

2018 Colonel J's NFL Mock Draft

1. Cleveland Browns - Sam Darnold - (USC)

Sam Darnold is the pick and has been the pick. Time to douse the flames and blow out the smoke. I'll be honest I'm waiting for a team to tweet out a picture of Darnold in a bong gas masks in order to get him to slide, but I don't think that's happening to this squeaky clean kid. Tonight will be just time to put pen to paper. Darnold has all the intangibles you want in a qb, zero durability issues and the mental makeup to handle being the number 1 overall pick for THE CLEVELAND BROWNS. 20-4 as the starter at USC and a Rose Bowl to boot this kid is a great football player. It's true he's knocked for his turnovers, but he also threw 31 TDs against 9 picks in 2016 and 26 tds to 13 picks with a shaky oline in 2017. Will he be successful in Cleveland or will he be just another name on that crazy twitter lady's long jersey? I think he has a shot - but let's be honest this is the Browns and Hugh Jackson is still the coach. Good luck Sammy!

2. New York Giants - Saquon Barkley, RB - (Penn State)

After I made this pick Sfeld Services called me and said I'm staring to feel QB now to the Giants at 2. Well folks if Barkley isn't the pick and it's a QB here you can all save yourselves allot of time not reading this crap just enjoy draft ☺. I feel Barkely is the pick because he's the missing piece to what should be a juggernaut offense. Add in Nate Solder to help solidify a shaky o-line along with some future o-line picks over the next few days and the Giants will once again be a dangerous threat in the NFC.

3. New York Jets (via Indianapolis Colts) - Josh Rosen, QB (UCLA)

Purest passer in the draft. This kid has a chance to be good. But is he Bo Calahan? How many people really did come to his birthday party?! We will never know but we do know he's got the swag to deal it out in this league. The real question is can he take it. He seems like Mr. Glass not only for his multiple concussions and injury ridden history, but unlike Darnold I can see this kid cracking under the pressure and loosing it - especially if he's dealing with the New York Media. Jay Cutler is a rightful comparison.

4. **TRADE Buffalo Bills (via Cleveland Browns via Houston Texans) - Josh Allen (Wyoming)**

Yes Yes Yes! Circle the Wagon Bills Fans! This kid just seemed born to be the quarterback for the Buffalo Bills. A farm boy, cold weather baller who can throw a strawberry through a battleship to quote Rex Ryan. Can't wait to watch him sailing 70 yard bombs in a blizzard. Against the fins ☺ Sorry Geller. Guarantee he'll be carded on Franklin St. for his entire career in Buffalo though. You'll need to grow a beard Josh!

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5. **Denver Broncos Bradely Chubb, DE (NC State)**
Denver sprints to the podium to turn their card in and can't believe their luck. I hate Elway – but with getting Keenum on the cheap this franchise has the ability to do some damage with a good draft this year. Replenishing the defense with a blue chipper like Chubb is a great start. I'd look for Denver to go running back Round 2 and possibly trade up for one late in the first potentially or move up early second.

6. **Indianapolis Colts (via New York Jets) – Quenton Nelson, G (Notre Dame)** Now we come to it. This is where there is potential to blow the freaking roof of the draft and shock the world. Would Indy be so bold to take a quarterback here? From my inside sources in Luck is not doing well, and the nerve damage in his shoulder isn't healing. Having said that I'll chance it and say I don't see them moving on a QB here, but Lamar Jackson on turf (have mercy!). Instead I see them addressing a desperate need and that is getting someone to protect whoever the quarterback is. Sources have also told me that the hype on Nelson is legit and they haven't seen a guy like him in 10+ years,. Look for multiple high round o-line picks from Indy in this draft and a running back early too.

7. **Trade Arizona (via Tampa Bay) – Lamar Jackson, QB (Louisville)**
Tampa picks up the 15th, 47th and 182nd pick from Arizona. FINALLY!
Arizona is high fiving in the war room after getting sniped one pick away last year by the Texans for Deshaun Watson. Not many people I know would have expected Jackson to go in the top 10 but I think his athletic abilities and high ceiling will have teams like the desperate Cardinals ready to make the move. In other news Sammy Two Sleeves will continue to pocket large amounts of cash, 20 million to be exact for only a few Sunday worth of work, damn it feels good to be a gangsta. Cools I hope for your sake it's the Dolphins trading up to get him here, because that would be magical.

8. **Chicago Bears – Roquon Smith, LB (Alabama)**
If the Bears somehow manage to get Minkah Fitzpatrick someone better check on SSS and the party that will be thrown in Johnston tonight. But Pace needs to make the smart play here and address Chicago's greatest position of need with the best LB in the draft. I love this pick for the bears. The athleticism and ability to go sideline to sideline will really allow Fangio to dial up some creativity in the defense with this pick.

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9. San Francisco 49ers – Mike McGlinchey T (Notre Dame)

Protect the franchise! San Fran knows that it needs Jimmy G upright to win and with Joe Staley nearing the shores this seems like the right pick here.

10. Oakland Raiders – Minkah Fitzpatrick DB (Alabama)

Although it's not the greatest position of need for the Raiders and they have drafted safeties high lately, I feel like with Minkah Fitzpatrick staring you dead in the face, all you need to do is say yes. Take the best player available here and the best center-fielding safety in the NFL will pay many dividends over time for years to come.

11. Miami Dolphins – Baker Mayfield, QB (Oklahoma)

It's Stellar Geller Time Y'all! Gase is ready to move on from Tannehill and all his injuries and actually have a durable quarterback for once that can last a full season. Well now that I've just said that and we are drafting a 6 foot mobile qb, wait what?! But he's tough folks. No I do really like Baker Mayfield and think he just needs to be coached in the right system, and there is no better offensive mind than Adam Gase. Anyone remember changing the offense during the season on the fly in Denver for Tim Tebow who couldn't throw, and they went and won in the playoffs?! Mayfield you could say slips a bit but ends up in a great situation in Miami where Gase puts his stamp on the team this year. This kid is sure fun to watch and will have the time of his life in South Florida. Drew Brees comparisons could be warranted for Mayfield - the kid can sure play and I wouldn't want to scheme against him defensively.

12. Cleveland Browns –Denzel Ward, CB (Ohio State)

The hiring of Scot McCloughan is paying off with the Factory Of Sadness starting to actually put some pieces together. Nabbing the draft's top corner in Ward is pretty ok. Don't let his size fool you – he can stay right in the hip pocket of receivers, plays physical and is blazing fast!

13. Washington Redskins – Da'Ron Payne, DT (Alabama)

Stuff the run in the middle? Check. Get outside to stop stretch plays? Check. Get after the passer? Check. Payne is an immovable object and with the 31st ranked run defense last year – the Redskins need a big plug. He can play nose in base and move outside in nickel. Watching his highlights reminds me of Warren Sapp. Note: Atlanta desperately I feel wants to move up for Payne, could be a possible trade early on.

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14. Green Bay Packers – Derwin James, S (Florida State)

Another Florida State Dog. Florida State has become DB U. It's incredible the level of skill and talent this school has put out. Xavier Rhodes, Lamarcus Joyner, Jalen Ramsey and now Derwin James. The Packers secondary was an area in need of upgrading and although corner could be the most glaring issue pairing Derwin James with Ha Ha is a formidable foe when you're an offense in the NFC North now having to face them.

15. TRADE Pittsburgh Steelers (via Tampa Bay) – Tremaine Edmunds, LB (Virginia Tech)

Tampa trades back again to stock pile picks, and the Steelers jump at the chance of seeing an unexpected slide take place on who some consider the best linebacker in the draft. With a dire position of need in replacing the injured Ryan Shazier the Steelers grab a 19 year old phenom with a rare combination of size, speed and athleticism.

16. Baltimore Ravens – Mike Gesicki, TE

Baltimore lands in my opinion the best most freakish tight end since Jimmy Graham. This kid is a stud who's crazy athletic, has great hands and is a monster redzone target. The patriots were trying to move up to grab him with Tampa but Pittsburgh gave them a better deal

17. Los Angeles Chargers – Vita Vae, DT (Washington).

The chargers need help against the run and drafting a disruptive force in the middle would be a great piece for this defense that is on its way to becoming elite. Vae is a more talented version of Washington's last Dt picked in the first round - Danny Shelton.

18. TRADE New England Patriots (via Seattle Seahawks) – Harold Landry, DE/OLB (Boston College)

New England gives up the 63 overall pick to move up, but they have to have a pass rush something that was clearly absent last year and frankly ever since they let Chandler Jones go. Many are calling Landry the purest pass rusher of the entire draft. Seattle needing to stock pile picks with no second or third round picks, picks up a second here. I believe they also could have take Landry here but needed picks more.

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19. Dallas Cowboys – Rashaan Evans (Alabama)

Receiver Receiver Receiver – yes Dallas needs a receiver but like Jerry said there is no true X receiver in this draft class to replace Dez Bryant. While they could take Calvin Ridley here I think they look at their linebacker spot that just lost Anthony Hitchens, has an unknown in Jaylon Smith still coming back from injury, and veteran Sean Lee who can't make it through a season. Enter Roll Tide - Rashaan Evans, the next stud in a long string of Alabama linebackers. I'd say he's probably most closely parallel to Donte Hightower as far as his playing style. Stick with drafting defense and you'll never go wrong.

20. Detroit Lions – Marcus Davenport, DE

The Lions get the pass rusher/lb that they covet. With Ansah signed for only 1 more year on the franchise tag the Lions need to start grooming their next edge rusher for the future. I could also see the Lions going offense and finally getting their back of the future in Sonny Michelle here as well.

21. Cincinnati Bengals (via Buffalo Bill) – Mason Rudolph, QB (Oklahoma State)

Cincy was dead last in total offense last year and AJ Green's career is wasting away and almost up. With a stellar receiver core the Bengals deserve better than Andy Dalton. While I'm not very high on Big 12 quarterbacks in general, Mason Rudolph does possess talent and upside and I think this may be the year the Bengals pull a trigger on a QB especially with the 5th year option as a possibility.

22. Cleveland Browns (via Buffalo Bills via Kansas City Chiefs) – Kolton Miller, OT (UCLA)

Cleveland in trading back with Buffalo was hoping for McGlinchey to fall to them, but Kolton Miller is a pretty good consolation prize. With a massive 6'8 frame and long arms he possesses the build and athleticism needed to replace HOF Joe Thomas, though I doubt anyone ever will.

23. Seattle Seahawks (via New England Patriots via Los Angeles Rams) –

Jaire Alexander, CB (Louisville) This guy has the attitude and swag needed to call himself a member of the Legion of Boom. A true ball-hawk with speed and a hit stick – the Seahawks address a major position of need after the departure of Richard Sherman.

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24. Carolina Panthers – Calvin Ridley, WR (Alabama)

I debated a long time with this pick between Stanford Safety Justin Reid, cornerback Mike Hughes and a stud tight end to pair with Greg Olsen, but ended up going for the top receiver on the board to add another weapon to Cam's arsenal. Ridley will play outside and is probably the most polished route runner in the draft.

25. Tennessee Titans – Will Hernandez, G (USTA)

The Titans were really hoping Rashaan Evans was going to fall here but there is no shame in tripling down on a good thing. With Lewan and Conklin already entrenched, why not add the athletic road grader Will Hernandez to the mix and blow the roof off defensive lines for Derrick Henry. Can't hurt!

26. Atlanta Falcons – Taven Bryan, DT (Florida)

I'll be honest this guy doesn't do much for me. Maybe because he's a white defensive tackle and looks like the clerk at the corner store. But after losing Poe Atlanta could really benefit from another DT 3 technique tackle to pair with Grady Jarrett. Don't be surprised if Atlanta looks to move up with their clear target of Da'Ron Payne either, just not sure how high they'll have to go and what they'll have to give up. If the rumors are true on the Julio Jones trade to 9 to do it – this draft may go down as one of the best in history!

27. New Orleans Saints – DJ Moore, WR (Maryland)

This pick makes me want to go hide in a corner and find my mom. Alvin Kamara, Michael Thomas, DJ Moore, Tedd Ginn, Cam Meredith, Mark Ingram. Um yeah that's an offense! Watching Moore reminds me of watching Percy Harvin and damn that's scary especially when you would be pairing him with Kamara who already reminded me of Harvin. Sean Payton will have a field day, and the Saints offense dare I say it just became more dangerous.

28. Tampa Bay Buccaneers (via Pittsburgh) – Josh Jackson, CB (Iowa)

I've done it and willed Josh Jackson in my mock to the Bucs and picked up a ton of collateral along the way. This has been their target the entire draft even at 7 and they are thrilled to see it come to fruition. DB had to be the pick for the Bucs as they boasted one of the leagues worst pass defenses last season and I feel Jackson had to be the pick due to his size and range going up against the likes of big-bodied wide receivers in Michael Thomas, Devin Funchess, and Julio Jones. Denzel Ward isn't going to cut it. Jackson's size and long arms at 6'1 makes him the best fit out of any corner in the draft. I've watched so much highlight tape on this kid and really wanted him to fall two more spots to the Vikings but it just wasn't meant to be. Write it down Josh Jackson will be the best corner drafted in this class.

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29. Jacksonville Jaguars – Hayden Hurst, TE (South Carolina)

I wanted to put Goedert here but the deciding factor for me was Hurst commitment to the run game and being the best blocking tight end of the three first round tight ends to aid in the Jags bread and butter run game. His hands don't hurt either while at South Carolina he totaled 1,175 yards and 1 drop. Paired with Austin Seferian-Jenkins this tandem could be dangerous and look to get back to the days of Gronk Hernandez.

30. Trade Tampa Bay Buccaneers (via Minnesota Vikings) – Sonny Michelle, RB (Georgia)

With Hernandez gone and a stock pile of O-line man falling into the second round the Vikings trade back to net the 6th overall pick in the second, plus a 4th and 6th rounder to draft their choice of Connor Williams, James Daniels, Billy Price, Frank Ragnow or TBD.

31. New England Patriots – Dallas Goedert, TE (South Dakato State)

Speaking of Gronk Hernandez! The Patriots tried to trade up for Gesicki but failed. I know offensive line is also a big need for the Pats, and I thought about James Daniels here, but the run on tight ends and talent of Goedert has this as the pick. Billy B has been waiting for the chance to have two dynamic pass catching tight ends again since Gronk and Hernandez tore up the league. Just think about this back in 2011 they combined for 169 receptions and 2,237 receiving yards that year. No team will be able to match up with the Patriots with these two on the field together.

32. TRADE Indianapolis Colts (via Philadelphia Eagles) – Derrius Guice, RB (LSU)

It's time for the Colts to start cashing in on fleecing the Jets to move back 3 spots and pick up 3 seconds. So let's begin again by helping the quarterback in Indianapolis and give him a back not seen since the likes of Edge James. Guice runs with violence between the tackles and provides a great compliment to the speedy Marlon Mack to create a great 1-2 punch. As Sfeld services likes to say – "he checks every box" and the Colts can't believe he is their for the taking.