



Form Went Out the Window

By George Usher

Auburn running back Bo Jackson went first to Tampa Bay, and Oklahoma nose tackle Tony Casillas went second to Atlanta in yesterday's 51st NFL draft of college players at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in Manhattan. Then came the surprises, the wheeling and dealing, and a few stunners sure to make this one of the more memorable drafts.

There were trades galore. Nine were made through the first three rounds, six by the 49ers. San Francisco, in addition to its five trades involving draft picks, also traded backup quarterback Matt Cavanaugh to the Philadelphia Eagles for a pair of draft choices.

The first player from a Canadian college ever taken in the first round — tackle Mike Schad of Queen's University — went to the Los Angeles Rams, and Mike Ruth, a nose tackle from Boston College who has said he intends to become a priest, was picked by the New England Patriots in the second round.

The biggest shocker came in the first round when the St. Louis Cardinals, picking fifth, selected Michigan State linebacker Anthony Bell, a 6-3, 228-pounder. Most draft prognosticators believed that Bell was weak on reading defenses and would go in the second round at best, but more likely in the later rounds.

"I was shocked," said Bell in a telephone interview. "I was thinking about the first round, but not that high. I was really shocked. I told my friends to come over at nine o'clock to watch it on TV and by the time they got there [8:42], I was already picked."

The selection of Bell by the Cardinals overshadowed some other first-

round shockers. Iowa tackle Mike Haight (Jets) and Pittsburgh defensive end Bob Buczkowski (Raiders) were not expected to go high in the draft, let alone the first round.

One of the most talked-about occurrences at draft headquarters was the fact that several players who had been highly rated by scouts went lower than expected. Most notable among those were running backs Neal Anderson of Florida and Garry James of Louisiana State, who had been considered by some scouts to be the second- and third-best backs after Jackson.

Anderson, although a first-rounder, was the last pick, or 28th, by the Bears, and James went second in the second round to the Detroit Lions. Interestingly, Iowa running back Ronnie Harmon,

who played at Bayside High School, was picked ahead of both, 16th by the Buffalo Bills. While Harmon had been projected as a high second-round pick, his ability as a special-teams player and a back who can run, block, catch and pass increased his value.

A couple of other players who were expected to go in the first round but didn't were Illinois wide receiver David Williams and Florida linebacker Alonzo Johnson. Williams went at the end of the third round, the 83rd player taken, to the Bears, while Johnson was picked by the Eagles in the second round, the 48th player selected.

Williams' 4.58 speed, average by pro standards, may have hurt him. There were published reports that Johnson had tested positive for drugs at the re-

cent NFL scouting combine. Johnson's agent, Tom Toner, has sent a letter to all 28 clubs, saying his client would submit to random drug testing.

Johnson's weight has dropped from 222 to 206 pounds, but Eagles coach Buddy Ryan said last week in Philadelphia that his weight didn't matter if he wanted to play football. "If he gets himself in shape to play, and wants to be on this team," Ryan said. "If he doesn't, he'll be cut."

Another surprise was that Brigham Young quarterback Robbie Bosco, a first-round projection, went in the third round to Green Bay following lesser-rated quarterbacks Hugh Millen of Washington (Rams) and Northeast Louisiana's Walter Brister (Steelers).

Bills Take Harmon in 1st Round

Ron Harmon, says his former coach at Bayside High School, can throw a football 70 yards, can play every position and should have been drafted by the Jets. Well, Buffalo isn't Hempstead, but Harmon isn't complaining.

Harmon, who last fall became the second player at the University of Iowa ever to rush for more than 1,000 yards in a season, was picked by the Buffalo Bills yesterday in the first round of the NFL draft. The 16th player selected, he was the third running back picked, following No. 1 choice Bo Jackson of Auburn (Tampa Bay) and the No. 10 pick, Keith Byars of Ohio State (Philadelphia).

"If I was around a little longer, I might have gone to the Jets," said Harmon, "but I feel happy and enthused about the whole situation because I'm

getting a chance to help a team in a rebuilding stage, and I'll be close to home."

Tony Yacovone won the New York City public-schools championship three straight years with Harmon on his roster. "He was the most versatile athlete in football we ever had," said Yacovone, who also coached Harmon's brother, Derrick, a running back with the San Francisco 49ers. "I'm just disappointed the Jets didn't get a shot at him."

Besides being Iowa's second-leading rusher with 2,271 career yards and No. 2 scorer with 192 points, Harmon is the Hawkeyes' all-time leading receiver, with 146 catches for 2,045 yards. Harmon, who says he was surprised to be drafted in the first round, is expected

to sign quickly with the Bills.

Detroit used a fourth-round pick to take Devon Mitchell, who played for Tilden High in Brooklyn. His 18 career interceptions tied the Iowa record held by Nile Kinnick, the 1939 Heisman Trophy winner.

Long Wait for Ehrhardt

Seven rounds had gone by and Rhode Island quarterback Tom Ehrhardt of Flushing, a 6-3, 205-pounder, still had not been selected. Ehrhardt, who played for Holy Cross High School and broke many of Doug Flutie's New England passing records, said he expected to be a late-round choice. . . . Syracuse kicker Don McAulay of East Islip was selected by New England in the 12th round with the 332nd (next-to-last) pick in the draft. — George Usher

Jets' Beef Up Line With Top 2 Picks

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massive physical specimen. He has good athletic ability with great feet for pass-blocking. He's very strong, and he can be a devastating run-blocker."

Asked if new offensive line coach Dan Radakovich had any input in determining the selections, Hickey said, "I don't know, but he's jumping up and down right now with a banner saying, 'Thank you!'"

Two players who may not share that enthusiasm over the top two rookies are starting tackles Marvin Powell, who has played in five Pro Bowls, and Reggie McElroy, who is a free agent attempting to negotiate a new contract. Now, they must compete for their jobs with Haight, Williams and left guard Jim Sweeney, who will be tried at left tackle in a training-camp experiment.

"We're going to pick the five best [interior] linemen," Walton said. "I think these two [Haight and Williams] will be competitive and challenge for a starting job."

Haight is the third offensive lineman from Iowa to be drafted in the first round in the past four years, following Green Bay's Ron Hallstrom and John Alt of Kansas City. But unlike his Hawkeye predecessors, Haight had no clue how interested the Jets were. He was watching the draft on TV with his wife and parents in Iowa City and charting the selections, but he figured there were several linemen who would be picked ahead of him.

"I got a phone call with four minutes

left before the Jets put it on TV," Haight said. "They said, 'We're interested in you, and we'd like to have you be our first pick.' Right then, I started shaking."

Ordinarily, the Jets shy away from players who have experienced injury problems. Haight began suffering from serious back spasms after the third game of his junior season and missed considerable practice time. But he somehow managed to play every

game, and he had no back problems as a senior.

"I couldn't get any movement," Haight said of his injury. "I had trouble standing up, sitting down and bending over. I basically had to suck it up and go out and play."

That kind of durability impressed the Jets, who flew Haight in for a thorough physical examination before the draft and pronounced him sound. The fact that Haight had just one holding

penalty last season protecting Iowa quarterback Chuck Long also did not go unnoticed. But after watching O'Brien go down under the enemy rush 62 times last season, the real clincher may have been Haight's attitude toward pass protection.

"The biggest thing is that I showed I hate being beaten," Haight said. "I get very mad at myself, but I don't blame anybody but myself."

The Jets love it.

Giants Stockpile Defensive Talent

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backer Pepper Johnson and Arkansas safety Greg Lasker. In the third round, they plucked defensive end John Washington of Oklahoma State.

"I'm a defensive coach, remember," Parcels said. Who could forget?

With no fourth-round pick (they sent it to the Raiders in last summer's Ted Watts deal), the Giants waited until rounds five and six to give Phil Simms more alternatives to Lionel Manuel. Wanting a speedy wideout, the Giants took Vince Warren of San Diego State, who has a time of 4.56 seconds in the 40-yard dash, Ron Brown of Colorado (4.42) with the sixth-round pick from Denver and Solomon Miller of Utah State (4.5).

Although the Giants raised a few questions yesterday, they answered two. They were:

• Haynes was going to continue to

be a problem the Giants didn't need. Haynes, 27, was a three-time Pro Bowler, but the Giants were embittered by his holdout last year (and agent Howard Slusher's histrionics throughout it) and decided after his limited contribution — one start — to deal him. "The waiting game was tough," Denver general manager John Beake said, "but the Giants were patient with us." The Giants originally wanted safety Dennis Smith, which Denver wouldn't part with. Then they wanted a No. 1 draft pick in 1986, which Denver didn't have. Then they wanted in excess of two No. 2 picks. Monday night, Beake called Young at the Giants' draft headquarters and made a deal in principle.

Haynes, who would have sat rather than play for \$440,000 with the Giants this year, was thrilled. His wife is a Denver East High grad, he went to

Colorado, and he loves the Rockies. "My wife jumped nine feet in the air," Haynes said. "Obviously, the relationship that was created last year couldn't be tolerated again this year. This is the best thing for everyone. It's time to move on to the next chapter in my life."

• The Giants had enough of Zimmerman's I-Hate-New York act. There was no guarantee the talented guard would play for the Giants this year anyway, and Minnesota drooled over him all weekend. "The biggest thing," said Vikings coach Jerry Burns, "is he can step in and play for us tomorrow." If he gets his USFL contract mess cleaned up; he's signed a contract with Memphis but claims it's invalid. Said Young: "I frankly wished the player wanted to play here. He was a quality player. But we had to take the bird in the hand." The two birds, really.