



2009 NFL Draft and Free Agency

# NEWSLETTER

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[www.ourlads.com](http://www.ourlads.com)

## Draft Winds...

The 2009 NFL Draft will be held at Radio City Music Hall in New York City on April 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>. The Draft will start at 3:00 PM Eastern Time on Saturday and will complete rounds one and two. Ball clubs will have ten minutes to make their selections in the first round and eight minutes for the second round. Sunday morning at 10:00 AM Eastern Time the Draft will continue and each team will have five minutes to make their picks. An organization going over the time limit may make their pick any time after the clock runs out, but the team(s) with the succeeding pick(s) may make their selections as their turn indicates. Compensatory picks are awarded based on a formula, the primary factor of which is a team's net losses of unrestricted free agents the previous year. These picks are added on at the end of the assigned round. As part of the collective bargaining agreement, there must be a minimum of 255 players picked at each Draft. With the compensatory picks, the Draft is actually eight rounds. These picks cannot be traded. The NFL Network and ESPN will provide television coverage.

If you have not done so, go to our website at [www.ourlads.com](http://www.ourlads.com) and read Joe Landers' study on "The Relevance of the Combine, Forecasting NFL Success with Physical Attribute Tests." Mr. Landers has been a valued contributor to our information database over the years and his extensive study is well worth the read.

Over the past few weeks, rumors about failed drug tests and other off field indiscretions have hit the airways and fan forums. As of this printing, no NFL teams or general managers have been contacted about the failed tests at the Combine. Ball clubs are still gathering information as are the security firms hired to do extensive background checks on all prospects. Complete information will be provided to the teams the week prior to the Draft. Keep in mind that all players are graded first on their ability to play their position in the NFL. Then the players are tagged and moved from the front board to a side board and may not be drafted because of injury, positive drug tests, off field nonsense, etc. For the most part, ball clubs have stacked their boards and have put up a preliminary list of players by position. Some minor massaging of their board will go on up until two days prior to the Draft. All 32 teams have a different 150 top players on their boards. Not surprisingly, each team should get their draft from their list. One player we want to add to our board is defensive tackle Vaughn Martin.

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**Vaughn Martin   Western Ontario   6027   332   5.00**

Started for three years, first at Milford Prep Academy. He tried to enroll at Michigan State but there were transcript issues. Played in junior college then played 24 games at Western Ontario. Green as a gourd. Born in Jamaica and was raised in Toronto and London Ontario. Played along the defensive front but needs technique work in every phase of his game. He was a man playing with boys. Long arms and big hands. A run player with very little pass rush ability at this point. Does not know how to use his hands to disengage the blocker. Can push the pocket with strength at this level of competition. A size/speed project with inconsistent skills and production. A developmental player that is a long shot to make it in the league. May get drafted because of the average to below average tackle group. Seventh round/priority free agent. (A-33, H-10 3/8, BP-33, 10-1.72). Final grade 3.50.

## Intriguing Prospects 2009...

By Jon Cooper

This year's draft, like every other, asks the questions: What do you do with this guy? Where does he fit in our scheme? There are a number of players this year with some outstanding qualities that may not do well in a certain system but can thrive in another. There are some players who make great role players such as a two down linebacker, a situational rusher, a possession type receiver, a special teams standout, or strictly a quality depth player. There are also a number of potential converts to another position such as defensive end to linebacker in the right system. With that in mind we will take a look at some potential converts. The usual scenario is the convert from a four man line defensive end to a 3-4 outside linebacker and in some cases the "Rush" linebacker. In today's football it is rare that an outside linebacker can get away with never being in coverage, so that is a factor in the evaluation process. The primary thing I look for in the conversion is sudden change of direction and the ability to "flatten out" against plays outside or away. In watching **Everette Brown** of Florida State I see what I'm looking for in a conversion. I also see the best pure pass rusher in the draft. He could be a 4-3 edge rusher but may project well to outside linebacker with his sudden change of direction and outstanding lateral movement. He has a great first step and initial quickness and uses his hands reasonably well to ward off blockers and shows some explosiveness attacking a block. He has limited pass cover experience but projects well in that area. How scouts view that will be critical in evaluating the type of system he should play in and what role he plays. Brown projects to a solid blitzer as he is an outstanding pass rusher with a nice array of moves. Does a nice job redirecting when moving forward and plays well in space. A talented athlete that projects as a high pick as either a defensive end or an outside linebacker. **Robert Ayers** of Tennessee has been talked about as a defensive end, a 4-3 three technique (three technique is shading the outside shoulder of the guard) and a 3-4 outside linebacker. For the most part he is a high effort guy that makes plays. Projects to a 4-3 left end or three technique as he does not show the burst of the elite pass rusher. He plays with good leverage and locates the ball well versus the run. Ayers has good strength to hold up at the point of attack and uses his hands well to stack the run. Flashes good initial quickness, change of direction, and lateral movement. Will be a good player in the right system and position. He had a good Senior Bowl week where he flashed ability in drills and team situations. **Cody Brown** of Connecticut lacks ideal size for a defensive end but has enough athletic ability to be considered for outside linebacker in a 3-4 or possibly a Sam in a 4-3. Good up field pass rush but struggles to finish. He was too easily pushed past the quarterback after an explosive first step. Did not see a good "bend and squeeze" to the quarterback. Uses his hands well to attack a blocker and has good range in pursuit. He can chase but I did not see a high energy motor. He did not locate the ball well which is a big concern if he is going to play linebacker. Did not make a lot of plays against the run and seemed to be focused on pass rush instead of making a good read of the play. Brown has athletic ability but I question his instincts to play linebacker and the bulk to play defensive end. He needs to be more physical and do a better job of finishing. **Lawrence Sidbury** of Richmond is a similar player that flashes ability but does not dominate. He has some good tools and athletic ability. Good initial quickness but lacks a variety of pass rush moves. He's not physical against the run and

*continued on page 4.*

The following free agents and cap casualties are arranged by position along with their former team. Some are likely to be playing next fall as rosters begin to take shape after the Draft. This list was prepared on April 13th. For the most up-to-date information, check out the depth charts on our website at [www.ourlads.com](http://www.ourlads.com).

Quarterbacks	
Batch, Charlie	Pittsburgh
Bollinger, Brooks	Dallas
Dorsey, Ken	Cleveland
Frerotte, Gus	Minnesota
Frye, Charlie	Seattle
Gray, Quinn	Kansas City
Green, Trent	St. Louis
Grossman, Rex	Chicago
Johnson, Brad	Dallas
Losman, JP	Buffalo
Martin, Jamie	San Francisco
Tuiasosopo, Marques	Oakland
Wright, Anthony	N.Y. Giants
Running Backs	
Bell, Tatum	Denver
Chatman, Jesse	N.Y. Jets
Droughns, Reuben	N.Y. Giants
Dunn, Warrick	Tampa Bay
Foster, DeShaun	San Francisco
Green, Ahman	Houston
Hicks, Maurice	Minnesota
Johnson, Rudi	Detroit
McAllister, Deuce	New Orleans
Minor, Travis	St. Louis
Rhodes, Dominic	Indianapolis
Stecker, Aaron	New Orleans
Fullbacks	
Goings, Nick	Carolina
Griffith, Justin	Oakland
Neal, Lorenzo	Baltimore
Pittman, Michael	Denver
Sapp, Cecil	Houston
Smith, Terrelle	Arizona
Wide Receivers	
Bennett, Drew	St. Louis
Booker, Marty	Chicago
Burress, Plaxico	N.Y. Giants
Carter, Drew	Oakland
Colbert, Keary	Detroit
Curry, Ronald	Oakland
Furrey, Mike	Detroit
Hackett, DJ	Carolina
Hall, Dante	St. Louis
Harrison, Marvin	Indianapolis
Hilliard, Ike	Tampa Bay
Holt, Torry	St. Louis
Jackson, Darrell	Denver
Jones, Matt	Jacksonville
Jurevicius, Joe	Cleveland
Lelie, Ashley	Oakland
Lloyd, Brandon	Chicago
Looker, Dane	St. Louis
McCareins, Justin	Tennessee
McDonald, Shaun	Detroit
Perry, Tab	Miami
Porter, Jerry	Jacksonville
Robinson, Koren	Seattle
Russell, Cliff	Denver
Shepherd, Edell	Denver
Toomer, Amani	N.Y. Giants
Washington, Kelley	New England
Williams, Reggie	Jacksonville
Tight Ends	
Bruener, Mark	Houston
Campbell, Mark	New Orleans
Franks, Bubba	N.Y. Jets
Jackson, Nate	Denver
Mustard, Chad	Denver
Pollard, Marcus	Atlanta
Ryan, Sean	San Francisco
Tuman, Jerame	Arizona
Wilcox, Daniel	Baltimore
Wright, George	Jacksonville

Centers	
Fowler, Melvin	Buffalo
Friedman, Lennie	Cleveland
Ghiaciuc, Eric	Cincinnati
Lehr, Matt	New Orleans
McCullum, Andy	Detroit
McKinney, Steve	Seattle
Nalen, Tom	Denver
Newberry, Jeremy	San Diego
Ruegamer, Grey	N.Y. Giants
Whitrow, Cory	St. Louis
Guards	
Bridges, Jeremy	Carolina
Gray, Chris	Seattle
Jackson, Scott	Houston
Jones, Adrian	Kansas City
Kendall, Pete	Washington
Metcalf, Terence	Chicago
Mulitalo, Edwin	Detroit
Naeole, Chris	Jacksonville
Peters, Scott	Arizona
Simmons, Kendall	Pittsburgh
Whittle, Jason	Buffalo
Tackles	
Davis, Anthony	St. Louis
Fabini, Jason	Washington
Gandy, Wayne	Atlanta
Gorin, Brandon	St. Louis
Harris, Kwame	Oakland
Jennings, Jonas	San Francisco
Miller, Fred	Chicago
Petitti, Rob	St. Louis
Runyan, Jon	Philadelphia
Salaam, Ephraim	Houston
Slaughter, Chad	Baltimore
Stokes, Barry	New England
Tauscher, Mark	Green Bay
Defensive Ends	
Babin, Jason	Kansas City
Carter, Kevin	Tampa Bay
Chukwurah, Patrick	Tampa Bay
Edwards, Kalimba	Oakland
Ekuban, Ebenezer	Denver
Engelberger, John	Denver
Hargrove, Tony	Buffalo
Holliday, Vonnie	Miami
McDougle, Jerome	N.Y. Giants
Robertson, Dewayne	Denver
Roye, Orpheus	Pittsburgh
Smith, Kenny	New England
Taylor, Jason	Washington
Thomas, Josh	Indianapolis
Weaver, Anthony	Houston
Defensive Tackles	
Allen, Kenderick	Minnesota
Glover, La'Roi	St. Louis
Lake, Antwan	New Orleans
Moore, Langston	Detroit
Reed, James	New Orleans
Shaw, Josh	Denver
Thornton, John	Cincinnati
Walker, Darwin	Carolina
Wyms, Ellis	Minnesota
Zgonina, Jeff	Houston
Outside Linebackers	
Boiman, Rocky	Kansas City
Brooks, Derrick	Tampa Bay
Campbell, Khary	Washington
Ciurciu, Vinny	Minnesota
Colvin, Rosevelt	New England
Curry, Donte	Carolina
Edwards, Donnie	Kansas City
Green, Roderick	San Francisco
Greenwood, Morlon	Houston
Harris, Marques	San Diego
Mallard, Wesly	Seattle
McClover, Darrell	Chicago
McGinest, Willie	Cleveland
Nece, Ryan	Detroit
Orr, Shantee	Cleveland
Peek, Antwan	Cleveland
Polk, Carlos	Dallas
Washington, Marcus	Washington
Inside Linebackers	
Gardner, Gilbert	Chicago
Greisen, Nick	Baltimore
Griffin, Kris	Cleveland

Harris, Napoleon	Minnesota
Kassell, Brad	N.Y. Jets
Lehman, Teddy	Buffalo
Lenon, Paris	Detroit
Scanlon, Rich	N.Y. Giants
Seau, Junior	New England
Smith, Derek	Miami
Stills, Gary	St. Louis
Thomas, Dontarrious	Minnesota
Webster, Nate	Denver
Winborn, Jamie	Denver
Cornerbacks	
Bly, Dre'	Denver
Brown, Fakhr	St. Louis
Cousin, Terry	Cleveland
Craft, Jason	St. Louis
Fletcher, Jamar	Cincinnati
Glenn, Aaron	New Orleans
Hill, Reynaldo	Tennessee
Holly, Daven	Cleveland
Jones, Pacman	Dallas
Law, Ty	N.Y. Jets
Lehan, Michael	New Orleans
Lucas, Ken	Carolina
Macklin, David	Kansas City
Madison, Sam	N.Y. Giants
Manning, Ricky	St. Louis
McAlister, Chris	Baltimore
McKenzie, Mike	New Orleans
McQuarters, RW	N.Y. Giants
O'Neal, Deltha	New England
Poole, Tyrone	Tennessee
Ratliff, Keiwan	Indianapolis
Sanders, Lewis	New England
Surtain, Patrick	Kansas City
Williams, Jimmy	Houston
Wilson, Stanley	Detroit
Safeties	
Barrett, David	N.Y. Jets
Boulware, Michael	Minnesota
Brown, Mike	Chicago
Celestin, Oliver	Kansas City
Chavous, Corey	St. Louis
Davis, Keith	Dallas
Demps, Will	Houston
Giordano, Matt	Indianapolis
Green, Mike	Washington
Harrison, Rodney	New England
Holt, Terrence	New Orleans
Jackson, Dexter	Cincinnati
Kaesviharn, Kevin	New Orleans
Knight, Sammy	N.Y. Giants
Manuel, Marquand	Denver
McCree, Marlon	Denver
McGowan, Brandon	Chicago
Milloy, Lawyer	Atlanta
Reed, JR	N.Y. Jets
Smith, Dwight	Detroit
Williams, Roy	Dallas
Worrell, Cameron	Chicago
Punters	
Berger, Mitch	Pittsburgh
Smith, Hunter	Indianapolis
Place Kickers	
Carney, John	N.Y. Giants
Gramatica, Martin	New Orleans
Stover, Matt	Baltimore
Long Snappers	
Darche, JP	Kansas City
Kyle, Jason	Carolina
Pittman, Bryan	Houston
Robinson, Jeff	Seattle

**Notes of Note:**

The East-West Shrine Game, college football's longest running all-star game, will be played in Orlando at the Florida Citrus Bowl Stadium for the next two years.

Phil Hepler, our top research and statistical analysis scout, again provides our readers with our position statistical rating that we include in the player reports. We have also listed the players by position on our website. Phil's complete formula, however, will remain sealed along with Colonel Sanders' fried chicken recipe.

**OURLADS' Annual LADDIE AWARDS...**

The LADDIES have become a regular part of our Draft coverage. We enjoy them. It's fun. Based on our discussion with subscribers, most enjoy them as well. These awards are the subjective result of a poll among 'our lads' and are for your enjoyment. And the 2009 Awards go to:

**Quarterbacks**

Cream of the Crop: **Matthew Stafford** (Georgia)  
 Arm Strength: **Michael Reilly** (Central Washington)  
 Accuracy: **Graham Harrell** (Texas Tech)  
 Touch: **Chase Daniel** (Missouri)  
 Mobility: **Pat White** (West Virginia)  
 Underappreciated: **Chase Daniel** (Missouri)  
 Combine King: **Rhett Bomar** (Sam Houston State)  
 Best All-Star Bowl Performance: **Pat White** (West Virginia)  
 Free Agent Find: **Curtis Painter** (Purdue)

**Running Backs**

Cream of the Crop: **Chris Wells** (Ohio State)  
 Fastest: **Cedric Peerman** (Virginia)  
 Hands: **Kory Sheets** (Purdue)  
 Blocker: **Tony Fiammetta** (Syracuse)  
 Moves: **Donald Brown** (Connecticut)  
 Power: **Chris Wells** (Ohio State)  
 Toughest: **Shonn Greene** (Iowa)  
 Underappreciated: **Kory Sheets** (Purdue)  
 Return Man: **Aaron Brown** (Texas Christian)  
 Combine King: **Donald Brown** (Connecticut)  
                   **Cedric Peerman** (Virginia)  
 Best All-Star Performance: **Marlon Lucky** (Nebraska)  
 Free Agent Find: **Bernard Scott** (Abilene Christian)  
                   **Jason Cook** (Mississippi)

**Wide Receivers**

Cream of the Crop: **Michael Crabtree** (Texas Tech)  
 Hands: **Hakeem Nicks** (North Carolina)  
 Fastest: **Darrius Heyward-Bey** (Maryland)  
 Routes: **Brian Robiskie** (Ohio State)  
 Blocker: **Brian Robiskie** (Ohio State)  
 Run After Catch: **Jeremy Maclin** (Missouri)  
 Return Man: **Jeremy Maclin** (Missouri)  
                   **Percy Harvin** (Florida)  
 Leaper: **Tiquan Underwood** (Rutgers)  
 Underappreciated: **Mike Wallace** (Mississippi)  
 Combine King: **Darrius Heyward-Bey** (Maryland)  
 Best All-Star Bowl Performance: **Mike Thomas** (Arizona)  
                   **Jarett Dillard** (Rice)  
                   **Juaquin Iglesias** (Oklahoma)  
 Free Agent Find: **Dudley Guice** (Northwestern St.-LA)  
                   **JaRon Harris** (South Dakota State)

**Tight Ends**

Cream of the Crop: **Brandon Pettigrew** (Oklahoma State)  
 Hands: **Chase Coffman** (Missouri)  
 Blocker: **Brandon Pettigrew** (Oklahoma State)  
                   **Anthony Hill** (North Carolina State)  
 Fastest: **Jared Cook** (South Carolina)  
 Strongest: **James Casey** (Rice)  
                   **Travis Beckum** (Wisconsin)  
 Underappreciated: **Dan Gronkowski** (Maryland)  
 Combine King: **Connor Barwin** (Cincinnati)  
                   **Jared Cook** (South Carolina)  
 Best All-Star Bowl Performance: **Shawn Nelson** (Southern Miss)  
 Free Agent Find: **Ryan Purvis** (Boston College)

**Offensive Line**

Cream of the Crop: **Andre Smith** (Alabama)  
 Feet: **Eugene Monroe** (Virginia)  
 Pass Blocker: **Eugene Monroe** (Virginia)  
 Run Blocker: **Jason Smith** (Baylor)  
 Strongest: **Louis Vasquez** (Texas Tech)  
 Toughest: **Trevor Canfield** (Cincinnati)  
 Underappreciated: **Jamon Meredith** (Mississippi)  
 Combine King: **Lydon Murtha** (Nebraska)  
 Best All-Star Bowl Performance: **Alex Mack** (California)  
 Free Agent Find: **Blake Schlueter** (Texas Christian)

**Defensive Line**

Cream of the Crop: **Peria Jerry** (Mississippi)  
 Run Stopper: **Ziggy Hood** (Missouri)  
 Pass Rusher: **Everette Brown** (Florida State)  
 Fastest: **Lawrence Sidbury** (Richmond)  
 Strongest: **Terrance Taylor** (Michigan)  
 Toughest: **Peria Jerry** (Mississippi)  
 Underappreciated: **Mitch King** (Iowa)  
                   **Dorell Scott** (Clemson)  
 Combine King: **Mike Johnson** (Georgia Tech)  
 Best All-Star Bowl Performance: **Robert Ayers** (Tennessee)  
 Free Agent Find: **Henry Melton** (Texas)

**Linebackers**

Cream of the Crop: **Aaron Curry** (Wake Forest)  
 Run Defender: **Brian Cushing** (Southern Cal)  
 Pass Coverage: **Marcus Freeman** (Ohio State)  
 Pass Rusher: **Brian Orakpo** (Texas)  
 Fastest: **Gerald McRath** (Southern Mississippi)  
 Strongest: **David Veikune** (Hawaii)  
 Toughest: **Jasper Brinkley** (South Carolina)  
 Underappreciated: **Scott McKillop** (Pittsburgh)  
 Combine King: **Connor Barwin** (Cincinnati)  
                   **Clay Matthews** (Southern Cal)  
 Best All-Star Bowl Performance: **Mike Tauiiliili** (Duke)  
 Free Agent Find: **Phillip Hunt** (Houston)

**Defensive Backs**

Cream of the Crop: **Malcolm Jenkins** (Ohio State)  
 Coverage: **Alphonso Smith** (Wake Forest)  
 Toughest: **Patrick Chung** (Oregon)  
 Fastest: **Chris Clemons** (Clemson)  
 Playmaker: **Jairus Byrd** (Oregon)  
 Return Man: **Joe Burnett** (Central Florida)  
 Leaper: **Donald Washington** (Ohio State)  
 Underappreciated: **Bradley Fletcher** (Iowa)  
 Combine King: **Vontae Davis** (Illinois)  
 Best All-Star Bowl Performance: **Keith Fitzhugh** (Mississippi State)  
 Free Agent Find: **Joe Burnett** (Central Florida)

**Place Kickers**

Cream of the Crop: **Louis Sakoda** (Utah)  
 Free Agent Find: **Sam Swank** (Wake Forest)

**Punters**

Cream of the Crop: **Kevin Huber** (Cincinnati)  
 Free Agent Find: **Justin Brantly** (Texas A&M)

**Special Teams**

Best Long Snapper: **Sean Griffin** (Michigan)

will get locked on a block. May be an outside linebacker project as he demonstrates the needed change of direction. **Aaron Maybin** of Penn State is another "flash guy" with an explosive first step and good athletic ability. He is light and relies on his quickness and athletic ability. He was too often handled by offensive lineman and did not play well versus the run as he was too often locked up or knocked around. He was a situational pass rusher for the most part, so he played with good energy and showed a nice burst off the edge. Could project as an outside linebacker with his frame and athletic ability. Will need a lot of work in coverage as there was no exposure in that area. He has questionable instincts versus the run. Good potential as a pass rusher and that, along with his athletic ability, make him a worthy project for the right team. He is talked about by some as a first round pick, but I think that is a major reach. **Brian Orakpo**, defensive end from Texas, was a bit of an enigma when I studied him. He showed all the tools of an elite prospect with initial quickness and excellent agility as he adjusted well in space and when moving up field in the pass rush. Also showed fluid change of direction when flattening out versus the outside run. However, he was inconsistent finishing having some big games and some very quiet games. Against Ohio State he did not make a play until the very end. Did not consistently do a good job of bend and squeeze to the quarterback in the pass rush and seemed content to run up field quickly and get ridden out. Needs some technique work in the pass rush area. Out in the open with a clear path he is outstanding. He can chase and play in space. When he does not beat the blocker with initial quickness he has trouble. Lacks good shed ability as he does not use his hands well. Has struggles to get off a block. He is a good conversion project to a 3-4 outside linebacker as his movement skills are what you look for in a linebacker. Athletic ability makes him a first round pick, but he needs work. **Larry English** of Northern Illinois is a player we have studied a lot and still are not sure where he projects best. We had hoped to see him at outside linebacker at the Senior Bowl but I did not see him in that role. He looked good at defensive end displaying decent agility for the position and the ability to react to outside runs. Had a nice burst around the corner and the ability to bend and squeeze in the pass rush. Used his hands well versus the run and demonstrated a quick punch and shed. At times he was stuck on the block as he lacks ideal bulk and explosiveness. Lacks elite power and size for a defensive end and I am not sure he is a conversion project. In watching game tape he was a little hesitant in some reactions and was not as fluid as I would like in a potential linebacker conversion. He struggled against some of the top competition as well. Plays with a lot of energy and has a great motor. He shows the ability and burst to close in pursuit and is around the ball a lot. He may lack the overall athleticism to convert to a 3-4 linebacker and the size to play defensive end. I believe he has a chance to develop into a solid NFL player. He has enough athletic ability to warrant a look at outside linebacker. English is a classic "tweener" that may or may not have a position. He definitely has pass rush tools and should contribute in that area. He is a tough call and it will be interesting to see where he goes and how high.

At linebacker there are several outstanding prospects. USC had four prospects and three could go in the first round. **Brian Cushing** has what you look for as an outside linebacker as he is athletic and physical. He can run and play over a tight end so he could play in a 3-4 or as a Sam in a 4-3. A little tight in some movements but overall shows top end linebacker technique and skill. Should be a first round pick. Durability is a question. **Clay Mathews** is an extremely high motor linebacker that can play any linebacker position and be effective. Showed very well at the Senior Bowl and demonstrated his versatility. He demonstrated good coverage skill even though he has limited experience as he was used as a rush linebacker/defensive end in the USC scheme. He plays well in space and shows good agility and a burst in pursuit. Instinctive and did a nice job fitting the hole. This is a quality prospect that will be a player in any system. **Kaluka Maiava** is another outside prospect that is down the line but has good athletic ability. He is undersized and is not a good take on guy. He is at his best in space and in pursuit. Not extremely instinctive but has good cover skills and could play a Will in a Tampa two scheme. He is limited but

could be a quality backup/special teams player. **Ray Mauluga** is a physical inside "thumper" that reminds us of Jeremiah Trotter. Moves well laterally but is a little stiff and does not always show good instincts and ability to redirect. He is solid taking on blocks and sheds well. Solid physical tackler that makes a lot of plays in line. Not great in coverage as he does not react well on the throw or get quickly in his drop. He has good speed to chase and makes a lot of plays. **Marcus Freeman** of Ohio State is another somewhat undersized linebacker with rare athletic ability. He projects as a Will in a 4-3 scheme. Sudden change of direction and a burst to close makes him a top prospect. He is instinctive and does a nice job in coverage as he shows good zone awareness. Reacts well on the thrown ball and covers a lot of ground. He will run around a block and get out of position at times, but makes plays avoiding blocks going "back door". Size is a factor but he should be a first day pick. **Scott McKillop** of Pittsburgh is a linebacker with average athletic ability but gets by on outstanding instincts and technique. He is a smart tough player that fits the hole well and is adequate in coverage. May be a two down prospect as the speed of the NFL may be too much. He's a little stiff in change of direction and will miss a tackle. Has excellent linebacker technique, using his hands well and taking good pursuit angles. Very good college linebacker that may not project as well on the next level. He is a high motor player that will have to make it on great effort and instincts.

On offense, the quarterback position has some outstanding players and there are some interesting guys as to how they might fit. **Graham Harrell**, quarterback from Texas Tech, played in a shotgun spread that emphasized quick throws. In watching him at the Senior Bowl he was trying to adapt to the NFL style offense. He holds the ball high initially in his drop and then it drops as he is moving. His release tends to be 3/4 and he is a little awkward in his motion. He does have a quick release and throws a nice ball. Somewhat mechanical in movements but threw with good velocity on the intermediate passes. Did not display mobility but had good pocket presence. He was a productive system quarterback that has a lot of questions as an NFL quarterback. **Rhett Bomar**, quarterback of Sam Houston St., was a transfer from Oklahoma that had some issues but he has some good quarterback tools. Nice fluid drop and mechanics. Good release point with poise in the pocket. Drops to 3/4 at times but this does not seem to affect him. Shows the ability to take off when receivers are covered. He has a quick release and good velocity and arm strength. Was accurate for the most part but tends to lock on receivers and does not see the field well. Put some balls in tight spaces in the middle of the field. Needs work on reading coverage as he will struggle with NFL pass defense. He has tools but it is questionable if he can develop into a quality pro. **Cullen Harper** from Clemson is another quarterback that played in a non-NFL offense for the most part. Had some injuries as a senior so missed some time. He is deliberate in his reads and will hold the ball too long on intermediate throws. Will also eyeball his receivers and needs work reading NFL defenses. A little awkward and mechanical, but he can get away from the rush as he has good mobility. Lacks good deep arm strength and is at his best accurately throwing the short pass routes.

At wide receiver, **Jeremy Maclin** of Missouri is considered a top prospect due to his speed, production, and kick return ability. A closer look reveals a guy that has excellent run after catch ability and good hands. You must be careful not to include his return skills in evaluating him as a receiver because he needs some work to be a top NFL specialist. He does not run great routes and does not catch the ball well in a crowd. He is best in the open or catching the short ball and running. In the NFL he will need to run good intermediate routes to be a complete receiver. You have to like his game breaking potential, but he will have to develop NFL skills. **Brian Robiske** of Ohio State is the opposite. He has strong route running skills and knows how to get open. He is more athletic than he looks on tape and has decent speed. Not a run after catch guy but has outstanding hands and will fit as a possession receiver. He is the son of a coach and it shows in his understanding of the game. Can also block and has a strong work ethic.