The Mink and Cousin Obie will be watching the NFL draft at home connecting in Zoom due to the COVID19 pandemic. 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 with a record of 115 juniors/underclassmen declaring for the 2020 NFL draft. Each year more and more juniors/underclassmen 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 wide receiver, offensive line, defensive line and cornerbacks. 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, particularly at the wide receiver position, due to the depth of this draft.

We do expect some movement in the first 15 picks of the draft as teams’ position to draft one of the top 3 quarterbacks in this draft. The quarterback position has three blue chip prospects with a fourth prospect that could turn into the next Patrick Mahomes. We expect four quarterbacks to go in the first round with three selected within the first six picks.

The strengths of the 2020 draft include:

1. Wide Receiver – This is the deepest wide receiver draft in the last decade with similar talent to the 2014 draft. This draft has 33 receivers with a 4th round grade or higher. This position alone will dominate the first four rounds of the 2020 NFL draft. This draft will provide value at the wide receiver position in all seven rounds. Teams will find starting caliber wide receivers in the 4th and 5th round of this draft. We project 6 receivers going in the first round with another 7-8 going in the second round. The top receivers in this draft include CeeDee Lamb, Oklahoma, Jerry Jeudy, Alabama, Henry Ruggs III, Alabama and Justin Jefferson, LSU. These receivers will be picked by teams with the first 20 picks in the NFL draft. The next tier is very close in talent including Denzel Mims, Baylor, Tee Higgins, Clemson, Brandon Aiyuk, Arizona State, Jalen Reagor, TCU and Laviska Shenault, Colorado. Other wide receivers that will be drafted in the first two rounds include Michael Pittman Jr. USC, K.J. Hamler, Penn State and Chase Claypool, Notre Dame.
2. Offensive Tackles – This is a talented group of offensive tackles with several blue-chip prospects that will be selected in the first 15 picks. This year’s draft class is deep with talent that will allow teams to bolster their offensive lines in the first three rounds of the draft. We project that 6 offensive tackles to go in the first round including: Tristan Wirfs, Iowa, Mekhi Becton, Louisville, Andrew Thomas, Georgia, Jedrick Wills, Alabama, Austin Jackson, USC, Josh Jones, Houston. There may not be that sure fire 10 year left tackle, but this is a top-heavy class with talent in the first two rounds. Wirfs is extremely athletic and is the best of the group. Thomas is the most well- rounded tackle that can start immediately at left tackle. The second tier of offensive tackles are graded similarly to the top 6 and will be gone by the end of the second round. These prospects include: Ezra Cleveland, Boise State, Isaiah Wilson, Georgia and Matt Peart, Connecticut.
3. Defensive Line – This is a deep defensive line draft particularly at defensive tackle. The depth of this draft will allow teams to get great value in the first 4 rounds. Teams looking to improve their front four will be able to find quality talent in rounds 2 – 4. There are several blue-chip defensive line prospects that will be selected in the top 20 in this year’s draft. This draft is loaded with athletic and dominant defensive lineman that can run and offer big time playmaking abilities, which is a premium in today’s NFL. The defensive tackle prospects in the 2020 draft is as deep as any draft in recent memory. One of the best edge defenders in Chase Young of Ohio State should be selected number two overall. Young will be a future All Pro at the position. After that, there are several athletic defensive tackles that will be selected. They include: Derrick Brown, Auburn, Javon Kinlaw, South Carolina, Ross Blacklock, TCU. We also expect K’Lavon Chaisson, LSU and Yetur Gross-Matos, Penn State to be selected as the next edge defenders after Young. In total, we expect 6 defensive linemen to be selected in the first round. The next tier of defensive lineman offer several athletic defenders including: A.J. Epenesa, Iowa, Marlon Davidson, Auburn, Neville Gallimore, Oklahoma, Julian Okwara, Notre Dame, Cutis Weaver, Boise State, Jordan Elliott, Missouri, Justin Madubuike, Texas A&M. In the first two rounds, we expect 13 defensive linemen to be selected in the first two rounds.
4. Cornerback – This is a deep cornerback class that lacks a lot of blue-chip prospects. However, there are several prospects that will play at a high level and improve the secondary play of many NFL teams. The cream of the crop is Jeff Okudah, Ohio State. He is the only Blue-chip prospect in this class, but this year’s class of cornerbacks is deep with talent and teams will be able to get starting level cornerbacks through round three. The next group of cornerbacks that will be drafted in the first round include: C.J. Henderson, Florida, Trevon Diggs, Alabama, Kristian Fulton, LSU, A.J. Terrell, Clemson, Jaylon Johnson, Utah. We expect six cornerbacks to be drafted in the first round. The next group of cornerbacks that will drafted in the second round include: Jeff Gladney, TCU, Damon Arnette, Ohio State, Noah Igbinoghene, Auburn, Cameron Dantzler, Mississippi State and Bryce Hall, Virginia. The best slot corner in the draft, Amik Robertson of Louisiana Tech may sneak into the second round. This is a deep draft class that lacks true blue-chip prospects.

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 at these positions.  Several teams have needs at Wide Receiver, Offensive Line, Defensive Line and Cornerback. We see these positions dominating the first 3 rounds of the 2020 draft. Wide Receiver and Offensive Line are particularly deep in this draft. As always, the quarterbacks that go in the first 15 picks will result in blue chip talent dropping later in the first round.

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

1. **Cincinnati Bengals: Joe Burrow, QB, LSU**

Burrow was considered the likely No. 1 pick after the college football season, and nothing has changed. This is one of the most obvious picks since Mel Kiper started tracking the draft. He won both the Heisman Trophy and national championship in 2019 and is the overwhelming favorite to be Cincinnati's choice. The Ohio native displayed drastic improvement in his senior season at LSU, completing nearly 76 percent of his passes and also showing above-average scrambling ability. The only major knock on Burrow is that he's old for a first-round prospect, set to turn 24 in December. Andy Dalton remains under contract, but the Bengals can cut or trade him without facing any cap penalty.

1. **Washington Redskins: Chase Young, DE, Ohio State**

Young sat out combine tests, likely because the results could only hurt what is sky-high stock right now. Incredibly, Young recorded 16.5 sacks through his first 12 games this past season and has a chance to make a huge impact on a Washington defensive line that already has a lot of talent.  Washington needs to add impact talent and Young will be a perennial all pro at the position.

1. **Detroit Lions: Jeff Okudah, CB, Ohio State**

Darius Slay was traded, and while the Lions added Desmond Trufant, cornerback remains a major need. Okudah is the consensus top player at that position in the 2020 class. He is a shutdown corner with three picks in 13 games this season.

4. **New York Giants: Tristan Wirfs, OT, Iowa**

Nate Solder has been a bust for the Giants since they gave him big money two years ago, and the team could go to the well again at left tackle in a strong draft for the position. Wirfs can step in immediately, coming out of Kirk Ferentz's offensive line factory at Iowa. He is an extremely athletic offensive lineman that led all offensive linemen with a 4.85 second 40 time at the combine.

5. **Miami Dolphins: Tua Tagovailoa, QB, Alabama**

Miami could trade up as high as No. 2 to take its quarterback of choice with a great arsenal of picks. Tagovailoa was the consensus No. 1 overall draft choice entering the year, but ankle and hip injuries have given him the "injury-prone" label. The good news is that all of his medical reports regarding his recovery have been positive to this point, including a checkup last week. Before his season-ending injury, Tagovailoa completed more than 71 percent of his passes with 33 touchdowns in nine games, albeit with elite receiving weapons in Alabama. Miami has spent a lot of time with Tua in the pre-draft process and will be the likely pick at number five to the Dolphins.

6. **Los Angeles Chargers: Justin Herbert, QB, Oregon**

The Chargers will be looking for a long-term option at quarterback after moving on from Phillip Rivers in the offseason. Picking this high in the draft, Herbert is a great option, with optimal NFL size, and he completed nearly 67 percent of his passes this season. He also performed well at the combine, showing his athleticism with a solid 4.68 second 40-yard dash. With Tyrod Taylor still on the team, the Chargers could buy some time before installing Herbert.

7. **Carolina Panthers: Isaiah Simmons, LB, Clemson**

With the surprising retirement of Luke Kuechly, the Panthers have a major need at linebacker. Simmons had a legendary combine performance, including a 4.39 second 40-yard dash and 132-inch broad jump. He's an extremely versatile defender who has potential at either linebacker or safety. The 6-foot-4 senior had 104 tackles and eight sacks in 15 games. Simmons is one of the most versatile defenders in the last decade.

 8. **Arizona Cardinals: Mekhi Becton, OT, Louisville**

Arizona is in the market for a long-term replacement for Marcus Gilbert at right tackle. Becton needs some refinement, but he's a mammoth, listing at 6-foot-7, 364 pounds, with left tackle capability, and he ran a remarkable 5.10 second 40-yard dash at the combine. He had issues with a drug test in the pre-draft process but that should not expect his draft status.

9. **Jacksonville Jaguars: Derrick Brown, DE, Auburn**

Jacksonville has seen serious turnover on the defensive line, which will continue if it trades Yannick Ngakoue, as expected. Brown is the best interior defensive lineman in the draft and has moved into top 10 draft consideration following an impressive year, recording 55 tackles and four sacks during the regular season. Brown will significantly upgrade the Jaguars talent along the defensive front.

 10. **Cleveland Browns: Andrew Thomas, OT, Georgia**

Cleveland still has a need at left tackle and should have multiple strong options at No. 10. Thomas is one of the best offensive linemen on the board. Standing at 6-foot-5, 320 pounds, he can be an immediate solution. Thomas is the most well-rounded left tackle in the draft.

 11. **New York Jets: Jedrick Wills, OT, Alabama**

The Jets have seen serious turnover along the offensive line this offseason and could put the finishing touches on their makeover at No. 11. Wills can step in immediately, has plenty of size (6-foot-5, 320 pounds) and tested well at the combine.

 12. **Las Vegas Raiders: CeeDee Lamb, WR, Oklahoma**

The Raiders are in desperate need of weapons to help Derek Carr and Co., and the additions of Jason Witten and Nelson Agholor aren't enough. Lamb has been nothing but productive in college and just finished his best season, with 62 receptions for 1,327 yards and 14 touchdowns in 13 games.  Lam is a tremendous playmaker that will provide some extra juice to the Raider’s offense.

 13. **San Francisco 49ers (via Colts): Jerry Jeudy, WR, Alabama**

The 49ers got solid rookie production out of Deebo Samuel last year but need another wideout after losing Emmanuel Sanders. Jeudy had 1,163 yards and 10 touchdowns this past season and ranks right alongside Julio Jones and Amari Cooper as among the most talented wideouts to come out of Alabama in recent memory. His 4.45 40-yard dash at the combine was a strong time. Jeudy will provide a much-needed playmaker to Shanahan’s offense.

14. **Tampa Bay Buccaneers: Javon Kinlaw, DT, South Carolina**

Tampa Bay was able to bring back Ndamukong Suh, Jason Pierre-Paul and Shaq Barrett, but another ferocious pass rusher could put their pass rush over the top. Kinlaw has increased his stock, with 35 tackles and six sacks through 12 games this past season. Kinlaw is the best three technique defensive tackle in this draft.

 15. **Denver Broncos: Henry Ruggs III, WR, Alabama**

After losing Emmanuel Sanders last year, the Broncos could use a No. 2 wideout to complement Courtland Sutton. Ruggs hasn't been as productive as teammate Jerry Jeudy, but he still has superstar potential. He's the fastest wideout available as he showed at the combine, running a 4.27 second 40-yard dash. He had 746 yards and seven scores in 12 games last season. The Broncos are lacking a big play threat on their offense and Ruggs brings the ability to take the top off a defense.

 16. **Atlanta Falcons: C.J. Henderson, CB, Florida**

Atlanta was regularly beat at cornerback last season and has an inexperienced group on the roster currently. Henderson wasn't challenged much in the Florida secondary last year, but he had 33 tackles and 11 passes defensed in nine games.

 17. **Dallas Cowboys: K'Lavon Chaisson, DE, LSU**

Dallas has never met a pass rusher it didn't love and has already lost Robert Quinn from last season's squad. The team took a flier on Aldon Smith, and Chaisson can also fill part of the void after recording 60 tackles and 6.5 sacks in 2019. Chaisson is a raw talent but could develop into a force on the defensive line with his ability to get to the quarterback.

18. **Miami Dolphins (via Steelers): Xavier McKinney, S, Alabama**

Miami could go multiple ways with this pick as they have so many holes to fill. Miami's secondary already got a major boost this offseason by signing Byron Jones, but the Dolphins could still use help at safety. McKinney had 95 tackles and three picks this season as a true playmaker for the Crimson Tide.

19. **Las Vegas Raiders (via Bears): Trevon Diggs, CB, Alabama**

The Raiders have been aggressive drafting secondary prospects over the last two years, but there's still a hole to fill at cornerback. The brother of Vikings wideout Stefon Diggs, Trevon remains a solid first-round prospect who could step in immediately at corner. Diggs offers the athletic traits that the Raiders covet at cornerback.

 20. **Jacksonville Jaguars (via Rams): Kristian Fulton, CB, LSU**

What a difference a year makes. The Jaguars had arguably the best cornerback tandem in football at the beginning of 2019, but now Jalen Ramsey and A.J. Bouye are gone. Fulton has been a lockdown cornerback at LSU and certainly has the upside to return great value immediately.

 21. **Philadelphia Eagles: Justin Jefferson, WR, LSU**

No team in the NFL has a bigger need at wideout than Philadelphia, which moved on from Nelson Agholor and could also trade Alshon Jeffery. Jefferson is a polished route runner and ran a blazing 4.43 second 40 time at the combine. He's a strong prospect in a great wide receiver class, finishing last season with 111 catches for 1,540 yards and 18 touchdowns.

22. **Minnesota Vikings (via Bills): Denzel Mims, WR, Baylor**

Following the trade of Stefon Diggs, the Vikings seem likely to address wideout early in the draft. Mims is an excellent red-zone threat with 28 touchdowns over the last three seasons and is a great physical specimen, standing at 6-foot-3 and running a sub-4.4 second 40-yard dash. Mims will help Vikings fans forget the Stefon Diggs trade.

 23. **New England Patriots: Jordan Love, QB, Utah State**

The Pats have yet to truly tip their hand on their intentions at quarterback. There's no more polarizing prospect in this year's draft than Love, who has first-round talent but is coming off a subpar season at Utah State. He might take a year or two to develop, but it wouldn't be a shock to see Bill Belichick buy the upside. Love has Patrick Mahomes ability and Belichick will get the most out of him.

 24. **New Orleans Saints: Patrick Queen, ILB, LSU**

New Orleans has had some turnover at linebacker this offseason and is counting on Kiko Alonso to return from another torn ACL, so linebacker is a priority. Queen's stock skyrocketed after a great 2019 season, with 85 tackles in 15 games for the Tigers.

25. **Minnesota Vikings: Jaylon Johnson, CB, Utah**

Minnesota really struggled at cornerback last year and has moved on from Mackensie Alexander, Xavier Rhodes and Trae Waynes. These moves alone will improve the secondary as they improve with the subtraction of these players from the roster. However, this position requires an immediate talent infusion as Zimmer’s defensive scheme requires good cornerback play. Johnson was a consistent contributor for Utah over the last two seasons and also recorded six interceptions over that time. He has the athletic traits that Zimmer looks for in his corners.

 26. **Miami Dolphins (via Texans): Josh Jones, OT, Houston**

Miami gave big money to Ereck Flowers but needs to continue rebuilding its line. Jones has emerged as a strong early round prospect who could fill in immediately.

 27. **Seattle Seahawks: Yetur Gross-Matos, DE, Penn State**

The possibility that Jadeveon Clowney won't return to Seattle looks stronger by the day, making defensive end a major need for the Seahawks. Gross-Matos has excellent size and speed and has been productive for the Nittany Lions over the last two seasons, recording eight sacks in 2018 and nine sacks through 11 games this past year.

 28. **Baltimore Ravens: Kenneth Murray, LB, Oklahoma**

Baltimore was able to manage without C.J. Mosley last year, but middle linebacker remains an area of need. Murray is a tackling machine and possible replacement, with 155 tackles in 2018 and 102 tackles in 14 games in 2019. Murray fills an immediate need for the Ravens and will immediately improve that unit.

 29. **Tennessee Titans: Austin Jackson, OT, USC**

Tennessee lost right tackle Jack Conklin in free agency. If the Titans would like to improve on current replacement Dennis Kelly, Jackson is an interesting project who could step in immediately. He is one of the youngest prospects in this year’s draft with significant upside.

 30. **Green Bay Packers: Tee Higgins, WR, Clemson**

Green Bay still desperately needs a No. 2 target for Aaron Rodgers behind Davante Adams. The 6-foot-4 Higgins averaged nearly 20 yards per reception for the second time in three years during 2019, and he had 26 touchdowns in his last two seasons. Higgins would be an excellent compliment to Adams in the passing game.

31. **San Francisco 49ers: Ross Blacklock, DT, TCU**

San Francisco's defensive line remains elite, but it took a hit after trading DeForest Buckner. Blacklock has shown nice upside despite a lack of big pass rush production in college and could play immediately. Blacklock will be a better player in the NFL than he was in college.

 32. **Kansas City Chiefs: A.J. Terrell, CB, Clemson**

The Chiefs were able to re-sign starting corner Bashaud Breeland last week, but the Chiefs still need much more depth. Terrell has been a regular starter at Clemson with a total of five interceptions over the last two seasons. The Chiefs need to look at corner early in the draft and Terrell is an excellent pick here.

**Minnesota Vikings Draft**

The Vikings needs going into the 2020 draft include in priority order:

* Cornerback
* Wide Receiver
* Offensive Line
* Defensive End (Edge Rusher)

The Vikings need to restock their defense in this draft but need to add playmakers to the offense to replace Stefan Diggs and improve the line play to both run and protect. Two factors could significantly alter the Vikings draft plan:

* Possible trade for Trent Williams
* Possible trade of Anthony Harris

If either of these two scenarios occur it will significantly impact the overall strategy of the Vikings in the 2020 NFL draft.

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. They have more holes to fill than recent drafts, but a good draft will improve their chances of an NFC title. We see three alternatives that could unfold in the first round:

1. Take the best Offensive Tackle – Continuing to build the youth and depth on the offensive line will be a priority for the Vikings in Round 1. The Vikings made great strides in improving the offensive line last year in the draft with the drafting of Bradbury in the first round but need to do more. They had an average offensive line last year with challenges in the interior of the line. Options in Round 1 could include: Austin Jackson, USC, Ezra Cleveland, Boise state and Josh Jones, Houston. If the Vikings draft one of these prospects, Riley Reiff could move to left guard. This would give the Vikings a significant upgrade at two positions. We believe improved offensive line play is one of the key factors to improving the Vikings chances of an NFC North title. Jackson is one of the youngest prospects in this draft and offers significant upside. Cleveland is an extremely athletic offensive tackle that would fit with what Kubiak likes to do with his offensive zone scheme. Jones is raw but extremely athletic that could turn out to be the best of the three. We expect the top four tackles - Tristan Wirfs, Iowa, Mekhi Becton, Louisville, Andrew Thomas, Georgia, Jedrick Wills, Alabama – to be gone by pick 22. However, the Vikings could trade up to draft one of these prospects. The goal should be to add a starter in this draft. We think it is likely for the Vikings to look to add a starter in round 1 or 2 for the offensive line.
2. Take the best Defensive End – One of the strongest units on the defense was the defensive line last year. However, the loss of Everson Griffen leaves a void at the defensive end position, which is critical in Mike Zimmer’s defense. In round one, we expect the Vikings to give consideration to two defensive ends: A.J. Epenesa, Iowa If there is a run on quarterbacks in the first 15 picks and some of these defensive tackles fall to the Vikings at pick 18, we could definitely see the and Yetur Gross-Matos, Penn State. We really like Epenesa. He is a complete defensive end that plays both the run and pass equally well. Gross-Matos was extremely productive at Penn State and offers a more significant upside than Epenesa. Chase Young will be off the board by pick 22 but the Vikings will evaluate the next group of edge rushers looking to replace Griffen’s productivity last year.
3. Take the Best Wide Receiver – This becomes an immediate need due to the Stefon Diggs trade. This is the deepest wide receiver draft in the last decade with similar talent to the 2014 draft. This draft has 33 receivers with a 4th round grade or higher. This position alone will dominate the first four rounds of the 2020 NFL draft. This draft will provide value at the wide receiver position in all seven rounds which may mean the Vikings wait until later rounds to address this need. However, the Vikings will evaluate the following receivers at picks 22 and 25 to replace Diggs productivity: Denzel Mims, Baylor, Tee Higgins, Clemson, Brandon Aiyuk, Arizona State, Jalen Reagor, TCU. We expect the top receivers in this draft - CeeDee Lamb, Oklahoma, Jerry Jeudy, Alabama, Henry Ruggs III, Alabama and Justin Jefferson, LSU – to be gone by pick 22. These receivers will be picked by teams with the first 20 picks in the NFL draft. However, the Vikings may trade up to get one of these talents. The next tier is very close in talent including and Laviska Shenault, Colorado, Michael Pittman Jr. USC, K.J. Hamler, Penn State and Chase Claypool, Notre Dame. The Vikings may wait until round 2 to draft one of these receivers.
4. Cornerback – This is a deep cornerback class that lacks a lot of blue-chip prospects. However, there are several prospects that will play at a high level and improve the secondary play of many NFL teams. We expect the Vikings to give serious consideration to a cornerback in round one. We expect the following players to be considered at picks 22 and 25: Trevon Diggs, Alabama, Kristian Fulton, LSU, A.J. Terrell, Clemson, Jaylon Johnson, Utah and Jeff Gladney, TCU. We expect both Jeff Okudah, Ohio State and C.J. Henderson, Florida, to be gone by pick 22. This position is the most likely to be addressed in round one for the Vikings. However, if the Vikings address this need on Day two of the draft the following cornerbacks will be considered: Damon Arnette, Ohio State, Noah Igbinoghene, Auburn, Cameron Dantzler, Mississippi State, Bryce Hall, Virginia. and Amik Robertson of Louisiana Tech.

The Vikings will stay at pick 22 and either address offensive line, defensive end, wide receiver or cornerback. We think the choices will come down to the following: Denzel Mims, WR, Baylor, Jaylon Johnson, CB, Utah, Austin Jackson, T, USC, Jeff Gladney, CB, TCU, A.J. Epenesa, DE, Iowa, Tee Higgins, WR, Clemson, Brandon Aiyuk, WR, Arizona State, Jalen Reagor, WR, TCU.

***If Justin Jefferson, WR, LSU falls to the Vikings at pick 22, they should immediately pick him. However, they made need to trade up as the Eagles will be picking a receiver right in front of them. As a result, our pick at number 22 is Denzel Mims, WR, Baylor. Mims is an excellent red-zone threat with 28 touchdowns over the last three seasons and is a great physical specimen, standing at 6-foot-3 and running a sub-4.4 second 40-yard dash. Mims will help Vikings fans forget the Stefon Diggs trade.***

***The Vikings may trade back from Pick 25. However, we think they should stay put and draft the best cornerback on the board. This position requires an immediate talent infusion as Zimmer’s defensive scheme requires good cornerback play. Our pick at number 25 is Jaylon Johnson, CB, Utah. Johnson was a consistent contributor for Utah over the last two seasons and also recorded six interceptions over that time. He has the athletic traits that Zimmer looks for in his corners.***

They will then target Defensive End, Offensive Tackle, Guard, Safety and Cornerback in round 2 and beyond.

This draft will continue to infuse young talent on both sides of the ball for the Vikings. They still have one of the youngest teams in the NFL and they will continue to build young talent. These picks fill needs while at the same time fits into the best-athlete-available mantra the Vikings have maintained. Based on the Vikings choice of Mims and Johnson in round one, the Vikings will then look to add a defensive end or offensive tackle in the second round of the draft.

**ROUND TWO - Options in round 2 that the Vikings could draft:**

They will look to add a playmaking wide receiver, cornerback, offensive line or defensive line in subsequent rounds:

1. **Brandon Aiyuk, WR, Arizona State –** If the Vikings do not address wide receiver in round one of the draft, they will look to add a playmaker at this position in the second round. Aiyuk had 65 receptions for 1,192 yards and eight scores in his second season for the Sun Devils since transferring from junior college. He is a tremendous playmaker that will add YAC after the catch and can also return kicks.
2. **Jalen Reagor, WR, TCU –** If the Vikings do not address wide receiver in round one of the draft, they will look to add a playmaker at this position in the second round. Reagor's production fell off last season due to poor quarterback play, but he really helped himself at the combine with a 4.47 second 40-yard dash and 42-inch vertical jump, second best in the wideout field. He had 72 catches for 1,061 yards and nine scores in 2018 before regressing last season.
3. **Laviska Shenault, WR, Colorado -** If the Vikings do not address wide receiver in round one of the draft, they will look to add a playmaker at this position in the second round. Shenault didn't have a great combine while performing injured, but he's terrific with the ball in his hands and has the potential for an impact similar to 2019 49ers rookie Deebo Samuel.
4. **Marlon Davidson, DL, Auburn –** The Vikings may look to add talent at the three-technique defensive tackle position as Shamar Stephen was underwhelming last year. Davidson got consistent playing time in four seasons at Auburn, capping off his career with 48 tackles and 6.5 sacks in 2019. Houston got little pass rush last year when J.J. Watt was injured and still needs to fill the void left after trading Jadeveon Clowney.
5. **Antoine Winfield, S, Minnesota –** Winfield is one of the most versatile secondary players in the draft as he can play both safety and slot corner. This would be the Vikings most popular pick as Winfield played for the Gophers and his father was an all pro cornerback for the Vikings. As a son of a former NFL cornerback, Winfield Jr. took a huge step forward last season with 83 tackles and seven picks. He was first team All American at safety and would immediately upgrade the Vikings secondary.
6. **Cesar Ruiz, G, Michigan -** The interior of the offensive line is certainly an area the Vikings can improve on. Ruiz is arguably the top interior lineman available in the draft and should be able to step in Week 1.
7. **Grant Delpit, S, LSU –** If the Vikings trade Anthony Harris, Safety could be a need as they would only have one other safety on the roster.Delpit is among the elite safeties on the board, with 65 tackles and two picks in 14 games this past season.
8. **Ezra Cleveland, OT, Boise State –** If the Vikings do not address offensive tackle in the first round, they would be lucky to have a talent like Cleveland available to them in the second round. Cleveland is a solid prospect and could fill in as a depth option this year. His athleticism would fit Kubiak’s zone blocking scheme.
9. **Michael Pittman Jr, WR, USC -** If the Vikings do not address wide receiver in round one of the draft, they will look to add a playmaker at this position in the second round. The son of a former NFL running back, Pittman Jr. had a huge senior season at USC with 101 catches for 1,275 yard and 11 touchdowns and could be a red-zone fiend at 6-foot-4. He would add both size and athleticism to the Vikings offense.
10. **Neville Gallimore, DE, Oklahoma -** The Vikings may look to add talent at the three-technique defensive tackle position as Shamar Stephen was underwhelming last year. Gallimore is a potential load in the middle but also has some pass rush skills, recording seven sacks over the last two seasons.
11. **Damon Arnette, CB, Ohio State –** If the Vikings do not address corner in round one, they likely will address this need in round 2.Arnette saw significant snaps for four seasons at Ohio State and could help the Cowboys immediately.
12. **Julian Okwara, DE, Notre Dame -** The Vikings loss of Everson Griffen puts them in the market for an edge rusher. Okwara has good size and could be given time to develop after playing well over the last two seasons for the Fighting Irish.
13. **Noah Igbinoghene, CB, Auburn -** If the Vikings do not address corner in round one, they likely will address this need in round 2.A converted wideout, Igbinoghene is slightly undersized at 5-foot-11 but has plenty of upside.
14. **Jeremy Chinn, S, Southern Illinois** - If the Vikings trade Anthony Harris, Safety could be a need as they would only have one other safety on the roster.Chinn is a safety prospect with compelling size, speed and athletic ability. Chinn garnered second team All-American honors and first team all-conference in 2019 (71 tackles, 2,5 for loss, team high for interceptions, three pass breakups). Many have compared him to Vikings current safety Harrison Smith.
15. **Cameron Dantzler, CB, Mississippi State -** If the Vikings do not address corner in round one, they likely will address this need in round 2.Dantzler lacks top-end speed but shows nice upside as a man coverage corner.
16. **K.J. Hamler, WR, Penn State** - If the Vikings do not address wide receiver in round one of the draft, they will look to add a playmaker at this position in the second round. Hamler is undersized at 5-foot-9 but has a chance to be an excellent slot receiver. He had 56 catches for 904 yards and eight touchdowns last season for Penn State.
17. **Kyle Dugger, S, Lenoir-Rhyne -** If the Vikings trade Anthony Harris, Safety could be a need as they would only have one other safety on the roster.Dugger might need time to catch up to the NFL speed but has clear upside for a late second-round price.

***Based on the Vikings choices in round one, the Vikings will center their attention on the following prospects: Ezra Cleveland, T, Boise State, Marlon Davidson, DE, Auburn,* Julian Okwara, DE, Notre Dame or Neville Gallimore, DE, Oklahoma. *In this scenario the Vikings select Ezra Cleveland, T, Boise State. This pick provides the Vikings with an athletic left tackle that fits Kubiak’s zone scheme. This will allow the Vikings to move Riley Reiff to guard improving two positions with this pick.***

**ROUND THREE - Options in round 3 that the Vikings could draft – this is where you start to build your team (Vikings have two picks in round 3)**

1. **Amik Robertson, CB, Louisiana Tech –** Robertson is the best slot corner in this draft. He made plays throughout his college career. In 2019, he had tremendous productivity (60 tackles, eight for loss, 5 interceptions). He led the nation with 16 pass breakups in 2019. Robertson led Tech in interceptions all three of his seasons scoring on 3 of his 14 interceptions over his college career. Robertson would be an excellent replacement for Mackenzie Alexander in the Vikings secondary.
2. **Robert Hunt, G, Louisiana –** Hunt has ample size and even has potential to move to tackle down the line.
3. **Tyler Biadasz, C/G, Wisconsin –** The Vikingsneed immediate talent at guard. Biadasz has plug-and-play written all over him after a great career at Wisconsin, though most of his experience is at center.
4. **Bryce Hall, CB, Virginia -** The loss of multiple cornerbacks puts the position on the Viking's radar. Hall's stock could be hurt after missing time with an ankle injury last year, but he has the ability to play immediately in the NFL if he can bounce back.
5. **Chase Claypool, WR, Notre Dame -** The Vikings could still be looking to add wide receiver talent in round three even if they address this position earlier. Claypool is a physical freak with the college production to back it up, with 1,037 yards and 13 touchdowns last season.
6. **Justin Madubuike, DT, Texas A&M –** The Vikings will be looking to add more athleticism to their Defensive Tackles.Madubuike is a load on the interior and recorded 5.5 sacks in each of the last two seasons.
7. **Raekwon Davis, DE, Alabama –** If the Vikings do not address defensive end early, they could take a look at Davis here.Davis faded at Alabama after a great 2017 season but has the physical tools to be a load at the next level if he can put it all together.
8. **Jalen Hurts, QB, Oklahoma –** The Vikings may look at add a developmental quarterback in this draft. Hurts is gaining steam after his great career between Alabama and Oklahoma. He has elite mobility and more arm talent than he's given credit for, nearly completing 70 percent of his passes for the Sooners last season.
9. **James Lynch, DT, Baylor –** Lynch would be great value here. He has a non-stop motor and would provide great depth on the interior. Lynch had a huge junior season at Baylor with 13.5 sacks in 14 games.
10. **Matt Peart, OT, Connecticut –** If the Vikings do not trade for Trent Williams and they do not take a tackle early, the Vikings could take a strong look at Peart here.Peart is a massive tackle prospect at 6-foot-7 who could develop at right tackle.
11. **Jon Greenard, DE, Florida -** Greenard had 10 sacks last season and could be an interesting pass-rushing specialist.
12. **Terrel Burgess, S, Utah -** Minnesota franchised safety Anthony Harris after a career year and could be looking toward 2021. Burgess has a strong combine after a great senior season with 81 tackles for the Utes.
13. **Lucas Niang, OT, TCU -** Offensive line help remains one of the Viking's biggest needs in this draft. Niang is a huge tackle prospect at 6-foot-6 with the potential to play right away at right tackle.

***We predict the Vikings will select Amik Robertson, CB, Louisiana Tech with their first pick in the third round for the Vikings. He would provide another young athletic, physical corner that can man the slot for the Vikings. Robertson would be an excellent replacement for Mackenzie Alexander who we lost in free agency.***

***We predict the Vikings will select Robert Hunt, G, with their second pick in the third round for the Vikings. He fits Kubiak’s zone scheme and provides the athleticism and tenacity required within this scheme. Hunt would compete for the starting left guard position with Pat Elflein who struggled last year after moving to guard.***

**ROUND FOUR – Options in Round 4 that the Vikings could draft**

1. **Tyler Johnson, WR, Minnesota –** Johnson leaves Minnesota as one of the most prolific receivers in Gophers history. His Junior season led to school records in receiving yards and touchdowns (78 receptions, 1,169 yards and 12 TDs). In 2019, Johnson bested his Junior season leading the Gophers to an 11-2 record (86 receptions, 1,318 yards and 13TDs). There are questions about his speed but if you look at the tape Johnson plays fast. He would be a steal in the 4th round and upgrade the talent at wide receiver for the Vikings.
2. **Antonio Gandy-Golden, WR, Liberty –** Gandy-Golden is a small school prospect from Liberty. However, if you watch the tape, he plays big and fast. He has Megatron size (6-4, 225 pounds) and athleticism. He was extremely productive in college. Gandy-Golden’s senior campaign cemented his status as a top-notch draft prospect, as he nabbed 79 passes for 1,396 yards, ranking in the top 5 nationally. He also scored 10 touchdowns and had an impressive 17.7 yards per catch. With the right coaching, Gandy-Golden could become a starting level WR in the NFL.
3. **Shaun Bradley, LB, Temple –** Bradley is an athletic linebacker who has become a stalwart for the Owls since his Sophomore season. Bradley was a second team All-American Athletic Conference selection in 2019, leading the Owls with 87 tackles, eight for loss and three pass breakups. Bradley ran a 4.51 40 and would bring speed and tenacity to the Vikings defense.
4. **Darnay Holmes, CB, UCLA -** The Patriots currently have one of the older secondaries in the league. Holmes has proved to be a playmaker in college with eight picks in three seasons but is slightly undersized at 5-foot-10.
5. **Ben Bartch, OT, St. John’s -** Pittsburgh's offensive line ran into some uncharacteristic struggles last year and currently has little depth. Bartch is trying to make the jump from Division III. He lacks much experience on the offensive line but could be a starter soon at either tackle spot.
6. **Matt Hennessy, C/G, Temple –** Hennessy is a Junior who declared for the draft. He brings size and athleticism and would fit Kubiak’s zone blocking scheme. Hennessy was a third team All American and a finalist for the Remington Trophy as one of the best interior linemen in college football. He would be a great pick in the fourth round.
7. **Prince Tega Wanogho, OT, Auburn –** Wanogho has the size (6-5, 308) and athleticism to solidify left tackle for years to come. He grew up in Nigeria and played just one year of high school football before becoming the Tigers left tackle for the last three seasons. Billed as having the quickness to be a strong zone blocker – he would fit the scheme used by Kubiak’s offense.
8. **Van Jefferson, WR, Florida -** The Vikings are lacking wide receiver depth behind Adam Thielen but have plenty of options in this draft. Jefferson never put up big numbers at Ole Miss or Florida and will be 24 at the start of the 2020 season but has the potential to play immediately as a slot receiver.

We think the Vikings will continue to add talent to their wide receiver depth in round 4 and the pick will come down to Tyler Johnson or Van Jefferson.

***We predict the Vikings will select Tyler Johnson, WR, Minnesota in Round 4. The top 5 wide receivers on the Vikings would then be Adam Thielen, Denzel Mims, Tajae Sharp, Olabisi Johnson and Tyler Johnson. This group will make Vikings fans forget the Stefan Diggs trade.***

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

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

1. Gus Lavaka, G, Oregon State
2. Carter Coughlin, DE, Minnesota,
3. Darrynton Evans, RB, Appalachian State
4. Cohl Cabral, C, Arizona State
5. Cameron Clark, OT, Charlotte
6. Quartney Davis, WR, Texas A&M
7. Jeremiah Dinson, S, Auburn
8. Kevin Dotson, OT, Louisiana
9. Jalen Elliott, S, Notre Dame
10. J.R. Reed, S, Georgia

Sleepers:

1. Jalen Morton, QB, Prairie View A&M
2. Derrek Tuszka, DE, North Dakota State
3. Bryce Perkins, QB, Virginia
4. Alex Highsmith, DE, UNC-Charlotte
5. Isaiah Coulter, WE, Rhode Island
6. Marc-Antoine Dequoy, Universite’ de Montreal
7. Jackson Erdmann, QB, St. John’s (Minnesota)
8. James Robinson, RB, Illinois State
9. Alex Taylor, OT, South Carolina State
10. Auzoyah Alufohai, DT, West Georgia
11. Logan Wilson, LB, Wyoming

The Vikings have picks in every round this year and have 12 total picks. They can fill depth needs in several areas in this draft and obtain a starting offensive lineman. Most notably, the Vikings needs are:

* Cornerback
* Wide Receive
* Offensive Line
* Defensive End (Edge Rusher)

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

Mink and Obie from our homes!