combine. Engram is an extremely fast receiver who is a good route runner. Some feel he is a big wide receiver rather than a tight end. Either way he is a matchup nightmare for opposing defenses. Other tight ends expected to go in the first three rounds include: Jake Butt, TE, Michigan, Jordan Leggett, TE, Clemson, Bucky Hodges, TE, Virginia Tech, Jonnu Smith, TE, Florida International, Michael Roberts, TE, Toledo, Jeremy Sprinkle, TE, Aransas and George Kittle, TE, Iowa. Each of these tight ends offer the size/speed ratios that the modern day NFL offenses covet.
3. Edge Rushers (DEs) – This is an extremely deep draft of edge rushers. There are several blue chip prospects in this year’s draft class, but the draft is deep with talent that will allow teams to bolster their defensive lines in the first three rounds of the draft. In today’s NFL, there is a high premium placed on edge rushers and their ability to create pressure on the quarterback. We project that 4-5 defensive ends may go in the first round including: Myles Garrett, DE, Texas A&M, Taco Charlton, DE, Michigan, Solomon Thomas, DE, Stanford, Derek Barnett, DE, Tennessee and Charles Harris, DE Missouri. Garrett is the cream of the crop and the likely number one overall pick. Garrett is a freak athlete with ridiculous speed and extreme power. He has tremendous football instincts and is a football player that happens to be a great athlete. He will provide immediate playmaking ability to any NFL defenses and provides the type of disruption that Von Miller provided the Broncos on their way to winning the Super Bowl. He is the best defensive end prospect since the aforementioned Miller. Charlton has a prototype frame for an edge rusher in the NFL at 6’6”. He is long and athletic which are two important characteristics for a successful edge rusher in the NFL. He best fits in a 4-3 scheme in the NFL. Thomas provides tremendous flexibility in that he could rush off the edge or move inside and play the 3 technique tackle position. He had a great Senior Bowl and was the best player on the field in the bowl game versus North Carolina. He totally dominated the bowl game. Barnett was one of the best edge rushers in college football last year and led the volunteer’s defense. He brings great leadership and work ethic. He is not the most athletic DE in this group but he will outwork you. Harris is an extremely fast edge rusher with a great first step. He has demonstrated some speed-to-power skills and is one of the most refined edge rushers in this draft. Other defensive ends projected to go in the first three rounds include: Takkarist McKinley, DE, UCLA, Tanoh Kpassagnon, DE, Villanova, Jordon Willis, DE, Kansas State, Chris Wormley, DE, Michigan, Demarcus Walker, DE, Florida State, Tim Williams, DE, Alabama and Dawuane Smoot, DE, Illinois. This position group will have an impact in the NFL in 2017.
4. Cornerback/Safety – The cornerback class in 2017 is a deep draft that will allow teams to get great value in the first 4 rounds. Teams looking to improve their secondary will be able to find quality secondary talent in rounds 2 – 4. However, there are very few blue chip prospects this year. This draft is loaded with big corners that can run and safeties with big time playmaking abilities, which is a premium in today’s NFL. College football displayed some of the best secondary play we have seen in some time in Ohio State, Washington and Florida. We expect only 3-4 corners to be drafted in the first round. We believe the best cornerback in this draft is Marshon Lattimore of Ohio State. He has excellent size coupled with outstanding ball skills and speed. He ran 4.36 at the combine. He is a complete corner that will be extremely successful at the next level. He will be a Pro Bowl cornerback in the NFL for many years. We also expect Marlon Humphrey, Alabama, Gareon Conley, Ohio State and Kevin King, Washington to go in the first round. All of these prospects will provide immediate value at the cornerback position for the team drafting them. Humphrey has the size and speed to match up to any NFL wide receiver. He is a well-rounded athlete that does everything well. Conley is another big corner with the size and speed to match up against today’s NFL wide receivers. He was very productive at Ohio State and teamed with Lattimore to form the best corner tandem in the country. King is another big corner with excellent speed. He teamed with Sydney Jones to form another great corner tandem at Washington. Sydney Jones from Washington was a first round pick prior to an Achilles injury at his Pro Day. If he recovers well, some team will get a steal in Jones. Outside of the first round, teams will find outstanding talent in Adoree Jackson, USC, Tre’Davious White, LSU, Jalen Tabor, Florida, Quincy Wilson, Florida, Fabian Moreau, UCLA, Ahkello Witherspoon, Colorado, Cordrea Tankersley, Clemson, Sidney Jones, Washington (Achilles injury), Jourdan Lewis, CB, Michigan, Desmond King, Iowa and Howard Wilson, Houston. This draft also has some of the best talent at safety in years. You have several blue chip prospects in Jamal Adams, LSU, Malik Hooker, Ohio State and Jabrill Peppers, Michigan. Each of these safeties bring tremendous playmaking ability to your secondary and each of these safeties can cover and hit. Hooker and Adams will be pro bowl safeties at the next level. Teams will also get great talent after round one including: Obi Melifonwu, Connecticut, Marcus Williams, Utah, Justin Evans, Texas A&M, Marcus Maye, Florida, Budda Baker, Washington, Josh Jones, North Carolina State, Montae Nicholson, Michigan State and Eddie Jackson, Alabama.

The areas highlighted above will provide great value in the first day of the draft including rounds, two, three and four because of the depth of these positions.  Several teams have needs at Running Back, Tight End, Cornerback/Safety and Edge Rushers. We see these positions dominating the first 3 rounds of the 2017 draft. Running Back and Tight End are particularly deep in this draft.

We see the first round going like this (assuming no trades):

1. **Cleveland Browns – Myles Garrett, DE, Texas A&M**

Cleveland needs help across the board and they need to take the best player available. Garrett is the best pass-rusher in a class full of them. He's a rare talent and a physical freak (4.64 40-yard dash and 41-inch vertical at 6-foot-4, 272 pounds), and he also produces on the field (32.5 sacks in three seasons).

1. **San Francisco 49ers – Solomon Thomas, DE, Stanford**

The 49ers are in clear rebuilding mode with new leadership in place. They need to add impact players on both sides of the ball and Thomas provides that. Thomas is the total package off the edge, with size, quickness and power. He's a different player than the D-linemen the 49ers have taken in the first round the past two years (DeForest Buckner and Arik Armstead) and has double-digit sack potential.

1. **Chicago Bears – Malik Hooker, S, Ohio State**

The Bears are in desperate need of upgrading their secondary and need to add playmakers. Hooker provides the big play ability that the Bears need. Hooker can provide the speed, range and elite ball skills the Bears need in the deep middle of the field. In his first season as a starter he provided many big plays for the Buckeye’s defense producing seven interceptions in 2016, including three pick-sixes.

1. **Jacksonville Jaguars – Jonathan Allen, DL, Alabama**

The Jaguars are trying to transition from a pretender to a contender. They have added a lot of young talent in the last three drafts and need to take the best player available. Stick with the tape on Allen. He's the No. 2 overall player, even after mediocre workouts. Allen's quickness and power help him constantly push the pocket as a pass-rusher, and he had 22.5 sacks in the past two seasons. Allen would form a great tackle tandem with the 2016 big-money signing of Malik Jackson.

1. **Tennessee Titans (from Rams) – Marshon Lattimore, CB, Ohio State**

The Titans need a significant upgrade in their secondary as they do not have a number 1 corner on the roster. In today’s NFL, that is a must if you want to compete for division titles. Lattimore is an athletic Phenom who doesn't have a ton of experience but possesses number 1 corner talent. He ran a 4.36 40 and had a 38½-inch vertical at the combine, but he started just one season for the Buckeyes. He has elite coverage ability and good ball skills.

1. **New York Jets – Mitch Trubisky, QB, North Carolina**

The Jets have been looking for a quarterback in the draft over the last decade. They have used several high picks on quarterbacks that have not worked out. This is the most difficult position to draft but if you do not have one you will not compete in today’s NFL. Trubisky is the No. 1 signal-caller in this draft and provides the Jets with a skillset that the others do not have. A high football IQ and a franchise arm. Trubisky has the natural accuracy and pocket mobility to develop into a quality starter. Trubisky has a high ceiling, but the risk is that he has only been a starter for one year.

1. **Los Angeles Chargers – Jamal Adams, S, LSU**

Adams is a steal if he falls to the Chargers at pick 7. A big hitter with excellent intangibles, Adams is one of the few players with an elite grade in this year's class. He gives the Chargers flexibility on defense, which is critical in defending today’s NFL offenses. Adams can play in the box, cover tight ends and slot receivers and he is excellent on blitzes. New defensive coordinator Gus Bradley can get creative in finding ways to play Adams and Jahleel Addae on all three downs.

1. **Carolina Panthers – Leonard Fournette, RB, LSU**

Carolina is really the first logical spot I see for a running back, unless a team trades up. The Panthers need a successor to Jonathan Stewart, who turned 30 in March. Fournette is a special player who has looked like a first-round pick since he stepped on the field at LSU. Fournette would give the Panthers another weapon and provide stability at running back. He has a rare combination of size (240 pounds), speed (4.51 40) and power and has been compared to Adrian Peterson since high school.

1. **Cincinnati Bengals – Mike Williams, WR, Clemson**

The Bengals' offense didn't look the same after losing Mohamed Sanu and Marvin Jones in free agency last year. With Williams (98 catches for 1,361 yards and 11 touchdowns for the national champs last season) and A.J. Green, Cincinnati would have one of the best receiving tandems in the league. Williams is an elite wide receiver and the best wide receiver in this class. Andy Dalton would have great weapons to choose from in A.J. Green, Mike Williams and Tyler Eifert.

1. **Buffalo Bills – O.J. Howard, TE, Alabama**

Buffalo needs to provide Tyrod Taylor with more playmakers. Howard is the best tight end in the draft and will be a matchup nightmare for opposing defenses. He has all of the athletic attributes (4.51 40 at 6-6, 251) of a top-tier all-around player. Howard followed a great 2016 season with an outstanding combine and Senior Bowl. If used properly in the right offensive system, he will be a pro bowl tight end.

1. **New Orleans Saints – Hassan Reddick. LB, Temple**

New Orleans needs to continue upgrading the defensive side of the ball. With the recent addition of Adrian Peterson, they now have more flexibility in the draft. A virtual unknown outside of draft circles entering the Senior Bowl, Reddick looks like a top-15 pick after a great week of practices in Mobile and an elite combine performance, including a 4.52 40 and 11-foot-1 broad jump at 237 pounds. One of the draft's hottest names since those performances, Reddick's value is in his versatility. He could play inside or outside in a 4-3 or 3-4. For the Saints, I see him as an outside 'backer who could play on his feet on first and second down and rush the passer on third downs.

1. **Cleveland Browns (from Eagles) – Deshaun Watson, QB, Clemson**

The Browns are getting this pick from last year's trade that netted the Eagles Carson Wentz, who flashed Pro Bowl potential as a rookie. As we all know, the Browns have needed a quarterback since Bernie Kosar. They have drafted many quarterbacks over the last decade with little success, most notably Johnny Manziel. However, the Browns need to keep trying because you will not win in the NFL without a quarterback. Watson was one the most productive quarterbacks in college football the last two years and the main thing he did was win games ending in last year’s national championship. He brings tremendous leadership ability and athleticism. If the Brown’s are patient, they may have a winner in Watson.

1. **Arizona Cardinals – Patrick Mahomes, QB, Texas Tech**

The Cardinals need to begin looking for Carson Palmer’s replacement while Palmer is still productive. Mahomes is loaded with arm talent, but he'll need the sandlot aspect of his game coached out of him at the next level. He has the strongest arm in this year’s draft but has a gunslingers mentality, which is good and bad in the NFL. In Arizona, he'd be able to sit behind Carson Palmer and continue his development. Mahomes needs at least one redshirt year just like Brett Favre did.

1. **Philadelphia Eagles (from Vikings) – Dalvin Cook, RB, Florida State**

Cook is perfect fit in Philadelphia. He is explosive in the open field and a natural pass-catcher out of the backfield. It wouldn't be a huge surprise to see Cook fall this far, given concerns over his shoulder, character baggage and fumbling issues. He was extremely productive at Florida State rushing for 38 touchdowns the past two seasons and would be an instant upgrade at that position for the Eagles. Wentz would get another weapon on offense that allows the Eagles more balance.

1. **Indianapolis Colts – Reuben Foster, ILB, Alabama**

Foster is the best inside linebacker in this draft, but few teams above the Colts at No. 15 need inside linebackers. Some character red flags could cause Foster to slip (he was sent home early from the combine after an altercation with a hospital worker), but he's one of the 10 best football players in this draft. Foster would immediately fill the Colt’s need for a three-down inside linebacker. This would be one of the best value picks of Round 1.

1. **Baltimore Ravens – Cam Robinson, OT, Alabama**

The Ravens spent the sixth overall pick last year on LT Ronnie Stanley, and Robinson is a natural fit on the right side. He still needs to improve his technique, but Robinson possesses excellent length (35½-inch arms) and is an elite mauler in the running game. Robinson could also move inside to guard if necessary.

1. **Washington Redskins – Christian McCaffrey, RB, Stanford**

We could see McCaffrey jumping into the top 10 after his combine performance (4.48 40 and 37½-inch vertical) proved his athleticism. For now I'm leaving him here, where he'd play some running back and slot receiver and return kicks and punts. McCaffrey has the skill set to be a really good running back and wide receiver in the NFL. McCaffrey is the son of Ed McCraffrey the long-time wide receiver for the Denver Broncos. It is always good to have successful blood lines when drafting players. The Redskins lost some explosive playmakers in free agency and McCaffrey’s helps fill the void due to his versatility.

1. **Tennessee Titans – Corey Davis, WR, Western Michigan**

The Titans need to upgrade the playmakers on offense and give Mariota the players that will allow him to succeed as the leader of the offense. Davis' size (6-2, 205), ball skills and speed (estimated in the 4.4s, based on tape) make him a Day 1 NFL starter outside the numbers. He was extremely productive in college with 331 catches for 5,278 yards and 52 touchdowns in his collegiate career. He would immediately become Marcus Mariota's top target.

1. **Tampa Bay Buccaneers – David Njoku, TE, Miami**

If the Buccaneers want to get to the next level, they need to give Jameis Winston every opportunity to succeed. Winston's receiving corps has already been bolstered with the addition of DeSean Jackson, and Njoku would be another threat. He has the size (6-4, 246) and athleticism (4.64 40, 37½-inch vertical and 11-foot-1 broad jump at the combine) to run past and jump over defenders. Njoku would give Winston something he currently lacks: a field-stretcher down the seam. This is the most athletic group of tight ends in the last decade and he leads a class of tight ends that had 10 tight ends run sub 4.7 40 yard dashes at the combine.

1. **Denver Broncos – Garrett Bolles, OT, Utah**

The Broncos are in desperate need for a left tackle and do not possess a mobile quarterback on the roster. The most athletic left tackle prospect in this class, Bolles shows very good lateral agility in pass protection and plays with a mean streak. Bolles has a lot of tools to develop, but after adding G Ronald Leary and OT Menelik Watson in free agency, Denver could allow Bolles to grow into a larger role. He fills an immediate need for Denver and provides the most value on the board.

1. **Detroit Lions – Takkarist McKinley, DE, UCLA**

Detroit needs to bolster their defense in this draft and it starts up front. The Lions need to draft another pass-rusher to pair with Ezekiel Ansah. McKinley plays with an incredible motor; he just never quits. And while his technique still needs work, you can't teach his speed off the edge (4.59 40). He broke out in 2016 with 10 sacks and three forced fumbles for the Bruins. This fills an immediate need for the Lions.

1. **Miami Dolphins – Forrest Lamp, G, Western Kentucky**

Laremy Tunsil is moving outside to left tackle -- as he should -- which means a guard spot opens up, and Lamp is the draft's best guard. This one makes too much sense. . Lamp is an excellent athlete, and the best all-around offensive lineman in this class. With Lamp, the Dolphins are beginning to form a very good young offensive line. Miami could also target a linebacker or defensive back.

1. **New York Giants – Malik McDowell, DT, Michigan State**

The Giants lost Johnathan Hankins in free agency and are in desperate need of a replacement. McDowell is the most talented interior pass-rusher in the draft, but he didn't play with the same passion and toughness this past season, which is a red flag. The veterans along the Giants' defensive line can show him how to be a pro. He will fill an immediate need and replace Hankins along the Giant’s defensive front.

1. **Oakland Raiders – Kevin King, CB, Washington**

The Raiders need to upgrade their secondary and King is the pick here. In a great class of cornerbacks, King stands out for his size (6-3, 200), and the 4.43 40 coupled with a 39½-inch vertical at the combine moved him up on many team’s draft boards. After taking safety Karl Joseph on Day 1 last year, the Raiders are still trying to improve their secondary. Corner is a gaping hole headed into the draft.

1. **Houston Texans – Ryan Ramczyk, OT, Wisconsin**

The Texans need more help up front, and Ramczyk has the requisite frame and athleticism to eventually develop into a prototypical NFL left tackle. He was a very consistent player in his lone season with the Badgers after transferring from UW-Stevens Point (Division III). Ramczyk continues the long list of outstanding Badger offensive lineman at the next level. He had hip surgery in January, but it shouldn't affect his availability for training camp.

1. **Seattle Seahawks – Marlon Humphrey, CB, Alabama**

The Seahawks are in a position to take the best player available and they continue to add talent to the defensive side of the ball with the selection of Humphrey. Humphrey is another lanky corner who fits the Seattle mold, though he's 6-0, 197. DeShawn Shead will be back, but he tore his ACL in the playoffs and might not be 100 percent. That leaves a void at corner. If one of the top two offensive tackles drops, Seattle could pounce.

1. **Kansas City Chiefs – DeShone Kizer, QB, Notre Dame**

The Chiefs have been very interested in drafting a quarterback in this draft visiting with several of the top prospects. They do not have an immediate need, but want to groom Alex Smith’s successor. Kizer, the Notre Dame underclassman who like Mahomes, is raw and talented. His college coach made news by saying Kizer should have stayed in school another year. However, he could take a year or two behind a veteran in the NFL, and that fits in Kansas City, where Alex Smith is signed through 2018. Remember: Kansas City tried to trade up for Paxton Lynch last year, so we know the Chiefs are thinking about the future. This is a pick for the future in Kansas City.

1. **Dallas Cowboys – Taco Charlton, DE, Michigan**

The Cowboys had an excellent draft last year and it will be difficult to match last year’s success. However, this year’s attention needs to shift to the defensive side of the ball. The glaring need in Dallas is pass rushers and as last year showed they cannot get to the quarterback which is a premium in today’s NFL. Charlton is a great fir for Dallas and plays best as a 4-3 DE who can put his hand in the dirt and get after the passer. He isn't an elite player, but he played his best against top competition in 2016, compiling 5.5 sacks against Penn State, Wisconsin, Ohio State and Florida State. Charlton has a prototype frame for an edge rusher in the NFL at 6’6” with long arms, measuring at 34¼ inches. He is long and athletic which are two important characteristics for a successful edge rusher in the NFL.

1. **Green Bay Packers – Charles Harris, DE, Missouri**

The Packers need to continue to add talent to the defensive side of the ball as they do not have trouble scoring points with Rodgers at quarterback. He's another one of the versatile pass-rushers from this class with 3-4 and 4-3 ability. Harris is an extremely fast edge rusher with a great first step. He has demonstrated some speed-to-power skills and is one of the most refined edge rushers in this draft. Harris is like a Tasmanian devil off the edge and wins with speed and an elite first step. Harris was extremely productive in college recording 16 sacks for the Tigers over the past two seasons.

1. **Pittsburgh Steelers – Derek Barnett, DE, Tennessee**

The Steelers always look to add elite talent to their front seven on defense. Barnett fits the bill here. He was one of the most productive pass-rushers over the past three years (33 sacks). He fits the Steelers' physical 3-4. Barnett has some of the most impressive production of any pass-rusher in this class, considering the competition he played against (42 tackles for loss and 29 sacks vs. the SEC in three seasons).

1. **Atlanta Falcons – Jabrill Peppers, S, Michigan**

The Falcons need to continue to add talent on the defensive side of the ball to win a championship. They came close last year but their defense caved in at the end to Tom Brady. Peppers provides Dan Quinn versatility in that he can play multiple positions. Coach Quinn has shown a willingness to bring in versatile defensive players (Keanu Neal and Deion Jones were the Falcons' first two picks last year). Indeed, Peppers has rare versatility and great straight-line speed, but he also shows limitations in coverage. He's a tremendous athlete (4.46 40, 35½-inch vertical) and the best punt returner in this draft. Landing with an open-minded coach like Quinn would benefit Peppers in the long term

1. **New Orleans Saints (from Patriots) – John Ross, WR, Washington**

With Brandin Cooks now in New England, Ross is an ideal replacement and provides Brees with a vertical threat that is required in Sean Payton’s offense. Cooks ran a 4.33 40 at the combine, the fastest among receivers in 2014, and Ross set the combine record with a 4.22. He also has savvy route-running ability and reliable hands and will contribute as a returner. Ross was one of the most productive receivers in college football last year with 81 catches for 1,150 yards and 17 touchdowns season. New Orleans needs defensive help, too, and could eye a corner.

**Minnesota Vikings Draft**

The Vikings needs going into the 2017 draft include in priority order:

* Offensive Line
* Running Back
* Safety
* Depth at Defensive Tackle
* Depth at Cornerback
* Depth at Linebacker
* Depth at Wide Receiver

The Vikings had a playoff caliber defense last year but need to add playmakers to the offense and improve the line play to both run and protect.

In terms of the Vikings, they will be able to take the best player in the draft due to the fact they have a very good returning team and have very few holes to fill. We see four alternatives that could unfold in the second round (they traded their first round pick in this year’s drat for Sam Bradford):

1. Take the best Guard/Tackle – Continuing to build the youth and depth on the offensive line could be a priority for the Vikings in Round 1. Everyone knows the Vikings had one of the worst offensive lines in football last year. A lot was due to injury, but youth and talent were contributing factors. Options in Round 2 could include: Dan Feeney, G, Indiana, Dion Dawkins, G/OT, Temple, Ethan Pocic, G/C, LSU, Antonio Garcia, OT, Troy, Julie’n Davenport, OT, Bucknell, and David Sharpe, OT, Florida. Feeney is the best interior lineman in the draft behind Forrest Lamp, who will go in the first round. He could compete for a starting job right away. Dawkins has good athleticism and size. Pocic is a versatile lineman that can play multiple positions. He could add both youth and depth across the line. Garcia, Davenport and Sharpe would all add depth behind Reiff and Remmers. The goal should be to add a starter in round 2. We think it is likely for the Vikings to look to add a starter in round 2 on the interior of the offensive line.
2. Take a Running Back – The Vikings need to surround Sam Bradford with playmakers. Due to the departure of Adrian Peterson, the Vikings find themselves in need of running back talent for the first time in 10 years. They added Latavius Murray in free agency but it was essentially a one year deal. The Vikings had the worst ground game in the NFL last year which put pressure on Bradford and the offensive line. Getting the proper balance will be a priority heading into the 2017 season. Options in round 2 include: Joe Mixon, Oklahoma, Alvin Kamara, Tennessee, D’Onta Foreman, Texas. Mixon may be the best running back in this draft and is a first round talent. However, off field concerns due to a domestic assault in college has affected his draft stock. Mixon was part of a two man RB rotation at Oklahoma and was the most productive back in college with the ball in his hands. He will hurt you in the run game and is a receiving threat out of the backfield which fits today’s NFL offenses. Mixon is a first round talent but off field concerns will affect where he is selected. Also, replacing a Sooner (Peterson) with another Sooner (Mixon) has some charm to it. Kamara spent time at a community college and finished his career at Tennessee. He made the most of his opportunities at Tennessee particularly in the receiving game. He may be the best receiving back in this draft. Kamara is a lot like Jamaal Charles as a runner in that both are fast slashers who are built well with some power. Foreman is a popular name with many Viking fans and was one of the most productive runners in the nation leading CFB in rushing for 2,028 yards with 15 touchdowns. He is a load as a runner who can run over the opposition. We think it is likely the Vikings select a running back in round 2 if the right player falls to them.
3. Take the best Defensive Tackle – One of the strongest units on the defense was the defensive line last year. However, Shariff Floyd’s knee injury and the fact that both Shamar Stephen and Linval Joseph have only one year remaining on their contracts will have the Vikings looking for defensive tackles in round 2 and 3. In addition, Tom Johnson tore his hamstring last year and he will be 32 this year. The Vikings did add Datone Jones from the division rival Packers in free agency but it was essentially a one year deal. All of these factors will affect the Vikings decision making at the defensive tackle position in this year’s draft. Options in round 2 include: Malik McDowell, Michigan State, Caleb Brantley, Florida and Chris Wormley, Michigan. McDowell would be difficult to pass up if he slid to the 48th pick. He is the second best tackle in this draft but is known to take plays off and rely too much on his talent. The thought is Zimmer and the coaches could address this weakness. He would provide an immediate upgrade and replace what Floyd brought to the table. Brantley was an extremely productive inside presence at Florida. He was very disruptive with serious quickness at the point of attack. However, a recent domestic assault allegation has clouded his draft stock. Wormley is the third best talent of the three here. He would add depth but would not provide a starting impact. He is a tough run defender but struggles to collapse the pocket on the pass rush. Our take is that unless McDowell falls to them at pick 48 the Vikings will wait on defensive tackle until the later rounds.
4. Take the Best Safety – A playmaker to pair with Harrison Smith could be an option in Round 2. Adding talent here would make Harrison Smith an even better player. Options in round 2 include: Obi Melifonwu, Connecticut, Marcus Williams, Utah, Justin Evans, Texas A7M, Marcus Maye, Florida, Budda Baker, Washington and Josh Jones, North Carolina State. If Melifonwu fell to them at pick 48, he would be difficult to pass up. He has prototype safety size with cornerback skills. The Vikings have also shown significant interest in Justin Evans and Josh Jones. The Vikings would like to add more talent next to Smith but have more pressing needs. Our take is that they will wait until later rounds to address safety due to the depth of this draft unless a talent like Melifonwu falls to them at pick 48.

We think they will stay at pick 48 and either address the interior of the offensive line or running back. We think the choices will come down to Dan Feeney, G, Indiana and Joe Mixon, RB, Oklahoma. We believe the Vikings will add playmakers on offense in an effort to improve the 32nd ranked rushing attack by selecting Joe Mixon, RB, Oklahoma. Mixon will provide the Vikings with a home run hitter that brings the skills that are required in a modern day NFL offense operating out of multiple formations. We would also be replacing the all-time great Adrian Peterson with another Sooner. He would be a great complement to the other playmakers we already have on the roster and add the type of playmaker Bradford needs to create balance on offense.

They will then target guard/tackle, defensive tackle and safety in round 3 and beyond.

This draft will continue to infuse young talent on both sides of the ball for the Vikings. They have one of the youngest teams in the NFL and they will continue to build young talent. This is a pick that fills a need while at the same time fits into the best-athlete-available mantra the Vikings have maintained. If they choose a Safety, Defensive Tackle or offensive lineman in the second round, the Vikings will then look to add a running back with one of their two third round picks.

**ROUND THREE - Options in round 3 that the Vikings could draft (The Vikings have two picks in the third round):**

They will look to add a playmaking tight end, safety, offensive line, defensive line and running back depending on what they did in round 2:

1. **Ethan Pocic, G/C, LSU –** Pocic played well overall in 2016. He is a technician at center who is well-balanced as a run blocker and pass protector. Pocic did a nice job of opening holes at the point of attack and was reliable with giving his quarterback time. Pocic isn't a bulldozing interior offensive lineman, but he fires to the second level to hit blocks while being effective on double teams. For the NFL, it would help Pocic to add more strength to create more movement in the ground game and hold up against bull rushers. He had a decent week at the Senior Bowl. Pocic has natural athleticism and is excellent at hitting blocks on the second level. He does a quality job of sustaining his blocks and has strong technique with hand placement. While Pocic isn't a true bull as a run blocker, he is effective at opening holes in the ground game. In pass protection, Pocic has been very reliable. He is good at hitting double teams on tackles and also is smart in his positioning. He also has the athleticism and quickness to help handle interior speed rushers. Pocic has an interesting body type for the next level. He is taller than most teams like to have at center at 6’7”, but that is if his listed height is accurate, and more often than not, schools exaggerate the height and weight of players.
2. **Justin Evans, S, Texas A&M** – Evans is a strong safety type who is a good run defender and a strong eighth man in the box. He has some coverage skills, but is more of a strong safety for the NFL. In 2016, the senior recorded 85 tackles with six passes broken up and four interceptions. Evans created a real buzz with his Week 1 game against UCLA, and there was talk that he could be a first-round pick. In the season opener, Evans made eight tackles and two interceptions. Evans has good size and is a good tackler in the tackle box. He totaled 78 tackles with three pass breakups and one interception in 2015.
3. **Josh Jones, S, North Carolina State –** Jones was a solid player for the Wolfpack during the past three seasons. He is a strong safety type for the NFL and plays with an aggressive and relentless nature. Jones ran fast times at the combine and showed excellent athleticism. Jones collected 109 tackles with eight passes batted and three interceptions as a junior before deciding to skip his senior year. He had 63 tackles as a sophomore and 56 stops in 2014. Jones snagged four interceptions as a redshirt freshman. He had a very productive college career that will translate well to the NFL.
4. **Pat Elflein, G/C, Ohio State –** Elflein blocked well for Ohio State. He is a strong run blocker at the point of attack. The Ohio State staff has raved about Elflein to NFL evaluators for his character and work ethic. However, NFL teams have some concerns about how Elflein's size and lack of length will translate to the NFL. Elflein was perhaps Ohio State's most impressive offensive lineman in 2015, and that is saying something considering left tackle Taylor Decker was a first-round pick in the 2016 NFL Draft. As a power run blocker, Elflein is superb. He has a very strong upper body that he uses to get movement at the point of attack. Constantly, Elflein fires out of his stance and pushes defensive tackles out of their gap to open a hole for his running back. He seals lanes by getting on the hip of the defender, and defensive linemen have a really hard time holding their gaps when Elflein locks onto them. Elflein plays with excellent leverage to lean on and push his defender. Elflein blocks through the whistle and has an aggressive demeanor. In pass protection, Elflein is reliable and solid. He sustains his blocks well and has the strong base to anchor against bull rushers. Elflein shows some intelligence to help out his teammates when teams don't send a rusher against him. A challenge for Elflein will be the speed rushers of the NFL, but moving to center should help him. As a redshirt sophomore, Elflein had a strong 2014 season where he was an impactful run-blocker for the Buckeyes. He has power to him and can pull.
5. **D’Onta Foreman, RB, Texas –** Foreman had a tremendous 2016 season and was one of the most productive runners in the nation. He averaged 6.3 yards per carry for 2,028 yards with 15 touchdowns. Foreman isn't much of a receiver, making just seven catches for 75 yards in 2016, but he is a load as a runner who can run over the opposition. As a sophomore, he averaged 7.2 yards per carry for 681 yards and five touchdowns. Foreman is a 235 pound back that ran a sub 4.5 40 at the combine – He will be very productive at the next level.
6. **Davon Godchaux, DT, LSU -** Godchaux had 62 tackles with 6.5 sacks and 8.5 tackles for the 2016 season. He put together an impressive game against Mississippi State with six tackles, a sack and a critical fumble recovery. Godchaux has some speed at the point of attack and can be disruptive, but he needs to become more consistent. Godchaux was very disruptive for LSU in 2015. He totaled 41 tackles with nine for a loss, six sacks and a pass broken up during the regular season. Godchaux is fast and explosive at the point of attack, plus has a lot of potential. Godchaux has a quick first-step off the ball with the speed to shoot his gap. He can fire up the field and close on the quarterback. LSU ran a lot of stunts and Godchaux was effective at looping around and getting to the signal-caller. Godchaux is at his best working up field and causing disruption in the backfield in either the pass rush or run defense. Against the run though, he could work on holding his ground against downhill runs and also getting off blocks. Godchaux could stand to get his hands more active in the ground game and pass rush as well. He also will have to watch his pad level and avoid standing up too high.
7. **Jaleel Johnson, DT, Iowa** - Johnson has the skill set to be a difference-maker at the next level. He is strong enough to shed blocks, yet has the speed to close on the quarterback. He ran slower than expected at the combine. Johnson needs to get more consistent and increase the tempo of his motor, but he had 7.5 sacks in 2016. The senior also recorded 55 tackles with 10 tackles for a loss and two passes broken up. As a junior, he had 45 tackles with 5.5 tackles for a loss, 3.5 sacks and one pass batted. In a number of ways, Johnson is a similar prospect to former teammate Carl Davis, who had first-round potential but slid to the third round in large part because of inconsistent effort. Johnson looks like he has a better motor and more consistent effort than Davis.
8. **Bucky Hodges, TE, Virginia Tech -** On the season, Hodges totaled 48 catches for 691 yards with seven touchdowns. He is a dangerous receiver who can hurt defenses in the red zone. Hodges needs to improve his blocking for the NFL, but he could be an impactful receiving tight end. In 2015, Hodges had 40 receptions for 530 yards and six scores. Hodges was a redshirt freshman sensation for the Hokies in 2014, producing the best season ever for receiving production by a freshman tight end at Virginia Tech. For the year, he hauled in 45 catches for 526 yards and six touchdowns. During his redshirt season in 2013, Hodges split time at tight end and quarterback. He is an extremely athletic tight end with the speed to stretch the seam down the middle.
9. **Chris Goodwin, WR, Penn State -** Godwin caught 59 passes for 982 yards and 11 touchdowns in 2016. He finished the year in excellent fashion with an impressive bowl game against USC. Godwin is a quick and slippery receiver who can get open while pushing a defense vertically. He showed his speed at the combine with an impressive workout. In 2015, he totaled 69 receptions for 1,101 yards and five touchdowns. Godwin has some quickness and route-running skills. Goodwin has prototypical size for a wide receiver in the NFL and the speed to match it. The Vikings are very interested in Goodwin.
10. **ArDarius Stewart, WR, Alabama** - Stewart is a sleeper receiver who could be a nice value pick. He totaled 54 receptions for 864 yards and eight touchdowns as a junior. A knee injury caused him to miss a couple of games early in the season. Stewart is tough receiver with functional speed. As a sophomore, he totaled 63 receptions for 700 yards with four scores. While these totals do not wow you, these are good numbers for a receiver in an Alabama offense.
11. **Duke Riley, LB, LSU –** Riley was a backup before having a good senior year. He had an impressive game against Alabama and got better as the year progressed. In 2016, Riley totaled 93 tackles with nine for a loss, 1.5 sacks, one pass batted and one interception. Riley is a fast and physical linebacker who would fit best as a Will (weakside) linebacker in a 4-3 defense. The Vikings are very interested in Riley as a potential replacement for Chad Greenway.
12. **Gerald Everett, TE, South Alabama -** Everett is a dynamic receiving weapon for the NFL who will cause matchup nightmares for opposing defenses. Everett has shown an ability to separate and get open for his quarterback plus has excellent run-after-the-catch skills. Everett recorded 43 receptions for 648 yards and four touchdowns in 2016. In 2015, he had 41 catches for 575 yards and eight touchdowns. Everett started out his career at UAB and played one season where he caught 17 passes for 292 yards and a touchdown. After UAB ended its football program, Everett transferred to South Alabama. He is often compared to Jordon Reed in the NFL. He is a legitimate receiving threat that posted a 4.62 40 at the combine. His skills will fit extremely well with the modern day NFL offenses.
13. **Evan Engram, TE, Ole Miss -** Last season, Engram illustrated that he is a dynamic receiving tight end for the NFL in the mold of Jordan Reed. Engram is the fastest tight end in this draft. He posted a 4.42 40 yard dash at the NFL combine. Engram is also a good route runner. Some feel he is a big wide receiver rather than a tight end. Either way he is a matchup nightmare for opposing defenses. Engram had excellent games against Florida State and Alabama indicating he can play against tough competition. On the year, he totaled 65 receptions for 926 yards and eight scores. He isn't a big blocker for the NFL though, but he fights hard as a blocker and is able to contribute some. Engram had an impressive Senior Bowl to help his draft stock. He further helped himself with a tremendous combine where he had a much faster than expected 40 and was superb in the field drills. Some teams feel that Engram is more of a big wide receiver rather than a tight end. Engram had somewhat of a down year in 2015, but he played better late in the regular season. He had 38 receptions for 464 yards and two touchdowns. His blocking looked better at times, especially in the game against Auburn. Engram isn't a drive blocker, but he is a good blocker in space and very good at cutting defenders. The 2014 season was an even better for Engram than his freshman year. The sophomore caught 38 passes for 662 yards with two touchdowns in 2014. Engram was a dangerous receiving threat who carved up Alabama, Auburn and Mississippi State. He needs to add weight for the next level and get better as a blocker. Engram had a breakout 2013 season that led to him being named an All-SEC Second-Team selection by numerous media outlets.
14. **Marlon Mack, RB, South Florida -** Mack ran well for the Bulls in 2016. He averaged 7.1 yards per carry for 1,187 yards with 15 touchdowns, plus hauled in 28 receptions for 227 yards. 2016 was Mack's third straight 1,000-yard season. He had 1,381 yards as a sophomore and 1,041 yards as a freshman. The junior is a sleeper back who could be a nice role player in the NFL. The Vikings are very interested in Mack if they do not address this position earlier in the draft. Mack could become the heir apparent to Adrian Peterson.
15. **Taylor Moton, OT, Western Michigan -** Moton was a solid offensive lineman for the Broncos the past few seasons and turned in a quality senior year at right tackle. Western Michigan fielded a superb offense with a dynamic aerial attack for a few years, and Moton's pass protection contributed to that. Moton played right tackle as a sophomore before moving to right guard as a junior. Moton played well at the Senior Bowl. He is tough at the point of attack with strength in the ground game. For the NFL, Moton has versatile size and could be a player who is a valuable competitor at guard or tackle early in his NFL career. Right guard or right tackle could be his best position in the long term.

**ROUND FOUR - Options in round 4 that the Vikings could draft – this is where you start to build your team:**

1. **Tyler Orlosky, C, West Virginia –** Orlosky turned in a quality senior year as he did a good job in the ground game and was generally reliable in pass protection. Orlosky is not the strongest blocker but he takes good angles and plays with leverage. At the next level, he is primarily a center and does not provide much versatility. Orlosky is a good college blocker who is equally effective in run blocking and pass protection. If he could add some weight to his frame, he could increase his chance to succeed at the next level.
2. **Isaac Asiata, C/G, Utah –** Isaac Asiata is the cousin of current Viking Matt Asiata. Matt has provided Isaac quite a bit of advice as he approaches the NFL draft. Asiata is a quality run blocker who has to improve his pass protection. Injuries ravaged the Utes in 2016, and as a result, Asiata took some snaps at center after J.J. Dielman went out for the season. Guard might be a better fit for Asiata in the NFL, and that was reinforced at the Senior Bowl. Asiata is a tough run blocker who has strength at the point of attack. He was effective at opening holes for Devontae Booker in 2015. Asiata has been a starter at guard the past two seasons with the majority of that time spent at left guard. As a redshirt freshman, Asiata had four starts at right tackle, but guard is his natural position. He is very strong, but needs to improve in pass protection.
3. **Jamaal Williams, RB, BYU -** Williams was a powerful rushing presence in 2016, averaging 5.9 yards per carry for 1,375 yards with 12 touchdowns as a senior. He had only seven receptions for 80 yards. Williams is a physical back who is capable of picking up yards after contact. He runs with a mean streak similar to Adrian Peterson. In a talented running back class, he could be a really good value in the mid-rounds. Williams had a decent week at the Senior Bowl. As a junior in 2014, Williams averaged 4.8 yards per carry for 518 yards and four touchdowns on 109 carries. He averaged 5.7 yards per carry in 2013 for 1,233 yards with seven touchdowns alongside 18 receptions for 125 yards.
4. **Kareem Hunt, RB, Toledo -** Kareem Hunt is a sleeper back with a lot of interest from the Vikings. They had him in for a top 30 visit which demonstrates their interest. Hunt averaged 5.6 yards per carry in 2016 for 1,475 yards with 10 touchdowns. He also made 41 receptions for 403 yards and a touchdown. Hunt was excellent at the Senior Bowl, using his speed to slash through the defense. He was very impressive as a receiver out of the backfield. Hunt may not have the size to be an every-down back in the NFL, but he could be a dangerous weapon as a complementary back and be an asset in passing situations. Hunt missed four games during the 2015 season, but averaged 5.5 yards per carry for 973 yards with 12 touchdowns. His best season came as a sophomore when he averaged eight yards per carry for 1,631 yards with 16 touchdowns. Hunt contributed as a freshman as well (6.3-866-6).
5. **Samaje Perine, RB, Oklahoma –** Perine was the other head of the two headed monster backfield in Oklahoma with Joe Mixon. Perine averaged 5.4 yards per carry in 2016 for 1,060 yards with 12 touchdowns. He had 10 receptions for 106 yards, too. Perine is a physical, tough runner who was banged up in his final season and also split the workload with Joe Mixon. Perine averaged 6.0 yards per carry in 2015 for 1,349 yards with 16 touchdowns. As a receiver, he had 15 catches for 107 yards with a score. Perine was a freshman sensation in 2014, racking up 1,713 yards and 21 touchdowns. That worked out to an average of 6.5 yards per carry. Perine set the NCAA single-game rushing record with 427 yards against Kansas that season. He also had five touchdowns in that contest. Perine is a hard-nosed physical running back that will be extremely productive at the next level.
6. [**Jonnu Smith, TE, Florida International**](https://twitter.com/RapSheet/status/852565553470373890) **-** At the Senior Bowl, Smith had a decent week and flashed some receiving skills. Smith made nationwide news in 2016 by suffering a serious injury off the field. His pregnant girlfriend poured boiling water on him after arguing about him not spending enough time with her. The senior missed a game due to the incident, but returned to the field. Smith totaled 42 receptions for 506 yards with four touchdowns in 2016. He had quality production as a junior (36-397-4), sophomore (61-710-8) and freshman (39-388-2). Smith is a quick, athletic receiving tight end who has the potential to be a matchup nightmare for opposing NFL defenses. The Vikings will add an athletic tight end in this draft to pair with Kyle Rudolph and Smith is on their short list.
7. **Elijah Lee, LB, Kansas State –** In 2016, Lee recorded 110 tackles with 6.5 tackles for a loss, 1.5 sacks, two interceptions and three passes broken up. The junior is a solid tackler with some athleticism. In 2015 as a sophomore, Lee had 80 tackles with three interceptions. He was a surprise early entry into the 2017 NFL Draft. Lee was not invited to the combine. The Vikings are interested in Lee in order to add depth to their current linebackers on the roster.
8. **Kendell Beckwith, LB, LSU -** In 2016, Beckwith totaled 91 tackles with six for a loss, one sack and four passes broken up. He turned in a solid regular season for the Tigers and was really missed when he was out with injuries. He is a run-stuffing middle linebacker who will need to develop his pass-coverage skills. Beckwith played well in 2015 for LSU as a physical in-the-box presence. In his junior year, he totaled 84 tackles with 10 tackles for a loss, two forced fumbles and a pass batted. He had 77 tackles with three break ups, two sacks and an interception as a sophomore. Beckwith has been a strong tackler and good at taking on blocks while a Tiger. He needs to show more pass-coverage skills for the NFL.
9. **Carl Lawson, DE, Auburn -** In 2016, Lawson recorded 30 tackles with 12.5 for a loss, nine sacks and one forced fumble. He is a quick edge rusher who will fit best as a 3-4 outside linebacker in the NFL. Lawson is stiff as a rusher, but has some strength. Lawson has a first-round skill set, but injuries have derailed his career. In the 2015 season opener against Louisville, Lawson made four tackles, two for a loss and one sack in the first half before hurting his hip. That injury caused him to miss half the season. Lawson came back and played well against Ole Miss. He looked good and was a challenge for Rebels star left tackle Laremy Tunsil. Over the course of his limited 2015 season, Lawson totaled 17 tackles, 2.5 for a loss and two sacks. He missed the entire 2014 season with an injury. Lawson is a fast edge rusher with natural pass-rushing skills, but he hasn't been able to stay healthy. If he gets the injury situation figured out, he will be a steal in this draft.
10. **Jordan Leggett, TE, Clemson -** On the season, Leggett had 46 catches for 736 yards with seven touchdowns. He is an athletic tight end who looks like he has three-down potential for the NFL if he found the motivation to block. He has the size to block, but doesn't have the attitude. Leggett is athletic with quickness and has the ability to make tough contested catches. In double-tight end situations, Leggett could be dangerous. Leggett was a good contributor for the Tigers' point-machine offense in 2015. He totaled 40 receptions for 525 yards and eight touchdowns. It was a breakout year for the junior as he didn't produce close to that as a sophomore (14-161-1) or freshman (12-176-2).
11. **Wayne Gallman, RB, Clemson –** Gallman was a tough runner and leader on Clemson’s national championship team. In 2016, Gallman averaged 5.1 yards per carry for 1,087 yards with 16 touchdowns. He tacked on 17 receptions for 113 yards as well. Gallman also missed some time with a concussion. He is more of a quick slashing runner with some athleticism as a pro, but he doesn't have a lot of power for the NFL. Gallman was slower than expected at combine. Gallman was the workhorse of the Clemson offense in 2015, averaging 5.4 yards per carry for 1,527 yards with 13 touchdowns. He also caught 21 passes for 213 yards with a score. Gallman is a quick runner who could stand to add some weight for the next level. Gallman has impressive feet with the ability to be elusive in the open field. He has tremendous lateral quickness to dodge tacklers and a burst to accelerate running North-South. Gallman also has some power to him to pound the ball for some tough yards and finish off runs. It would be good to see Gallman improve his knee bend and pad level. He is a taller back, and as a result, he can run a little upright at times. That can lead to issues with injuries and ball security.
12. **Adam Bisnowaty, OT, Pittsburgh -** Bisnowaty has been Pittsburgh's starting left tackle the past three seasons. He is a smart player, but he could stand to get stronger for the NFL. He didn't impress at the Senior Bowl. Bisnowaty lacks strength and doesn't get movement in the ground game, but sources feel that while he is limited athletically, he is football player who finds a way to make up for it and be effective. Bisnowaty will need at least one "redshirt" year in the NFL to get stronger in a strength and conditioning program. He has been compared to Ricky Wagner who just signed a large free agent contract with the Lions. Bisnowaty was banged up in 2015, but played through injuries and had a solid season. Bisnowaty's more reliable pass blocking had him starting on the left side instead of T.J. Clemmings, now with the Vikings.
13. **Dorian Johnson, G, Pittsburgh** - Johnson looks the part and had a nice performance against Penn State. He has some ability to contribute to the ground game. They feel he lacks athleticism and the ability to hit a block in space. Johnson had a strong 2015 season for Pittsburgh. He has started 27 straight games and has been a steady blocker in the ground game. The Vikings are interested in Johnson if they do not address guard earlier in the draft.
14. **Carlos Henderson, WR, LA Tech -** Henderson is a slot receiver candidate for the NFL who was very productive in 2016. He totaled 82 receptions for 1,535 yards with 19 touchdowns. As a sophomore, Henderson showed some big-play ability, averaging 21.5 yards per catch 774 yards on 36 receptions for five touchdowns. Henderson produced somewhat as a freshman (29-569-4).

**ROUNDS 5-7: Options for Vikings in Rounds 5-7:**

The following players are options for the Vikings in rounds 5-7:

1. Brian Hill, RB, Wyoming
2. Rodney Adams, WR, South Florida
3. Jerod Evans, QB, Virginia Tech
4. Brendan Langley, CB, Lamar
5. Hardy Nickerson, LB, Illinois
6. [Leon McQuay, S, Southern Cal](https://twitter.com/joshnewberg247/status/842721280478646277)ifornia
7. [Eric Wilson, LB, Cincinnati](http://www.nfldraftdiamonds.com/march-25th-2017/)
8. [Zane Gonzalez, K, Arizona State](http://draftanalyst.com/pro-day-march-17-update)
9. [Worth Gregory, P, East Carolina](https://twitter.com/AaronWilson_NFL/status/843860412110180353)
10. Michael Roberts, TE, Toledo
11. Jeremy Sprinkle, TE, Arkansas
12. George Kittle, TE, Iowa
13. Joe Williams, RB, Utah
14. Chad Wheeler. OT, USC
15. Zach Banner, OT, USC
16. Conor McDermott, OT, UCLA
17. Kyle Kalis, G, Michigan
18. Jessamen Dunker, G, Tennessee State
19. Damien Mama, G, Southern California
20. Dede Westbrook, WR, Oklahoma
21. John Johnson, S, Boston College
22. Rodney Adams, WR, South Florida

Sleepers:

1. Xavier Woods, S, Louisiana Tech
2. Vince Biegel, EDGE, Wisconsin
3. Shaquill Griffin, CB, Central Florida
4. Will Holden, OT, Vanderbilt
5. Phillip Walker, QB, Temple
6. Chase Roullier, IOL, Wyoming
7. Grover Stewart, DL, Albany State

The Vikings have picks in every round this year except for the first round and have 8 total picks. They can fill find depth needs in several areas in this draft. Most notably, the Vikings needs are:

* Offensive Line
* Running Back
* Safety
* Depth at Defensive Tackle
* Depth at Cornerback
* Depth at Linebacker
* Depth at Wide Receiver

We will update our readers with a post-draft report after the draft.

Mink and Obey from Philadelphia!