

The following is what the first round would look like if I was in charge of all 32 teams, so keep in mind that this isn't a prediction of how the first round will shake out. I will not be doing any mock trade ups or trade downs so the picks stay where they are.

1. Tampa Bay Buccaneers - Kansas St. QB Chris Largent

They have a gaping hole at QB after trading away Teddy Bridgewater, and the #1 overall prospect is a QB, so it just makes a lot of sense for a team that currently doesn't have as many spots as you would think open for a rookie to make an immediate impact. Depending on perspective, QB is the riskiest or second-riskiest position to select (CB the other in contention), but with extra first round picks in this draft and next, I suppose it is a risk worth taking.

2. Seattle Seahawks - N.C. St. OLB Bradley Chubb

They were deep at interior OL and surprisingly let multiple players walk, giving them a starting position up for grabs. Will Hernandez is being strongly considered as a result, as would HB Joe Mixon given their rushing woes from last season, but this is the Seattle Seahawks. What they need is defense, and with Justin Houston hitting free agency, Chubb would make a great addition to a new-look LB group that has been mediocre since Dhani Jones and Warrick Holdman retired long ago.

3. Carolina Panthers - UCLA MLB Eric Kendricks

The Panthers offense hasn't been good for a long time despite the franchise investing a lot of premium picks there. If I were to go in that direction, it would be G Will Hernandez who could immediately replace Taitusi Lutui. However, I would go with the side that has fewer issues but some aging concerns. Jonathan Vilma was one of the league's best MLBs during his career, but with him retired, Kendricks could immediately come in and supplant Ray Ballard who did nothing in his 8 games last season.

4. New York Giants - UTEP G Will Hernandez

Part of me really wants to go CB Tre'Davious White here given that the Giants have sneakily been a good defensive team the past two seasons, but given my policy of making CBs be among the finishing touches of a defense, I'm seeing areas that need addressing first before I would be comfortable taking one so high. This basically boils down to OT Miller and G Hernandez. Miller would be the better value pick because of his position, but I feel Hernandez would make the higher impact given their interior OL's health and efficiency issues. Both make a lot of sense, but I'm going to reunite Hernandez with his actual team.

5. Jacksonville Jaguars - UCLA OT Kolton Miller

The Jags re-signed a bunch of players with major red flags only for a lot of those positions to appear high on the draft board. Bummer for them. There are a few great choices though. The Jags actually have money to play around with, so WR Tyreek Hill is a possibility, and they can easily cut Dan Browning or DeRon Nelson if they need cap space. I'm not sure that a potential #2 or #3 WR is the right move for a team that has naturally picked in the Top 10 in consecutive seasons now. DE Danielle Hunter could also come in given the team hasn't replaced Ty Warren yet. However, they have a pair of young players in Mario Edwards Jr. and Jerry Nakfoor who are promising and could emerge. I wish Kendricks was still available here, but I think they should address their overpaid OL. They already let Reggie Youngblood walk who wanted in excess of \$12 mil annually despite having a sub-8 blocks per sack allowed in his career. LT Marcus McNeill is even worse. He is currently being paid \$15.6 mil and has a career sub-7 blocks per sack allowed. Yikes! They could look at Miller to be his successor or even just eat the nearly \$4 mil cap penalty and cut McNeill and use the extra cash on a bountiful free agent class.

6. Tampa Bay Buccaneers - West Alabama WR Tyreek Hill

Now the board doesn't look so good for the Bucs. I am absolutely avoiding CB at all costs here. I could go with OT Dawkins and have someone fill in at C, maybe even Dawkins, until the OT logjam ends, but while #2 WRs don't have the largest impact, I know the franchise is looking to move on from Dez Bryant. Selecting Hill would give them the motivation to pull the plug on a player who has been paid \$8 mil thus far to provide 17 receptions and 161 yards with 1 TD in 20 games.

7. Buffalo Bills - LSU DE Danielle Hunter

Because of the team's directive to grab an impact rookie due to giving up three future Day 1 picks, my options are limited, but honestly, Hunter might have been my pick regardless. I don't care if Arik Armstead was taken Day 1 last season. He was arguably the league's worst starting DE last season, and Hunter may immediately be their best DE period. He was expected to go around this area, so let's do the high reward move to turn this defense around.

8. New York Jets - Oklahoma HB Joe Mixon

The Jets are pretty set at most positions, but after letting Romance Taylor walk, their HBs consist of three 77-78 players who have a collective career YPC of 3.7. Yeah, the Jets

simply cannot have any of them be their starting HB. HBs may rarely light the league on fire as a rookie, but Mixon is a far better option than the alternative.

9. Detroit Lions - Temple OT Dion Dawkins

With the way the board is, I think we have to go offense here. HB Aaron Jones is an option, but the Lions do have two young, low 80s HBs that they could give a whirl at the starting job. WR Will Fuller is also in play, but their current WRs aren't too old and have multiple years left on their contract, so he might just be a slot receiver for a few seasons. Dawkins can fill in as the swing tackle his rookie season and even if they wish to re-sign OT Germayle Franklin the following offseason, they have a pair of Gs likely to retire, so Dawkins can in that event start in the interior and eventually work his way back outside. It may not be a sexy pick, but with a young duo at QB and HB, they need to work toward having a higher quality OL to help them out.

10. San Juan Orcas - Mississippi St. DT Chris Jones

11. San Juan Orcas - South Carolina St. OLB Darius Leonard

I didn't quite go scorched earth with the Orcas, but my actions in the offseason have given them a lot of present and future roster flexibility. I can go in so many directions. I have a list of 10 prospects I am looking at in a fluid order. The players above could be available when I pick, and I could ultimately go in a different direction. I won't force myself to grab Week 1 starters just for the sake of it being the main takeaway. I have a long history of selecting players in the first round who didn't start until their second season or beyond or even ever, and the fact that the Orcas are tied for the second-longest playoff drought won't make me deviate from my team-building ideology. If I want players to help me now, free agency and trades are far better options to do so. When it comes to the draft, I want players who I feel will be the biggest asset to the franchise in the long run.

The issues for the Orcas mostly stem from an anemic offense, but defense is a better indicator of success than offense, so ideally, I would like to focus there as I would like to turn an above average and occasionally great defense into a more consistent and hopefully elite unit. Incumbent DT Demarcus Granger has had a nice career as a former #1 overall pick, but I am not attached to him and his contract is up after the season. Incumbent OLB Wesley Woodyard has been a tackling machine and is coming off of a Pro Bowl season, but he's down to his final season barring something unexpected. Chris Jones and Darius Leonard are what I look for in players at the position. They can be rotational players to begin and start next season, though I suppose Leonard could theoretically win the starting job out of the preseason depending on his rating.

12. Cincinnati Bengals - Western Michigan OT Taylor Moton

I am tempted to go with QB DeShaun Gaines since incumbent Jake Locker is entering the final season of his contract and has posted low-to-mid 70s passer ratings each season. However, his passer rating has improved each season, even if just incrementally, so maybe he's in store for a breakout season in his contract year. Thus it boils down to adding an OL to a mediocre group in hopes of more talent helping out the young skill position players or a DE to try and help salvage a DL with multiple former 1st round picks. The best option might be grabbing an OL here and an established vet at DE during free agency. Between OTs Brian O'Neill and Taylor Moton, perhaps the latter will be a better fit for this team.

13. New England Patriots - Jackson St. QB DeShaun Gaines

I don't know if the Pats set the record last season, but with averaging under 100 passing yards a game last season, it was definitely in the Bottom 5 in B8NFL history. The reason for that is unclear though. The OL certainly did their job. Was it due more to the QBs or arguably the worst collection of pass catchers in the league? The answer is probably a little of both, which makes Gaines more of a risk than usual. The Pats should have the cap space to grab a stop-gap solution at QB in free agency, but they might as well grab the falling Gaines now and figure out what to do later.

14. Tennessee Titans - Notre Dame WR Will Fuller

The Titans need offensive skill players in such a bad way. The only certainty that they have is WR Mike Evans, so QB, HB, and a #2 WR are all in play here. I'm just going with Fuller here for no specific reason over HB Aaron Jones and QB Mason Rudolph.

15. Oakland Raiders - Texas G Connor Williams

Part of me wants to go DE here, but this OL is something else, and with LT Alex Boone being floated around the league, there's a chance this team can go from three Hall of Fame candidates to the worst OL in the league in what four seasons? The interior OL has more pressing issues, assuming Boone stays, so I will go with the natural player there and go with Williams.

16. Toronto Wildcats - Illinois DE Jihad Ward

There are HBs here for the taking, but I'm getting flashes of McCaffrey 2.0 because this OL needs to be revamped. I'm not sure that I'm in love with any of the prospects here that can turn the tide in Canada. The Wildcats are a prime trade up or trade down spot, but since I don't

do trades, I might do the opposite of the Raiders and go with DE here to compete for the spot opposite Robert Quinn. Ward might be a better fit for this defense, so let's go in that direction.

17. San Francisco 49ers - Michigan DE Frank Clark

I'm having the HBs continue dropping, which may upset former Top 10 pick and new starter QB Mitchell Trubiskey, but Clark could be the finishing piece on a formidable front seven. The other six starting spots are filled by quality players 31 and under, so by adding Clark to replace the retired Marcus Spears, the 49ers might be closer to a return to the postseason.

18. Pittsburgh Steelers - LSU CB Tre'Davious White

When this was the Bills pick, I had OLB Jerome Baker and had said in Discord that I would maybe keep the same pick. I thought about it some more and decided against that since White is a Top 10 prospect on a respectable defense that could use and support him, it would be a little silly to avoid him.

19. Chicago Bears - Ohio St. OLB Jerome Baker

I originally had CB White going here, so basically just a swap at 18 and 19. Am I partially influenced by having no desire to edit the rest of the draft? Sure, but they could use the competition at the ROLB spot given Luther Lewis just being serviceable. There is also a possibility that DeAndre Levy, with his contract expiring, could be too expensive next offseason for the Bears to bring back.

20. Philadelphia Eagles - UTEP HB Aaron Jones

A very poor running game for the first 75% of the season probably sunk their playoff chances a season ago. With a tight financial situation, grabbing an established option probably isn't in the cards, so they might as well use their top pick in the draft and hope for an immediate improvement. HBs usually start out slow, but it would be hard for the Eagles rushing attack to not improve. Aaron Jones doesn't have the hands that Cornell Brockington did, who was in many cases Chris Leak's favorite target outside of Ted Ginn, but with a new starting QB this season, that might not be a big deal.

21. St. Louis Rams - UCLA OT Brian O'Neill

I'm not going to complicate this. The Rams have been dealing with OL health and depth issues for a while now, and incumbents Davin Joseph and Winston Justice don't have much

time left. O'Neill can immediately be a swing tackle and replace someone in the long run. It's not out of the question that O'Neill wins the starting LG job as a rookie.

22. Minnesota Vikings - Georgia Tech DT Adam Gotsis

Honestly, nothing really jumps out to me. They signed DE Adrian Clayborn and HB Dion Sims to 4-5 year deals last offseason, so while they had underwhelming first seasons with Minnesota, I'm not sure where the playing time will come from now or in the future. WR and OLB are an option due to aging starters. Grabbing the future FS would be an option if the earliest projected wasn't in the third. With all the DT injuries for them last season (I think that they had six rostered at one point), and William Morrissey approaching his mid-30s, now might be time to prepare for the future with Gotsis. He will get plenty of playing time as a rotational #3 DT in a 4-3 defense, so it isn't like he is going to languish on the bench.

23. Denver Broncos - Oklahoma St. QB Mason Rudolph

It seems that either of the two directions I am thinking of will have two young players compete for a starting job. That means the risk of this pick serving as mere preseason competition is rather high, but speaking from experience, if that results in the winning player excelling in their role, that's worth it to me. The question is, do I go with QB Mason Rudolph or MLB Ben Heeney? The Broncos D has long been one of the most reliable units in the game and with them already having a nice mix of veterans and youth starting, I feel like the reward isn't great enough with Heeney, so I'm swinging for the fences with Rudolph as I hope either he or DeShone Kizer can lift the passing attack up.

24. Atlanta Falcons - Alabama OT Cam Robinson

The Falcons have a tight financial situation to work with, so the financially prudent option would be TE Mike Gesicki, but just because the Falcons entered the offseason as the clear best team in the NFC South doesn't mean that they should play things safe. The Falcons have two OL close to retiring, so grabbing Cam Robinson, like many other players before him, can be the top reserve and take over in the future. Also of note, the Falcons' starting OTs are making over \$20 mil combined in the final year of their deals. If they find themselves being forced to cut one for cap reasons, well, thankfully they took Robinson.

25. Green Bay Packers - Florida St. HB Dalvin Cook

I should take their financial situation into consideration, but honestly the board doesn't look so hot for them. I do know that they were shopping around HB Isaiah Crowell, so I have to assume that this will be his final season in Green Bay. Since the Ss are a ways off, I feel like

Cook's combination of value and likely future contributions make him the most viable choice here.

26. Portland Express - Clemson DE Vic Beasley

Honestly, the Express are in a good situation to where they are one of the few teams where BPA is a truly viable option, which I think would mean CB Marlon Humphrey. However, Vic Beasley is expected to go in this range, DE Michael Johnson is coming off of a Breakout Player of the Year season and Amobi Okoye is one of the best DTs in the league and not far removed from setting the B8NFL record for most sacks in a season. The Express are in a position where they can go for a high-ceiling player, so why not take a chance on Beasley?

27. Washington - Kansas MLB Ben Heeney

I strongly considered CB Marlon Humphrey, but given their lackluster performance on D last season, I would rather go with a surer thing here and hopefully select the MLB that they've been lacking since Brian Urlacher retired.

28. Miami Dolphins - Fresno St. DT Tyeler Davison

The Dolphins let Kawann Short walk in free agency, and it seems like a good bet that Timmy Jernigan will be signed by someone in RFA next season. The Dolphins need to get a jump on adding talent there, and Davison isn't much of a reach given we are at the end of the 1st.

29. Baltimore Ravens - Miami WR Phillip Dorsett

I'm a little torn here. The Ravens, with four different full-time starting QBs in their history, never have been among the most prolific passing teams. Yet, I am still drawn to a WR for them. It helps that they are pretty much set elsewhere except QB.

30. St. Louis Rams - Appalachian St. G Colby Gossett

I know that they have a gaping hole at HB, but I think this is a situation where the free agency route is the better way to fill it. Thus, I keep going back to OL, so we go to the interior here and take Colby Gossett.

31. Dallas Cowboys - LSU HB Leonard Fournette

I keep letting the CBs drop even though I feel several teams could support. The problem is that each team that I am considering already has three 80+ at the position and wonder just how much help they could give. Anyway, with QB Cam Newton getting re-signed, QB Ray Flewelling is a consideration given how terrible the backup situation is there, but let's have Fournette likely compete with Ty Montgomery to see who succeeds Hall of Famer Darius Walker.

32. Miami Dolphins - Alabama CB Marlon Humphrey

BPA here. I did consider the possibility of the AI, if a user does not take over, letting Jacquizz Rodgers walk and taking Mike Davis, but with Antonio Cromartie approaching retirement and the future status of Ross Cockrell up in the air, Humphrey is a current luxury that could become quite the asset for them next season.