

PRO FOOTBALL

Bears

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12½ minutes of what club President Michael McCaskey called "pulling and tugging different ways" in the Bears' Halas Hall draft room in Lake Forest.

In the second round, the Bears also missed out on a trade for Gordon and took SMU wide receiver Ron Morris, who is coming off arthroscopic knee surgery and a tangled web of agents.

Ditka, who had expressed only mild enthusiasm for quarterbacks and receivers before the draft, quipped: "We've done a good job of confusing you and us."

Ditka had to wait until the fourth round to start improving his depth on defense. The Bears had already traded their third-round pick to the Los Angeles Rams to obtain Flutie.

In the fourth, the Bears used their pick from the Rams in the Flutie deal to take Grambling defensive end Sean Smith.

They traded their own fourth to the Raiders for an extra fifth and a sixth. They took Oklahoma defensive end Steve Bryan and Northeast Louisiana defensive end Will Johnson.

The hope is that at least one will serve Ditka's purpose as a backup.

In the sixth, they took Baylor center John Adickes. In the seventh, they took William & Mary offensive lineman Archie Harris.

While the pick of Harbaugh appeared to underscore the expanding role of McCaskey in every aspect of his organization, even McCaskey said everyone was disappointed that things fell the way they did.

"We were hoping for a quarterback in the second round and a defensive lineman in the first round," McCaskey said.

McCaskey had said in January the Bears definitely would draft a quarterback somewhere. Neither McCaskey nor Tobin had been as convinced about Flutie's potential as Ditka was and still is.

If Ditka lost a skirmish on Tuesday, Flutie may have lost a bigger battle, and Tomczak and Fuller may have lost their last battles in Chicago.

The Bears said a trade is not on the horizon for any of their quarterbacks, especially McMahon.

Tobin said no one has called and no one will call until McMahon can prove he can throw. If he can throw, he is expected to start for the Bears.

"He's our quarterback if he can play," Tobin said. "Any discussion I've been in on here, he's the No. 1 guy."

Ditka sounded more convinced than Tobin that McMahon will be healthy.

"I've seen Jim; I've talked to Jim. He's taking the approach recommended to him by his doctors. It's sound and intelligent," Ditka said.

Ditka reiterated support for Flutie.

"I did not misjudge Flutie," Ditka said. "Maybe other people think I have within and without the organization. I did not misjudge Doug Flutie. I stand on that and back that and we'll see what the competition is."

McMahon and Flutie could not be reached for comment.

"I wasn't surprised," Tomczak said. "I experienced a lot in two years with the Bears. But it does cause a little bit of concern."

"I can't imagine them taking all five of us to training camp," Fuller said.

The Bears have liked Harbaugh throughout his steady, productive Big Ten career. But other factors led to them making him the 26th pick of the day and the first player to draw gasps from the experts on ESPN, which was televising it live.

McMahon is recovering from major shoulder surgery. His doctor, Frank Jobe, reports he is pleased with his progress, but McMahon will not be able to throw a football hard until June or July.

The Bears had Harbaugh rated behind Miami's Vinny Testaverde and Oregon's Chris Miller. They thought he might last until the second round, when the Bears had the 54th pick overall.

But when St. Louis surprisingly drafted Colorado State quarterback Kelly Stouffer with the sixth pick and Atlanta took Miller 13th, it suddenly became the year of the quarterback instead of the year of the linebacker. Tampa Bay took Testaverde first.

The Bears tried to trade up from their 26th place in the second round to get Gordon, but the New York Jets outbid them and took him with the Los Angeles Raiders' 14th pick.

Ditka said Morris was rated the Bears' second-best wide receiver behind North Carolina State's first-rounder Haywood Jeffries.

Morris said he escaped the NCAA violations that cost SMU its football program for next year. He said he also has escaped his association with agent Norby Walters, who is suing several players for walking out on contracts after Walters claims he paid them.

The Bears said they researched the Walters' involvement and were satisfied there was no problem. When they drafted him, they assumed Walters still represented Morris. They later learned his agent is Steve Endicott of Dallas.

Harbaugh came with no agent attached. He said his father, Pitt assistant Jack Harbaugh, and Michigan coach Bo Schembechler advised him to wait.

Harbaugh spotty in media debut

By Mike Kiley

Bears President Michael McCaskey brought a new blue-and-orange jersey to present to Jim Harbaugh Tuesday in front of the media, but the star from the maize-and-blue of Michigan would have preferred a helmet.

His face looked as if the New York Giants had just finished with him. The lumps and bumps were the result of an attack of chicken pox, a childish disease that made the big, bad quarterback sheepish about facing his first day on the job in Chicago.

"You don't want me to come there. I look terrible," Harbaugh said when the Bears told their No. 1 draft pick to catch a plane as soon as possible from his family home in Kalamazoo, Mich., and report to Lake Forest.

The Bears insisted that they wanted to show him off anyway. And so Harbaugh hurried to the bathroom, where he carefully shaved a four-day growth of beard he had allowed to camouflage his mottled mug.

"You guys might get more from Jim than you bargained for," teased Jack Harbaugh, a proud papa who has believed for a long time his son was a bear to beat in whatever sport he tried.

The Harbaughs watched the draft on TV. Jim was in his pajamas, sitting with mom and dad as well as his sister and girl-

friend. He had driven home from Ann Arbor Monday night.

"I looked over at him about the middle of the first round and he had fallen asleep," Jack Harbaugh said. "But when the phone rang a while later, he jumped up."

"We didn't know who he was talking to. We heard him say, 'I'd love to play for your team.' Then silence."

"He finally cupped his hand over the mouthpiece and said, 'It's Michael McCaskey from the Bears. He says they're thinking of drafting me, but to hold on because it's down to me and another player.' It seemed like it took a day until we heard something again."

After the board-room consensus swung to Harbaugh over linebacker Alex Gordon, who would be drafted in the second round by the Jets, the news was relayed from McCaskey. Jim let his family know by giving them a thumbs-up sign.

"Pandemonium broke out," Jack Harbaugh said, speaking by phone. "He never thought he'd have to go somewhere today. He came home with only the clothes on his back. He didn't have much to wear to Chicago."

But the Bears took him for what's inside—a lot of heart—not his external appearance.

"The Bears are really special," Jack Harbaugh said. "I felt even before they took him that the

Bears and Michigan had many parallels.

"I look at Michigan coach Bo Schembechler and I see [Bears coach] Mike Ditka. Both are winners who demand a lot of respect and who respect players who give the work ethic they give. Jim will do that."

"Michigan is a place where you aren't a success unless you win the Big 10 and win the Rose Bowl. The Bears have to win the Super Bowl to feel they have succeeded."

Jack Harbaugh explained that his son isn't plotting the overthrow of Jim McMahon, Doug Flutie, Mike Tomczak or Steve Fuller. He advised not to expect Jim to issue any rash statements in this regard.

"We stepped down to the basement alone for a moment after it happened," Jack said, "and I said, 'Jim, what do you really think?' He said—and this is the truth—I just want to go there and compete and contribute, and maybe play someday."

"That's what Chicago will see from him. He's never been interested in individual accomplishments. Never worried about how many passes he threw and completed."

"He's very team-oriented and will be very loyal to the Bears' organization. Whatever Ditka asks, he'll do. He'll dedicate himself as much as possible to

helping any way he can to get the Bears back to the Super Bowl."

"That means, if he's the best of the quarterbacks, he'll play. And if he can only help now as a scout-team quarterback or whatever, he'll do that."

Bill Tobin, the Bears' player personnel director, noted that it shows in Harbaugh's disciplined play that "he's a coach's son."

Jack Harbaugh was an assistant to Schembechler at Michigan for seven years before moving in 1979 to an assistant's job at Stanford for two years. He then was head coach at Western Michigan for five years and currently is an aide at the University of Pittsburgh.

"Jim went to the Rose Bowl when he was 9 years old," Harbaugh said about one of his successful years with the Wolverines. "We took the whole family, and I remember Jim telling me, 'I'll be here playing someday.'"

"Now it didn't work out this year like he wanted [Michigan lost to Arizona State in the Rose Bowl]. But the thing is, he has a great imagination."

"We in coaching call it visualization. Jim can picture himself being successful. The idea he has a chance to go to the Super Bowl next season... well, he'll do whatever it takes."

Music to Ditka's ears. Now if everyone else will hum along.

In NFC Central, every team's a winner

By Don Pierson

Faced with stopping Vinny Testaverde, Brent Fullwood and D.J. Dozier twice a year, it is no wonder Bears coach Mike Ditka wanted to improve his defense in Tuesday's National Football League draft.

The price of dominating the National Football Conference Central Division for the last three years was to watch lowly division rivals stock up on high draft choices.

Tampa Bay landed Testaverde, who was the best quarterback in the draft, and a load of other prospects in later rounds.

Green Bay took the top halfback in Auburn's Fullwood with the fourth pick in the first round.

Minnesota traded up to 14th to

grab Penn State's versatile running back Dozier.

Detroit, picking seventh, opted for top-rated defensive end Reggie Rogers of Washington.

"I like them all," said Bill Tobin, the Bears' player personnel director.

"We really have our work cut out for us," Ditka said.

Keeping an eye on NFC Central rivals is vital in draft strategy. When the Bears surprised everyone by taking William "the Refrigerator" Perry in 1985, they explained they simply didn't like the idea of lining up against him twice a year. They were confident the Vikings were poised to take him.

Half the Bears' games every year are against the same four op-

ponents. Controlling the division is the only way to advance to the playoffs.

Tobin said Mississippi State's Don Smith was drafted by Tampa Bay in the second round as a quarterback backup for Testaverde after the Bears beat the Bucs to Michigan quarterback Jim Harbaugh.

Smith had been projected as a possible running back but sent a telegram Monday to warn teams he would go to Canada if the NFL didn't let him try quarterback.

Tampa Bay also drafted Miami linebacker Winston Moss, a player the Bears thought might become the kind of pass rusher they were seeking.

Tobin said Green Bay's third

round, consisting of Iowa offensive tackle Dave Croston, Arizona State linebacker Scott Stephen and Ft. Hays wide receiver Frankie Neal, was outstanding. He also liked Packer second-round linebacker Johnny Holland of Texas A&M.

Detroit buoyed its defense by draft nose tackle Jerry Ball of SMU in the third round and safety Garland Rivers of Michigan in the fourth.

Tobin said Minnesota also helped its defense with Baylor linebacker Ray Berry, LSU defensive tackle Henry Thomas and Georgia Tech defensive back Reggie Rutland in the second, third and fourth rounds, respectively.

Lincicome

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no bargain.

If Harbaugh becomes the new McMahon, though without McMahon's personality flaws, McCaskey may claim sole possession of the body.

"Jim McMahon is a tough quarterback," said Harbaugh. "I like to think of myself in that same mold."

"Whatever it takes to move the chains, get a first down. Sometimes you have to roll out, run the ball, take a hit, whatever it takes."

That philosophy is exactly why McMahon is now under repair, of course, his condition widely regretted and of enough concern to Tobin and Ditka that they were not about to cut their wrists over getting Harbaugh instead of a defensive lineman in the first round.

"Harbaugh has Bear mettle," said Tobin, or maybe he said "bare metal." He didn't spell it.

"You win and you stay on top with defense," Ditka said. "You gotta keep building your defense. You can't let people get old in one area and that's all we're trying to do."

The Bears did get some defensive linemen later in rounds higher than they found Richard Dent.

Nothing is wrong with the Bears' strategy of getting another quarter-

back. Even if McMahon recovers perfectly, he has other ball joints and major organs that have not been injured to initiate.

The only real question is if this is the best quarterback the Bears could get and did they have to spend so much for him. Harbaugh has an ordinary arm, and he directed a prehistoric offense at Michigan, not that either disqualifies him as a Bear quarterback.

"We were hoping to pick up a quarterback in the second round," said McCaskey. "We wish there hadn't been three quarterbacks picked ahead of us."

Only one of those three—Vinnie Testaverde—is an authentic No. 1 choice. The others—Kelly Stouffer of Colorado State and Chris Miller of Oregon—were, like Harbaugh, picked in the first round because the quality of this draft is as shabby as any in memory.

As a bonus, keeping things tidy, the Bears added another quarterback with an infirmity to their ranks.

Harbaugh has the chicken pox, an ugly problem but not one so severe it kept Harbaugh from appearing in public.

Flutie will always be in miniature and McMahon is coming off rotator cuff surgery.

The least the Bears can be sure of is that Harbaugh's face will clear up.

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