

The Mink and Cousin Obie will be watching the NFL draft at home this year. 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 not as deep in in “blue chip” starting caliber talent except in certain position groups. However, this draft has the smallest number of underclassmen declaring for the draft since 2011 with only 55. Recent drafts have typically had over 80 underclassmen declaring for the NFL draft. This will impact the overall depth of the draft. Teams will need to fill holes early in their rosters in rounds 1-3 due to fewer underclassmen declaring for the draft. Several players expected to be early picks are underclassmen. Players like Colorado CB (and WR) Travis Hunter, Penn State Edge Abdul Carter, Michigan DT Mason Graham, LSU OL Will Campbell, Boise State RB Ashton Jeanty and Georgia safety Maliki Starks could all be the first players selected at their positions.

This draft is extremely deep at certain positions particularly edge rushers, interior defensive line, running back and tight end. 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 edge rushers, interior defensive line, running back and tight end due to the depth of these positions draft.

The strengths of the 2025 draft include:

- **Edge Rushers** – This is a deep draft of edge rushers as we could have 2-3 edge rushers taken in the first 15 picks. Teams will also get good value in rounds 2 – 4 due to the depth in this draft. If your team is looking for an edge rusher, you should address the position in the first 75 picks because the depth will start to diminish after that point in the draft. We expect the following to go in the first round: Abdul Carter, Penn State, Mike Green, Marshall, Donovan Ezeiruaku, Boston College, James Pearce Jr., Tennessee, Shemar Stewart, Texas A&M, Mykel Williams, Georgia. **Abdul Carter** is widely considered to be the top prospect among the edge rushers because of his outstanding measurements and production at Penn State. Carter is a quick, athletic edge with excellent production and an intriguing skill set as a pass rusher. He has a quick first step and wins a lot of reps by stabbing with his inside arm and collapsing the offensive tackle's outside shoulder. He can also bend, wrap, flatten and finish once he gets to the top of his rush. It's hard not to see some Micah Parsons in Carter who not only wears the same number 11 but also pops off the screen nearly every play due to being a rare caliber athlete. Carter is ready to make an immediate impact at the next level and possesses all pro potential. Green has only two years of starting experience and not the best competition to measure NFL talent over the past two years. However, he absolutely dominated the way you'd want a future NFL player to with elite pass-rush and run-defense grades in addition to high 90th percentile numbers in win rate and run stops. He has first round ability and projects as a starting caliber outside linebacker in a 3-4 front. **Donovan Ezeiruaku** had a dominant season as a pass rusher in 2024. He earned an elite 90.5 PFF pass-rushing grade. Ezeiruaka is an undersized edge rusher prospect for the NFL, but he was a

pass-rushing demon for the Eagles in 2024, recording 16.5 sacks with three forced fumbles, 26 hurries and 80 tackles. Ezeiruaku possesses an excellent burst and bend paired with a high football IQ. He projects as an outside linebacker in a 3-4 scheme. **James Pearce Jr.** is the kind of athlete with the production and disruption scores you do not let out of the first round. Pearce had 38 tackles, 7.5 sacks, one forced fumble, and one pass batted and produced a lot of pressures in 2024. Pearce had an electric combine 40 time running 4.47 with other superb numbers in the workout. **Shamar Stewart** (6-6, 290) is a big, fast, and strong defensive lineman. In 2024, he had 31 tackles with 1.5 sacks and two passes batted. Stewart offers a high ceiling due to his athletic traits. He has speed and power and was very productive for the Aggies defense. His 88.2 PFF run-defense grade in 2024 ranked fifth among all edge defenders in college football. In Indianapolis at the combine, he demonstrated his extreme athleticism running a 4.59 40-yard dash. **Mykel Williams** is still developing as a pass rusher, but he's stellar against the run, evidenced by back-to-back 80.0-plus PFF overall grades. In 2024, Williams had 21 tackles, five sacks, and two forced fumbles. Williams is a good player with a good skill set and significant upside.

- Interior Defensive Line** – This is one of the deepest classes of defensive tackles in recent memory. We expect up to 3-4 defensive tackles to go in the first round. We expect the following defensive tackles to go in the first round: Mason Graham, Michigan, Derrik Harmon, Oregon, Kenneth Grant, Michigan and Walter Nolen, DT, Ole Miss. The best in the class is **Mason Graham**. Graham is an outstanding run defender who led Michigan's defensive lineman with 45 tackles in 2024. He stacks blockers, locates the ball and disengages in time to make plays. Graham is stout for his size, fights to hold his ground when getting double-teamed and doesn't split the blockers. He led all college interior defenders in PFF overall grade (91.1) this past season. He uses his leverage, power and quickness to wreak havoc from the inside. And though his 3.5 sacks on the season won't get a lot of attention, he has the traits and upside of a top-three prospect in this class. **Derrik Harmon** is the best pass rushing defensive tackle in the class leading the nation in quarterback pressures. In 2024, he slimmed down to 313 pounds and his quickness and production significantly improved. Harmon stacks blockers and sheds them in time to make plays. He has upper body strength, length and lateral mobility to get blockers off balance and collapse the pocket. Harmon was a solid defender for the Ducks in 2024 with 42 tackles, five sacks, and two forced fumbles. He needs to improve his ability to finish at the next level. **Kenneth Grant** (Mason Graham's teammate) is a disruptive run defender with a quick first step and active hands to slip blocks. He runs well for his size and makes plays in pursuit. In 2024, Grant had 32 tackles, three sacks, and five passes batted. The 6-foot-3, 339-pounder has a rare combination of speed, athleticism, and strength. Grant has top-notch ability with a surprising ability to bend his big body. He can play strong when he wants or needs to, and Grant is fast with the ability to run plays down. He reads the quarterback and gets his hands up in passing lanes resulting in 12 passes defended over the last two seasons. Grant has a rare combination of size and athleticism for a defensive tackle. He earned an 87.5 PFF run-defense grade in 2024 and would help improve the interior of any team's defensive line. **Walter Nolen** can quickly develop into a disruptive interior defensive

lineman in the NFL and is coming off a season at Ole Miss with 26 run stops (second most among PFF big board interior defenders). Nolen had 48 tackles with 6.5 sacks, and two passes batted. Nolen is a gifted athlete with a special skill set. Other defensive tackles that will go in the first two rounds include: TJ Sanders, South Carolina and Tyleik Williams, Ohio State. **TJ Sanders** is an outstanding run defender who can play two gaps and one gap schemes. Sanders brings tremendous versatility as he can play on run downs and does not need to come off the field in passing situations. He gets to the quarterback by winning with his hands and his ability to change direction. In 2024, Sanders had four sacks and 51 tackles. He showed some dangerous interior pass rush ability and is rising up draft boards. **Tyleik Williams** is an outstanding run stopper who stacks blockers and drives them back. Williams recorded 100 tackles, 18 tackles for loss and 5.5 sacks over the last two seasons. Williams is quick and athletic on the inside of the line.

- **Running Back** – This is an extremely deep running back class. Teams will now be looking to add talented running backs due to the success of Saquan Barkley and Jamyr Gibbs leading their teams to the playoffs. Teams now realize that an explosive running back can diversify your offense making it much harder to defend. Both of these players were the most valuable players for the Eagles and Lions. This draft has two “blue chip” players that will likely go in the top 15 picks in the NFL draft: Ashton Jeanty, Boise State and Omarion Hampton, North Carolina. **Ashton Jeanty** is one of the best running back prospects in the last decade and reminds us of a shorter version of Adrian Peterson. Jeanty brings it all -- speed, power, elusiveness, contact balance and vision. He ran for 2,601 yards this past season, and he can make a dent as a pass catcher on top of that. His rushing yards rank second in NCAA history behind Barry Sanders. Jeanty’s ability to break tackles is his superpower, and his core strength is excellent. Jeanty broke an incredible 325 tackles in three years at Boise State. **Omarion Hampton’s** blend of power, quickness and speed is impressive. Hampton is a home-run hitter who had 1,660 yards and 15 rushing TDs in 2024. Hampton also had 4.29 yards after contact per attempt (97th percentile) over the past two seasons. He ranked third in the nation in rush yards after contact with 1,026. He’s an instinctive and patient runner who explodes upfield when he gets a seam. At 221 pounds, Hampton ran a 4.46 40 at the combine, and he’s a threat to break long runs when he gets a lane. Other running backs that will go in the first two rounds include: TreVeyon Henderson, Ohio State, Quinshon Judkins, Ohio State and Kaleb Johnson, Iowa. **TreVeyon Henderson** averaged 7.1 yards per carry in 2024, which was the 8th best mark in FBS. His burst between the tackles and turning the corner jump out on tape. He is a threat to pull away when he gets a seam. **Quinshon Judkins** was the only running back to broad jump 11 feet at the combine, and he tied the second fastest 10-yard split (1.51 seconds) and the third best vertical (38.5 inches) at the position. Those numbers speak to the lower body explosiveness he shows on tape when he bursts through the line and breaks through tackles. **Kaleb Johnson** is a big back who rushed for a career high 1,537 yards and 21 touchdowns in 2024. He is an instinctive zone runner with a great feel for when to stick his foot in the ground and get downhill.

- **Tight End** – This year’s tight end class has two “blue chip” prospects in Tyler Warren, Penn State, and Colston Loveland, Michigan. **Tyler Warren** led all Power-Four tight ends with a 93.4 PFF receiving grade in 2024. Warren is really fun to watch, and he could do a bit of everything in the Bear’s offense. At Penn State, he was lined up in-line, out wide, in the slot and in the backfield. And no matter where he was, he made plays, racking up 1,233 receiving yards on 104 catches. Warren has sure hands and the ability to pile up yards after the catch. Warren finished his Penn State career as the program leader in total touchdowns (25), receptions (153), receiving yards (1,839) and receiving touchdowns (19) among tight ends. **Colston Loveland** has the ability to separate, and his 6-foot-5 frame makes it difficult for opponents to match up. Loveland's 90.6 PFF receiving grade since 2023 ranked third in college football. Loveland is an effective route runner who wins with his hands, shakes defenders and accelerates out of breaks at the top of routes. He runs away from coverage on crossers and is a big target that gets to his spots against zone looks. These two tight ends will be selected in the first round of the 2025 draft. Other tight ends projected to go in the first three rounds include Elijah Arroyo, Miami, Mason Taylor, LSU, Terrance Ferguson, Oregon, Harold Fannin Jr., Bowling Green and Gunnar Helm, Texas. This is one of the deepest classes of tight ends in recent memory. Teams will be able to draft starting caliber tight ends in the first three rounds of the draft.

The positions 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 edge rushers, interior defensive line, running back and tight end. We see these positions dominating the first 3 rounds of the 2025 draft.

2025 NFL Draft – First Round

We see the first round going like this:

NOTE: These picks assume no trades and is based on team needs and best player available.

1. Tennessee Titans - Cam Ward, QB, Miami (FL)

It's tough to win in the NFL without a good quarterback, and the Titans hope to right the ship by selecting Ward. The Miami (FL) product earned a 93.7 PFF passing grade on intermediate throws and a 95.0 PFF passing grade on deep shots in 2024. His 31 big-time throws ranked second among quarterbacks this past season. He can make tough throws from different arm angles, on the move and under duress. His creativity in and out of the pocket and his arm strength are impressive, leading to 39 touchdown passes in his final college season.

2. Cleveland Browns - Travis Hunter, CB/WR, Colorado

Hunter's elite skills at cornerback and wide receiver (11 interceptions, 14 touchdowns) make him the draft's most versatile weapon. He'll lock down receivers and create mismatches on offense, becoming a cornerstone for the Browns on both sides of the ball. He played a whopping 1,552 combined snaps in 2024. Hunter is our top-ranked prospect in the class, and though we currently see him as a receiver in the pros, he could also play cornerback for Cleveland. He can make a massive impact on either side of the ball, and he'll likely see at least some time on both sides. Perhaps the Browns take his ball skills and quickness and play him at receiver. Perhaps they look at his elite instincts and finally land a true CB1. Either way, this pick would be clutch for a struggling Browns team.

3. New York Giants - Abdul Carter, Edge Rusher, Penn State

Despite needing to address other positions, the Giants can't pass on a talent like Abdul Carter. Carter is a generational talent. The Giants are at least a season away from truly being competitive, so at worst, they'll aim to address other needs in next year's draft. Carter would team with Brian Burns and Kayvon Thibodeaux to create a formidable pass rushing defensive line. Carter creates so much pressure off the edge with the burst and instincts to get home for sacks. He had 12 of them in 2024, along with a nation-leading 23.5 tackles for loss.

4. New England Patriots - Will Campbell, OT, LSU

Campbell serves as immediate help and a potential long-term succession plan. The Patriots were 31st in pass block win rate in 2024 (50.9%) and allowed the league's fifth-most sacks (52). They can't have that with second-year quarterback Drake Maye trying to take the next step in his development. Campbell has the sound technique to effectively seal off the blind side, but he could also boost this offensive line on the inside if he ultimately fits better at guard.

5. Jacksonville Jaguars - Mason Graham, DT, Michigan

There may not be a better player-team fit in this draft than Mason Graham to the Jaguars, who need to shore up their interior defensive line. Only the Panthers gave up more yards

per play than the Jaguars this past season (5.9). And though the Jags have Arik Armstead and DaVon Hamilton under contract, they could use a dominant force inside between Travon Walker and Josh Hines-Allen. Just flip on the Michigan/Ohio State game, and you'll see everything you need to know about Graham. He led all college interior defenders in PFF overall grade (91.1) this past season. He uses his leverage, power and quickness to wreak havoc from the inside. And though his 3.5 sacks on the season won't get a lot of attention, he has the traits and upside of a top-three prospect in this class.

6. Las Vegas Raiders - Ashton Jeanty, RB, Boise State

The Raiders need juice in an offense that ranked near last in explosive plays last season. Now they have the chance to add one of the top running back prospects of the past decade in Jeanty and clean up the league's worst run game (3.6 yards per carry in 2024). And speaking of Carroll, remember his background. He leaned on the run game in Seattle for years, and he even used a first-round pick on Rashaad Penny in 2018. Jeanty brings it all -- speed, power, elusiveness, contact balance and vision. He ran for 2,601 yards this past season, and he can make a dent as a pass catcher on top of that. Las Vegas can advance the offense by getting yet another elite playmaker into the fold and looking elsewhere for a more stable QB solution. Jeanty broke an incredible 325 tackles in three years at Boise State.

7. New York Jets - Armand Membou, OT, Missouri

The Jets need to improve their offensive line play in 2025. The Jets lost starting left tackle Morgan Moses and they need to find a long-term solution at right tackle. At Mizzou, Membou played right tackle, but he can really line up anywhere, and some scouts think he's a better fit inside. Membou earned an 85.9 PFF pass-blocking grade in 2024 and allowed just one sack.

8. Carolina Panthers – Jalon Walker, LB, Georgia

Carolina needs to go defense with this pick. Carolina ranked last in yards allowed per play at 6.0 this past season. The Panthers also did not re-sign linebacker Shaq Thompson, and they didn't have a single edge rusher with six or more sacks in 2024. Walker can play either of those spots at a high level. Explosion is the word that comes to mind with his game, as he fires off the ball to make plays both as a pass rusher and a run defender. He had 62 tackles, 6.5 sacks and 7 tackles for loss in his final season at Georgia.

9. New Orleans Saints - Shedeur Sanders, QB, Colorado

The Saints need to draft a long-term answer at Quarterback. In Sanders, they get a young QB with high-end accuracy and field vision. In 2024, Sanders completed 74.0% of his passes, had 4,134 passing yards and threw 37 TDs. Those are all top-four numbers in the FBS. Sanders' 94.3 PFF passing grade in the two-minute drill at Colorado last season was the best mark of any quarterback since 2014. He helped turn the Buffaloes into a playoff contender, and he's ready to do the same for the Saints.

10. Chicago Bears - Tyler Warren, TE, Penn State

The Bear's tight end room is devoid of top-end talent. That changes with Tyler Warren in the fold. Warren led all Power-Four tight ends with a 93.4 PFF receiving grade in 2024. Warren is really fun to watch, and he could do a bit of everything in the Bear's offense. At Penn State, he was lined up in-line, out wide, in the slot and in the backfield. And no matter where he was, he made plays, racking up 1,233 receiving yards on 104 catches. Warren has sure hands and the ability to pile up yards after the catch. He should also help in the run game as a nasty blocker who fits in with Chicago's goals with Ben Johnson.

11. San Francisco 49ers – Will Johnson, CB, Michigan

Johnson is right there with Hunter for CB1 in this class despite missing a lot of time in 2024 with an injury. During his time at Michigan, Johnson picked off nine passes, showcasing high-end instincts and quickness. With Charvarius Ward hitting free agency, there's a spot open opposite Deommodore Lenoir at corner, too. The 49ers allowed opponents a 58.5 QBR this past season, ranking in the bottom third. For San Francisco to get back on top in the NFC West, the secondary needs to improve. Will Johnson is a great fit here. Johnson allowed a 49.8 passer rating in coverage over his career at Michigan while excelling in both man and zone schemes.

12. Dallas Cowboys – Omarion Hampton, RB, North Carolina

The Cowboys need to look to improve the running game in 2025. Coach Brian Schottenheimer will look to create balance on offense with an improved running game that takes the pressure off Prescott and CeeDee Lamb. But to jump-start the run game, the Cowboys actually need a legitimate running back. Rico Dowdle was decent in 2025 (1,079 yards), but he left in free agency. Plus, this team has been known to use early picks at the position in the past, including drafting Ezekiel Elliott at No. 4 in 2016. Hampton is a home-run hitter who had 1,660 yards and 15 rushing TDs in 2024. Hampton also had 4.29 yards after contact per attempt (97th percentile) over the past two seasons. This is a great fit here.

13. Miami Dolphins – Josh Simmons, OT, Ohio State

Miami lost Robert Jones to free agency and need to add talent to the offensive line. In addition, they need to improve the pass protection as a whole. The Dolphins were 28th in pass block win rate this past season (55.7%), and quarterback Tua Tagovailoa has had three diagnosed concussions over his career. This must be a priority for the Dolphins. Of course, Simmons is coming back from his own injury (knee), but he should be good to go for camp and has great traits. We love his consistency and balance in pass protection. His 99.7 pass-blocking efficiency score last season was the best among tackles on PFF's big board.

14. Indianapolis Colts, Emeka Egbuka, WR, Ohio State

The Colts need to add weapons on offense in order to maximize and evaluate the long-term prospects of quarterback Anthony Richardson in Year 3 of his career. We think Emeka Egbuka will be the move at WR. Egbuka possesses excellent route running, sure hands and approach to the game. He's coming off an 81-catch, 1,011-yard, 10-touchdown season, and he would provide a productive playmaker for Richardson in year 3.

15. Atlanta Falcons - Mike Green, Edge Rusher, Marshall

Thirty-first in sacks with 31. Thirtieth in pressure rate at 26.9%. Twenty-seventh in pass rush win rate at 34.1%. Those are troublesome numbers for the Falcons' defense, and the Matthew Judon trade before the 2024 season didn't really lift the unit as expected. The Falcons come into another draft needing help off the edge, and Green offers tantalizing, elite production. He graded above 90.0 as a pass rusher and a run defender, in addition to boasting a pass-rush win rate over 20% and a run-stop rate over 9%. He also allayed fears about his competition level at Marshall with a standout performance at the Senior Bowl. In 2024, Green had 17 sacks (best in the country) and 51 pressures (tied for sixth) in his final collegiate season. We see incredible speed, bend and power in his game which are traits that would be welcome in Atlanta under new coordinator Jeff Ulbrich.

16. Arizona Cardinals - Shamar Stewart, DE, Texas A&M

The Cardinals addressed their edge room this offseason by signing Josh Sweat to a \$76 million deal, but they could still stand to improve at the other spot. However, the Cardinals were 28th in pass rush win rate at 33.3% in 2024. They need to continue to add talented edge rushers. Stewart offers a high ceiling due to his athletic traits. Stewart has speed and power and was very productive for the Aggies defense. His 88.2 PFF run-defense grade in 2024 ranked fifth among all edge defenders in college football. In Indianapolis at the combine, he demonstrated his extreme athleticism. Arizona would be able to slide him in opposite Zaven Collins and get him a lot of work early in his career.

17. Cincinnati Bengals - Kelvin Banks Jr., OT, Texas

The Bengals really need to improve their offensive line and protect Joe Burrow. Banks is an easy pick for a Bengals offensive line that needs an infusion of talent. He played with great leverage, active feet and natural athleticism during his three years at Texas, allowing four sacks on 1,544 pass-blocking reps. He is a high-floor, Day 1 impact player at guard for a team that has struggled to adequately protect Joe Burrow.

18. Seattle Seahawks - Donovan Ezeiruaku, Edge Rusher, Boston College

This is a no brainer. The Seahawks take the best edge rusher available in Ezeiruaku, who had a dominant season as a pass rusher in 2024. He earned an elite 90.5 PFF pass-rushing grade to go with 14 sacks, 20 quarterback hits and 26 hurries.

19. Tampa Bay Buccaneers – Jihaad Campbell, LB, Alabama

Tampa Bay needs to get younger at linebacker and add talent that can make explosive plays. Campbell had 112 tackles, 11.5 tackles for loss, 20 pressures and 5 sacks at Alabama in 2024, and he can cover the field sideline to sideline. Campbell offers quality and versatility alongside returning starter Lavonte David. Campbell could be the heir apparent as the next leader of this Buccaneers defense.

20. Denver Broncos - Colston Loveland, TE, Michigan

Denver coach Sean Payton is looking for a "joker" in his offense -- someone who can play a few different roles as a playmaker. He had that in New Orleans with Alvin Kamara and Reggie Bush, but he hasn't been able to find the right guy with the Broncos.

If you look at what Loveland has done at Michigan and his skill set, he could help fill that role. He has the ability to separate, and his 6-foot-5 frame makes it difficult for opponents to match up. Loveland would be quarterback Bo Nix's best friend in the pass game. Loveland's 90.6 PFF receiving grade since 2023 ranked third in college football.

21. Pittsburgh Steelers - Kenneth Grant, DT, Michigan

Grant's rare combination of size and athleticism would improve the Steelers' run defense, which gave up 299 yards in last season's playoff loss to Baltimore. Cam Heyward, while still excellent, will be 36 years old in May, and the team released Larry Ogunjobi. Grant, who earned an 87.5 PFF run-defense grade in 2024, would fill a huge need for the present and future.

22. Los Angeles Chargers - Tetairoa McMillan, WR, Arizona

The Chargers need to continue adding playmakers on offense. McMillan offers All-Pro potential with a 6-foot-5 frame. He racked up 92 career plays of 15-plus yards with 43 missed tackles. He also recorded 90.0-plus PFF receiving grades at each level of the field and dominated man coverage in 2024 (89.1).

23. Green Bay Packers - Jahdae Barron, CB, Texas

Barron is so versatile that the Packers would be able to put him anywhere on the back end. He reminds us of Cooper DeJean in that way. We saw Barron at outside corner, slot corner and safety at Texas. And he's a real ball hawk, picking off five passes and breaking up 10 more this past season. Barron can wrap up as a tackler and get after the quarterback as a blitzer, too. The versatile Barron can immediately slot in as the Packer's starting nickel cornerback. He posted the second-highest PFF coverage grade among all cornerbacks last year (91.1) and is a perfect fit for the Packer's zone-heavy scheme after playing more zone snaps than any other cornerback on PFF's big board in 2024 (406). He's one of our favorite players in the class.

24. Minnesota Vikings – Nick Emmanwori, S, South Carolina

The Vikings may trade down here to amass more picks. However, we believe there is too much talent on the board for them to trade down. We think this pick will come down to Derrick Harmon, DT, Oregon or Nick Emmanwori, S, South Carolina. Emmanwori caught everyone's eye during combine workouts. His explosiveness at 6-3, 227 pounds is special. But he's more than just physical traits, as he hauled in four interceptions for the Gamecocks this past season. Pairing him next to Harrison Smith will allow the Vikings to essentially take away the third level of the field. The Vikings allowed too many explosive passing plays on offense and upgrading the talent at safety will reduce that number in 2025. The Vikings also need to start thinking about the heir apparent to Harrison Smith and Emmanwori has the talent to be a fixture on the Vikings back end for the next decade.

25. Houston Texans – Tyler Booker, G, Alabama

The Texans need to improve the interior of their offensive line and Booker is the best pure guard in this class. And while addressing the interior might not be the most exciting first-round pick, it's a problem in Houston. Booker is strong enough to anchor, allowing

one sack in three seasons at Alabama. And he is able to open running lanes, which could pop Joe Mixon for some big runs.

26. Los Angeles Rams – Josh Conerly Jr., OT, Oregon

Rob Havenstein's contract situation and age make it important to draft a future starter at tackle. Matthew Stafford needs solid protection at 37 years old, and Conerly gave up just two sacks over three seasons at Oregon. Conerly's movement traits are a strength and he provides flexibility as he can play multiple positions along the line.

27. Baltimore Ravens - Grey Zabel, OT, North Dakota State

Zabel's versatility is valuable for an offensive line that could use more consistency. Only one Ravens guard earned a 65.0-plus PFF pass-blocking grade in 2024. Meanwhile, Zabel posted a 90.4 PFF overall grade in 2024 at left tackle and a 79.6 PFF overall grade in 2023 at left guard. Zabel is the ultimate swing man who can play anywhere. He played both tackle spots and both guard spots in college, and he took reps at center at the Senior Bowl -- where he quieted any concerns about his level of competition at North Dakota State by dominating. We love his pass-blocking fundamentals, and he's a Round 1-caliber player.

28. Detroit Lions - Oluwafemi Oladejo, OLB, UCLA

On one hand, Detroit ran into bad luck in 2024 with an inconceivable number of injuries to its defense, seemingly dooming the otherwise dominant team. On the other, the Lions never really had a clear No. 2 pass rusher opposite Aidan Hutchinson (who missed some time himself with a leg injury). Za'Darius Smith had four sacks over eight games after a midseason trade to Detroit, but no other edge rusher had more than three sacks. The rest of this roster is too good to ignore this, and GM Brad Holmes should be looking for answers in both free agency and the draft. Oladejo has steadily risen in this class, moving from Round 3 to the Round 2 conversation with a good Senior Bowl week. He tested well at the combine and demonstrated his burst and intensity. And while he had just 4.5 sacks in 2024, his tape is really good.

29. Washington Commanders - Shavon Revel, CB, East Carolina

Despite the Commanders making the NFC Championship game, the team's 44.9 PFF coverage grade ranked third lowest in the NFL. There's an added risk to drafting Shavon Revel after his torn ACL in 2024, but in his last full season at East Carolina, he forced an incompletion on 24% of his coverage snaps — the 14th-best clip in the nation.

30. Buffalo Bills - Trey Amos, CB, Ole Miss

Amos' competitive drive and scheme diversity should be an instant hit with Sean McDermott and the Bills, instantly upgrading the cornerback position opposite Christian Benford. Amos is a physical, lengthy cornerback, and he allowed just 32 completions on 62 targets while holding opposing quarterbacks to a 54.5 passer rating when targeted last season.

31. Kansas City Chiefs - Walter Nolen, DT, Ole Miss

Nolen can quickly develop into a disruptive interior defensive lineman in the NFL and is coming off a season at Ole Miss with 26 run stops (second most among PFF big board interior defenders). That's certainly worth taking a chance on at the end of Round 1 for the Chiefs, who have a need on the interior alongside Chris Jones.

32. Philadelphia Eagles - Mykel Williams, Edge Rusher, Georgia

Despite adding Azeez Ojulari and Josh Uche to offset the Josh Sweat and Brandon Graham losses, the Eagles still need edge help. In comes Mykel Williams, another Georgia product falling into Howie Roseman's lap. Williams is still developing as a pass rusher, but he's stellar against the run, evidenced by back-to-back 80.0-plus PFF overall grades. The Eagles continue to build their defense with Georgia prospects.

Minnesota Vikings Draft

The Minnesota Vikings have only have four selections in the 2025 NFL draft due to the Dallas Turner trade in last year's draft. The Vikings have a first-round pick at number 24. They also have a third-round pick, a fifth-round pick and a sixth-round pick.

The Vikings needs going into the 2025 draft include in priority order:

- Interior defensive line
- Interior offensive line
- Safety
- Cornerback
- Running back

In the 2025 draft, we think there is a 50% probability of trading back in the first round to accumulate more picks in the first three rounds. The Vikings only have four picks in this year's draft due to the Dallas Turner trade last year.

Scenario 1: Trade back in the first round to accumulate more picks in the first three rounds of the draft. This may result in the Vikings not picking in the first round.

Scenario 2: However, if the Vikings stay at pick #24 in the first round, we see it playing out as follows.

- **Take the best Safety/Cornerback** – Adding talent to the secondary must be a priority for the Vikings as they need to add safety/cornerback back depth and talent. The most likely secondary prospects for the Vikings to consider include: Nick Emmanwori, S, South Carolina, Jahdae Barron, CB, Texas or Maliki Starks, S, Georgia. Nick Emmanwori caught everyone's eye during combine workouts. His explosiveness at 6-3, 227 pounds is special. But he's more than just physical traits, as he hauled in four interceptions for the Gamecocks this past season. Pairing him next to Harrison Smith will allow the Vikings to essentially take away the third level of the field. The Vikings allowed to many explosive passing plays on offense and upgrading

the talent at safety will reduce that number in 2025. The Vikings also need to start thinking about the heir apparent to Harrison Smith and Emmanwori has the talent to be a fixture on the Vikings back end for the next decade. Jahdae Barron provides the versatility that Flores covets. He is so versatile that the Vikings would be able to put him anywhere on the back end. In 2024, we saw Barron at outside corner, slot corner and safety at Texas. And he's a real ball hawk, picking off five passes and breaking up 10 more this past season. Barron can wrap up as a tackler and get after the quarterback as a blitzer, too, which is required in a Brian Flores scheme. He posted the second-highest PFF coverage grade among all cornerbacks last year (91.1) and is a perfect fit for Brian Flores scheme. Maliki Starks had 73 tackles, three passes defended, and an interception. Starks had an incredible interception against Clemson, and a mixed outing against Auburn among others. He is a safe pick to be a dependable coverage safety in the NFL. Starks as a safe and reliable coverage safety that should be a good starter in the NFL. He has excellent character, work ethic, and leadership skills. His upside is not as great as Emmanwori.

- **Take the best Defensive Tackle** – Continuing to add athletic playmakers on the defensive line to pressure the quarterback is a priority for the Vikings. The Vikings will play a 3-4 base defense so they need to add players that fit this defensive scheme. Flores runs an aggressive defensive approach and will be looking to add athletic, explosive and versatile defensive lineman, particularly to the interior defensive line. In free agency, the Vikings added Jonathan Allen and Javon Hargrove, however, the Vikings will be looking to add some youth to the defensive line. Two prospects that the Vikings are high on include: Derrik Harmon, DT, Oregon and Kenneth Grant, DT, Michigan. Derrik Harmon is the best pass rushing defensive tackle in the class leading the nation in quarterback pressures. In 2024, he slimmed down to 313 pounds and his quickness and production significantly improved. He has excellent upper body strength, length and lateral mobility to get blockers off balance and collapse the pocket. Harmon would provide excellent versatility for Brian Flores defense as he can play all three interior positions in a 3-4 scheme. Kenneth Grant is a disruptive run defender with a quick first step and active hands to slip blocks. He runs well for his size and makes plays in pursuit. The 6-foot-3, 339-pounder has a rare combination of speed, athleticism, and strength. He reads the quarterback and gets his hands up in passing lanes resulting in 12 passes defended over the last two seasons. He earned an 87.5 PFF run-defense grade in 2024 and would help improve the interior run defense for the Vikings. The Vikings need more of a pass rushing presence at their defensive tackle spot this season.
- **Take the best interior Offensive Lineman** – The Vikings interior offensive line was exposed in the Rams playoff loss resulting in 9 sacks of Sam Darnold. In free agency the Vikings added Ryan Kelley, Center and Will Fries, Guard to address this weakness. They have confidence in Blake Brandel but they may not be done adding talent to the offensive line to protect JJ McCarthy. Two prospects that the Vikings are interested in include: Grey Zabel, OG, North Dakota and Donovan Jackson, OG, Ohio State. Grey Zabel's versatility is valuable for an offensive line that could use more consistency. Zabel posted a 90.4 PFF overall grade in 2024 at left tackle and a

79.6 PFF overall grade in 2023 at left guard. Zabel is the ultimate swing man who can play anywhere. He played both tackle spots and both guard spots in college, and he took reps at center at the Senior Bowl where he quieted any concerns about his level of competition at North Dakota State by dominating. He would immediately upgrade the Vikings left guard spot and would provide the Vikings with one of the best offensive lines in football. Donovan Jackson would also provide tremendous versatility for the Vikings offensive line. Jackson started 30 games at left guard and nine games at left tackle at Ohio State. He best fits at guard but has the toughness and athletic ability to play across the line. He brings a nasty attitude which was missing from the line last year.

We believe the Vikings will stay at pick #24 and the choice will come down between Derrik Harmon, DT, Oregon or Nick Emmanwori, S, South Carolina. We think they will select Nick Emmanwori, S, South Carolina. This pick will allow them to identify the heir apparent to Harrison Smith and he will be a fixture in the secondary for the next decade.

Based on the Vikings first round pick, they will then target defensive tackle, offensive line, running back and tight end in round 3 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.

ROUND THREE – Options in round 3 that the Vikings could draft.

1. **Carson Schwesinger, Linebacker, UCLA** - Schwesinger was a one-year wonder in college, but he had a tremendous 2024 season for the Bruins. Schwesinger totaled 136 tackles with four sacks, two interceptions, one forced fumble, and three passes broken up. Schwesinger was always around the ball with impressive instincts and was fast to read his keys. He has prototypical size for an inside linebacker and ran a 4.6 40 at the combine.
2. **Jonah Savaiinaea, Offensive Tackle, Arizona** - Savaiinaea played well for Arizona in 2024. Savaiinaea broke into the starting lineup at right tackle in 2022 and immediately was a solid contributor for the Wildcats. As a sophomore in 2023, Savaiinaea was even better teaming with Jordan Morgan to give Arizona an effective tackle tandem. Savaiinaea is a quick blocker with athleticism and agility on the edge. At the combine, he ran a 4.95 40 for a 6'4" 330 pound lineman. In the NFL, he is a better fit at guard. He brings significant size for the position and a nasty attitude. The Vikings want to get bigger in the trenches and change the attitude of the line. Savaiinaea fits best in a zone-blocking system, which is what the Vikings run.
3. **Marcus Mbow, Offensive Guard, Purdue** - Mbow is an excellent interior blocker with quickness and athleticism. Mbow could stand to get stronger and clean up some technique for the NFL, but he has the skill set to be a solid starting guard as a pro. Mbow may not be a starter right away but he would add depth to the Vikings offensive line.
4. **Jordan James, Running Back, Oregon** - James was a tough runner for the Ducks in 2024, averaging 5.4 yards per carry for 1,267 yards with 15 touchdowns. He also caught 26 passes for 209 yards. James could be a solid No. 2 or rotational back in the NFL.
5. **Aireontae Ersery, Offensive Tackle, Minnesota** - Over the past two seasons, Ersery has been the starting left tackle for the Gophers and has been a steady blocker. Ersery's run blocking is ahead of his pass protection. Ersery had an excellent combine demonstrating his athleticism and movement skills. He ran a 4.99 40 for a man weighing 345 pounds. Ersery is talented and has a good skill set, but he is very inconsistent, and that caused him to get day two grades. In the NFL, he is best suited for right tackle and could get consideration to move inside to guard.
6. **Dylan Sampson, RB, Tennessee** - After serving as a backup for two years, Sampson broke into the starting lineup and became the SEC Offensive Player of the Year. He averaged 5.8 yards per carry for 1,491 yards with a school-record 22 touchdowns. He caught 20 passes for 143 yards. Sampson is an instinctive runner with impressive speed and elusiveness. Sampson will be an explosive playmaker at the next level.
7. **Darius Alexander, DT, Toledo** - In 2024, Alexander was a solid defender for Toledo and earned an invitation to the Senior Bowl. In Mobile, he had a quality week of practice. He had 40 tackles with 3.5 sacks and four passes batted. The previous

season he had 36 tackles with four sacks. He is an extremely athletic defensive tackle that would fit well in Brian Flores's scheme.

8. **CJ West, DT, Indiana** - In 2024, West had 42 tackles with two sacks and a pass defended. He had two sacks in 2023, and five sacks in 2021. West is an impressive defender at the point of attack. He is a thick, strong, and quick tackle. West has a burst to close and fires off the ball. With a strong build, he has the strength to knock blockers back and shed blocks, which is largely due to West's interior presence along the defensive line. Indiana allowed the fewest yards per carry in the FBS. His tape against Ohio State really helped his draft grade with NFL teams.

We predict the Vikings will add talent to their offensive line and select Jonah Savaiinaea, Offensive Tackle, Arizona. He brings significant size and a nasty attitude to the Vikings offensive line. He will compete with Blake Brandel for the left guard spot on the interior of the Vikings offensive line.

If Savaiinaea is no longer on the board when the Vikings choose in round 3, we predict they will choose Darius Alexander, DT, Toledo.

ROUNDS 5 and 6: The Vikings have one fifth round pick and one sixth round pick. Options for Vikings in Rounds 5 and 6:

The following players are options for the Vikings in rounds 5 and 6:

1. Tyler Batty, Defensive End, BYU
2. Jacob Bayer, Center, Arkansas State
3. Korie Black, Cornerback, Oklahoma State
4. Warren Brinson, Defensive Tackle, Georgia
5. Caleb Etienne, Offensive Tackle, BYU
6. Tai Felton, Wide Receiver, Maryland
7. Traeshon Holden, Wide Receiver, Oregon
8. Tyrion Ingram-Dawkins, Defensive Tackle, Georgia
9. Nash Jones, Offensive Guard, Texas State
10. Easton Kilty, Offensive Tackle, Kansas State
11. Robert Lewis, Wide Receiver, Auburn
12. Kalel Mullings, Running Back, Michigan
13. Dorian Singer, Wide Receiver, Utah
14. Brashard Smith, Running Back, SMU
15. Nazir Stackhouse, Defensive Tackle, Georgia

16. Oronde Gadsden II, TE, Georgia
17. Thomas Fidone II, TE, Nebraska
18. Kyle Williams, WR, Washington State

We predict the following picks in rounds 5 and 6.

The Vikings will select Oronde Gadsden II, TE, Georgia in the fifth round and Kyle Williams, WR, Washington State in the 6th round. The Vikings need to add depth at tight end and Gadsden brings significant size to the position group at 6'6". He has a receiver skillset in a tight end body. The Vikings needed to add some youth and talent at the wide receiver position given Addison will soon be a free agent. The fifth-year senior wide receiver ranked fourth in college football with 14 touchdowns and eighth in receiving yards. His 70 catches led Washington State.

2025 NFL Draft Sleepers:

1. **Quincy Riley, CB, Louisville** - A standout cornerback with potential.
2. **Demetrius Knight, LB, South Carolina** - An underrated linebacker to keep an eye on.
3. **Bhayshul Tuten, RB, Virginia Tech** - A running back who could surprise.
4. **Tyler Baron, EDGE, Miami (FL)** - An edge rusher with great upside.
5. **Shavon Revel, WR, East Carolina** - A wide receiver making waves as a sleeper.
6. **Chris Brazzell II, WR, Tennessee** - Another wide receiver to watch for potential value.
7. **JT Tuimoloau, EDGE, Ohio State** - There were times when Tuimoloau was the best player on Ohio State's defense.
8. **Tory Horton WR, Colorado State** - Horton might've been mentioned among the top wide receivers in this year's draft if he hadn't suffered a brutal knee injury.
9. **Joshua Farmer DT, Florida State** - At 6-foot-3 and 305 pounds, Farmer possesses the frame to be a stout NFL defensive tackle. The Florida State product is powerful, plays the run well and has position versatility as an interior lineman. He doesn't have a great first step or quickness but can clog lanes and rush the passer from the inside.
10. **Charles Grant OL, William & Mary** - The William & Mary tackle was a standout lineman in college with elite traits and impressive fundamentals.
11. **Jordan Phillips DT, Maryland** - Phillips is a sturdy nose tackle who is violent at the point of attack. The defensive tackle produced 29 tackles, one tackle for loss and 16 pressures in 12 games last year for the Terrapins.

These players are considered undervalued and have the potential to make a significant impact in the NFL.

We think these players could be late round steals. These NFL prospects will not be drafted in the early rounds of the NFL draft but they have the potential to be very good football players at the next level.

We will update our readers with a post-draft report after the draft.
Mink and Obie!