

An Interview With:

MIKE MAYOCK

THE MODERATOR: Mike is a former draft pick of the Pittsburgh Steelers and played for the New York Giants for a couple of years and has made a career as a broadcaster for CBS, ESPN and now NFL Network the past three years. We bill him as our draft guru, he's covered the **Combine** for us and **Senior Bowl** and has been on college football his entire career with us. So without further ado, Mike, I'll turn it over to you.

MIKE MAYOCK: Thanks. I'm going to throw it open to you in a second. Really, I have not done a formal mock draft. I reveal that next week, seven, eight, nine teams, four nights in a row on our Total Access show at 7 PM ET. I'd be happy to talk about any player in the country you'd like to talk about. I'd be happy to talk about any teams you'd like to talk about. Really, the floor is yours, go ahead.

Q. I don't know if you just heard there was a trade where the 49ers acquired a second first round pick, so they have 6 and 22 right now. What would you anticipate a trade ten days before the draft to acquire a second first round pick would mean?

MIKE MAYOCK: For the 49ers, you mean?

Q. Yes, for the 49ers?

MIKE MAYOCK: It's kind of interesting, because what Denver did there, kind of anticipated that from a couple of teams in that 20 to 30 range, with the theory being in this draft this year, there's a vast similarity between the picks, say, between 20 and 40. There's an awful lot of good depth in there and a lot of teams have talked about moving out of there and talked about trying to stockpile picks. So it didn't surprise me at all Denver chose to do that especially with their extra first round pick.

As far as the 49ers in, my head at No. 6 I think they are going to go after the tight end, **Vernon Davis**, who would immediately help that football team given the fact that they have average

wide receivers and a young quarterback. I think that would really help them. At No. 22, I think because there's depth at the corner position in this draft, I think there's a good chance that they are trying to move up and make sure that they can get one of those corners that's going to come off the board between 20 and 30.

Q. Would you anticipate that they could use those two picks to move up into the top three or four?

MIKE MAYOCK: I think what they are trying to do is *not* package them and move up. The reality is, I think trying to move up from 6 to pick a player at 3 or 4, you're going to have to give up that other first round pick and maybe a little bit more. I think they have got multiple needs that have to be addressed and if they were able to come away with **Vernon Davis** at No. 6 and a top corner at 22, I think they would be real happy.

Q. In the context of the spread option offense, do you see a number of teams actually incorporating part of that offense in the NFL? Part of the conversation was that is team that innovation is moving up from the high school and college ranks to the NFL; whereas, 15 years ago, it was the opposite.

MIKE MAYOCK: I really don't see that as happening. With **Vince Young**, I think a team is probably going to try to take advantage of what he does athletically, but that spread option offense is an incredibly simple offense. And from a defensive perspective in the NFL, I think the last thing you want -- and I could give you the names of 31 defensive coordinators that would love **Vince Young** to run the ball 15 or 20 times a game.

Q. You're rating of Cutler as the No. 1 QB has drawn some controversy. What is it about him that you rate him or what did you see at the Combine or Senior Bowl to back your rating?

MIKE MAYOCK: I got a phone call back in September from a guy who is a good friend of mine, a high ranking scout in the NFL, and he said, "You'd better throw some Vanderbilt tape on." This is back in September. He said, "Tell me if I'm seeing this right or if I'm off base but I think this kid would be special."

I threw on a couple of September tapes and a couple of his junior tapes and I fell over. I couldn't

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believe the arm strength, the release, the toughness. What really stood out to me and this is all the way back in September now, the fact that he stood in there, got smacked in the face and consistently delivered the football.

My perception on this kid is biggest arm in the draft, quickest release in the draft, he's a three-time captain, he's a smart kid, he's a tough kid. Does he have some technical issues that he's got to clean up? Absolutely. But I have watched every one of his game tapes. **Senior Bowl** to me reinforced the arm strength and the difference between him and everybody else. And he's more athletic than people think. So I don't take anything away from Leinart or **Vince Young**, who are very special in different ways. But I think four years from now, you're going to look back and see that this kid is the best of the three.

Q. This is a bit of a risk by you, but are you concerned that if this doesn't pan out the way you see it that it could affect your credibility going forward or are you that comfortable with your analysis?

MIKE MAYOCK: I'm not concerned in the least. I'm the guy that last year thought that **Aaron Rodgers** was going to fall to 24 and I got laughed at pretty heavily the week before the draft. And **Aaron Rodgers** fell to 24.

So to me, compared to that, this is nothing. What I'm telling people is what I truly believe. And he might not be the first quarterback to go, I'm not trying to say he's the first one off the board. What I am trying to say is that I think he's going to be the best pro.

Q. Do you think that Vince Young's choice of representation has hurt him at all or will hurt him at all?

MIKE MAYOCK: I don't know if it will hurt him at all. Major Adam has some -- inaudible -- of feeling. I know he's got one of the Philadelphia Eagles -- I believe Sheldon Brown --

Q. Michael Lewis.

MIKE MAYOCK: Michael Lewis, I apologize. My question about representation has been that I didn't understand what he was doing in that ESPN Made For Television Skills Contest. To me that was a situation where he had absolutely nothing to gain and everything to lose. I thought he showed poorly in that skills competition. Yet, he wouldn't work out at the **Combine** in front of 32 NFL head coaches and general managers. I thought they were inconsistent and curious

decisions. Now what happens going forward as far as negotiated contracts, I have no idea.

Q. Speaking of people who have different opinions than you about Cutler, obviously this is the first year NFL Network is going to be side-by-side doing the Draft itself, will you feel some competition with them or Kiper in particular in terms of trying to make a mark as these two different entities present the same event simultaneously?

MIKE MAYOCK: I've had that question a bunch in the last couple of weeks, and the reality to me is -- I'm a football guy. I'm the son of a coach, I love the game, I love watching tape. I have so much respect for what ESPN has done the last 26 or 27 years. I feel **Mel Kiper** the last 12 or 14 years, I have a ton of respect for Mel. We are going to do things a little bit differently in general. I'm going to do things a little bit different specifically. It's just going to give the viewer another option. The viewer can watch both and choose. I don't feel any kind of competition individually whatsoever.

Q. I don't know if this is in your wheelhouse or not, but the big increase in salary cap this year, there's a lot of numbers being thrown around, especially from Bush's camp on how much of a signing bonus he may be due, and if the Saints hold onto their No. 2 pick, what kind of money are they looking at?

MIKE MAYOCK: If we are talking salary caps and bonuses, I'm going to defer on this one.

Q. Can you tell me what your opinion is on Marcus Vick, obviously as an athlete and what he can do, and also with the baggage that he brings into the draft and where do you think he might fall to?

MIKE MAYOCK: That was well said. I believe that as far as an athlete and a football player, he's not as good an athlete as his older brother. He's not as dangerous a runner as his older brother, but he's got a little bit better innate feel for the pass game than his brother had at this time in his career.

Having said that, the term "baggage" you used is a good one. I think there's a trend in the NFL away from bad character guys, especially because the teams that are winning a lot of games like New England, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Carolina, are typically character teams.

So I think teams are shying away from those kind of guys. So I think Vick is going to be a

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guy that if he had perfect character off the field, you'd be talking about a late first day kind of prospect. But given where he is, I think you're talking about six, seventh, round, at best, and maybe a priority free agent.

Q. What sort of players do you see available for the Browns? They may take a 12.

MIKE MAYOCK: I played for Romeo years ago. He was a special teams coach for the Giants, and he's got that 3-4, **Bill Belichick**, **Bill Parcells** philosophy. Despite the fact that they have got McGinest in free agency, they are both old. I think you are looking at either an outside linebacker like **Kameron Wimbley** from Florida State, I call a poor man's DeMarcus Weir (ph) or perhaps a nose tackle like a **Haloti Ngata** from Oregon. I think those are the type of players that Romeo will be looking for, he and Phil Savage, at No. 12 in the first round.

Q. There's some thought maybe the Cowboys might draft a quarterback even though they have Tony Romo and Drew Henson. What are your thoughts on the quarterbacks after the Top 3, and the viability of the Cowboys taking any of those guys, and if you could also hit on what you think of this class of wide receivers coming in, as well.

MIKE MAYOCK: I'll do that backwards. The wide receiver class I've been expecting a little bit of an attrition given the fact that last year there were six, and the year before there were seven that went in the first round. This is the payback year with an awful lot of those under classmen coming out, especially at the top end. I see two wide receivers, Holmes and Chad Jackson as definite first rounders, with **Sinorice Moss** a possibility; I've got him on the cusp of the first and second round. In a normal year, I wouldn't have him in the first round. I think there's some pretty good second and third round values at the wide receiver position.

Regarding the Cowboys and the quarterback situation, you know, given the commitment to Henson and what Parcells thinks about Romo, would they get a developmental guy -- I'll tell you a guy that's moving up charts a little bit is **Kellen Clemens** from Oregon. Got hurt, missed a lot of his senior year. He's thrown the ball extremely well on his pro day. A guy like Campbell or **Tarvaris Jackson** from Alabama State who is kind of raw; I think they are two logical guys, and Clemens is a third or fourth rounder in my opinion. **Tarvaris Jackson** a fourth or fifth

rounder. Clemens could step in earlier. Tarvaris Jackson is a developmental guy.

Q. Did you say that you rate Jay Cutler as the guy going to be the best pro of the quarterbacks in draft?

MIKE MAYOCK: Yeah, I've been on the record since September saying that he's the best quarterback ultimately out of this draft class. Every tape I've watched -- I've watched too much tape of these three quarterbacks, and nothing's changed my opinion throughout the whole Senior Bowl, Combine, Pro Day.

I'll tell you how bad it is, guys. I was watching Pro Day workout tape this morning, and just to see if I'm missing anything. The bottom line to me is **Cutler**, he's going to be the best pro. **Vince Young** I have reservations on, not because he's a great athlete and a great kid, and I could care less about the wuderlick. But I do have a concern about whether or not he'll ever get to the next level as a sophisticated NFL quarterback. And in 40 Super Bowls, there's never been a scrambling quarterback that's won a Super Bowl.

Matt Leinart, I have a ton of respect for, given the fact that he understands when and where to throw the football. As a former defensive back, those guys always scared me. He's got average arm strength, great leadership, great touch and accuracy. But for a Top-10 pick, I want my Top-10 quarterback to have a better arm than Leinart.

So in kind of a quick snapshot, that's my overview of the three quarterbacks.

Q. One more question about these quarterback I'd like to say that Roger Staubach was a bit of a scrambler and he won the Super Bowl.

MIKE MAYOCK: I would say that he developed into a throwing quarterback and a passing quarterback over time. But you're right because that was his nickname, **Roger the Dodger**.

Q. So back to Vince. I still have issues trying to understand how Cutler is going to outdo Vince in coming a quarterback because it reminded me of some of the argument with some of the quarterbacks, got so much hype and never pan out. Can you give me something with a little more meat on why Vince isn't going to pan out compared to Cutler?

MIKE MAYOCK: Sure, I'd be happy to. I've watched every coach's tape of all three

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quarterbacks --

Q. In college --

MIKE MAYOCK: I'm trying to project it for you into the NFL. I don't have any other tape that I can watch other than their college tape. I watched **Vince Young**, what I see is a very simplified offense, that right option offense. He's got one, maybe two reads; if it's not there, he tucks the ball and he goes. Now, when that internal clock of his goes off and he's in the pocket, whether that pocket has broken down or not, he's out the gate.

And I can put some Ohio State tape on for you and I can show you where the pocket is perfect, but he will not look for a secondary or third receiver, because that clock has gone off in his head and he says, it's time to get out of here.

When a defense forces him to pull the ball down and not scramble for big yardage, his efficiency goes way down. So in my opinion and this is really the crux of it, if you've got a Top-5 quarterback, or just Top-5 pick in the Draft at any position, if you miss with that pick, you set your franchise back three or four years, given the salary cap structure. It's even more so at the quarterback position. So you can't afford to miss.

When I look at **Vince Young** if I'm a general manager, I'm not telling you that I don't think -- he probably will go 3 to Tennessee. But my point is if I'm the general manager, I'm not pushing all my chips out to the middle of the table and betting my franchise on this kid turning into an advanced throwing quarterback in the NFL. I could be wrong, but that's my opinion.

Q. Are you saying, then, that the NFL does not want to teach a quarterback; they want to bring in someone they can just plug in right away?

MIKE MAYOCK: No, I'm not saying that at all. I think that hopefully you get the best tutelage in the world in the NFL, especially the quarterback position and especially with a high draft pick. What I'm saying is that some players are not able to make the transition from runner to thrower, okay. Some players are. **Steve McNair** has become a great NFL quarterback who I respect as much as any player in the game. **Steve Young** went from a scrambler to a passing quarterback late in his career and that's when they won Super Bowls. So guys can develop.

I just look at **Vince Young**, and my personal opinion is, if I had, again, to bet my franchise on him, I'd be uncomfortable doing that. And I think some teams will look at a **Matt Leinart** and say, I feel a lot more comfortable there

because he comes out of a pro-style attack. There's no fear of the unknown. He's been coached by Pete Carroll, it's a pro-style attack, he knows where and when to throw the ball, he can look off a free safety, he can dunk to a third receiver. So these are all factors going through those coaches and general managers' minds that have Top-10 picks. You've got three potential franchise quarterbacks who all should go in that Top-10.

Q. You mentioned *Sinorice Moss* on the cusp of the first round; who at the University of Miami who is most likely to be a first rounder, and who projects the best pro career in your opinion?

MIKE MAYOCK: Out of the University of Miami, the kids that I really like, I like Rocky McIntosh a lot, the linebacker. He's had some durability issues. He's another kid that's on the cusp of that first, second round. I think if he stays healthy, he's got an opportunity to be to be one of those typical Miami linebackers, sideline-to-sideline, make plays.

Eric Winston is a guy that I have criticized this year with the caveat that I thought he was a tremendous tackle before he got hurt and that knee operation. And typically I believe it takes you two years to come back fully from that. So this year was the first year. I had him projected as a first round left tackle prior to the injury. I've got him as a second round right tackle right now. Now, he's the kind of kid with his athletic ability that could end up an all-pro. I thought he struggled with speed this year. He's got 32-inch arms which is not good for a left tackle; that's three or four inches shorter than what they would like. But he's a kid that I think has tremendous upside because he's a former tight end with great athletic ability.

We talked about **Sinorice Moss**, very similar to his brother, doesn't have as much production coming out of Miami as I'd like to see. And **Orien Harris** is another kid that not many people talk about, defensive tackle, could be a 3-4 defensive end. I see him as a second round pick also, and maybe third round pick just because of his return. Devon Hester is another kid with tremendous potential. I don't know what the heck position they are going to put him at but you know somebody is going to draft him because of his capability as a return guy. So he's another second or third rounder and that's kinds of an overview of the Hurricanes draft picks early on.

Q. What the Ravens might do at 13, will

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they trade that or will somebody be there that they just can't refuse?

MIKE MAYOCK: The Ravens at No. 13, a lot of people are trying to talk about **Winston Justice**. I don't see them being interested in **Winston Justice**. I think a defensive tackle like **Haloti Ngata** could slide to them and I think he would be a guy given the fact that they lost Cablioto (ph), I think he's a guy if he would be a guy if he was sitting there at 13 they would be all over him.

Outside of that, there's a lot of talk about whether a quarterback will slide, and if the quarterback, one of those three quarterbacks slid like a Leinart or a **Cutler**, what would they do at that point. I know or I believe that they are also preparing for that eventuality.

Q. What do you think about the special teams players, kickers and do you think any will go on the second day or all be free agents?

MIKE MAYOCK: I always tease that I don't really think they are even athletes so I don't even evaluate them. I've got about three really good friends that are special teams coaches in the league, and to be really honest with you, I'm scheduled to talk to them next week. I'd be lying if I told you I knew anything about the punters or the kickers.

Q. Could you talk about Ernie Simms and maybe the linebacker group in general?

MIKE MAYOCK: Absolutely. I really believe that **Ernie Simms** is the most explosive, through-the-hips athlete in this draft. As far as an outside linebacker is concerned, everybody has got **A.J. Hawk** penciled in. I think Simms has the most upside of any linebacker in the draft. Do I think he's going to be exposed occasionally as a rookie? Yes, he'll over pursue, get fooled on play-action. But when he gets there, he's an explosive hitter, he's going to make plays and I think he can have the kind of impact early in his career that a **Derrick Brooks** or a **Jonathan Vilma** did.

So I'm a big Ernie Simms guy with the caveat that he passes his medical because he's got a history of concussions. The other for sure first day outside linebacker is **Chad Greenway** from Iowa. He can run, but didn't run as well as people expected at the **Combine** but he's athletic, 6-2, 243, he's got tremendous upside. I don't see him getting past Minnesota at 17.

Then the three outside linebackers that I have on the cusp of 1 and 2 are Rocky McIntosh

from Miami, **DeMeco Ryans** from Alabama and -- inaudible.

Q. Do you believe that the New Orleans Saints are going to draft Matt Leinart even though they agreed to terms with Drew Brees?

MIKE MAYOCK: I think they are doing a good job for keeping everything which they would love to do. If they stay at No. 2, I don't believe it will be a quarterback. I believe it will either be **Mario Williams** or **D'Brickshaw Ferguson**. My belief on Williams, even though they already have two good defensive ends. I do believe that's a good chance that **Cutler** could slide to No. 10. I don't think he'd get past Arizona at No. 10, though.

Q. The Eagles are at 14 in the first round and 45 in the second. Who do you think might be there and how would you describe the players you think might be there?

MIKE MAYOCK: I might tell you one thing but **Andy Read** is going to tell you another. He's an inside-out believer, and at 14, with **Jon Runyan's** age, with Tra Thomas's history of durability concerns, I think if **Winston Justice** is there, he's real logical. I think a defensive tackle is logical, **Ngata** or **Bunkley**. My guess is **Bunkley** is gone in the Top 10. **Ngata** probably doesn't get past Baltimore at 13, so they would have to trade up. I would like to see them look at **Santonio Holmes**. I think they need a playmaker on offense, but I don't think they are willing to do that.

Defensively, I'd love to see them look at an **Ernie Simms** or a linebacker, but again that's not the Eagles' way. So I think they are going to focus on **Winston Justice** or a defensive tackle. But they are the general needs, whether it's at 14 or 45, that they have got to take care of, and you might see them go with a running back a little further down, I believe they three fourth round picks. Gerald Riggs is an interesting guy who was hurt most of his senior year, bigger back and might satisfy a need in the fourth round for the Eagles.

Q. Justice has come out and said that he's every bit as good as Ferguson, but do you believe that's true or there's not much that separates them?

MIKE MAYOCK: With all due respect to **Winston Justice**, he didn't prove it on a snap-by-snap basis throughout his career. So my reaction is he's every bit as talented physically as **D'Brickshaw Ferguson**, but he's inconsistent and has a certain immaturity about him right now. So for him to thrive, he needs to get an offensive

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line coach that sits on his butt daily and demands perfection, because he's a talented, talented kid, but has not shown it on a consistent basis.

Q. Are there generalities you can draw about the kind of guy *Herm Edwards* like to have from his draft with the *Jets*, maybe athletes or over guys with size and strength, that kind of thing?

MIKE MAYOCK: Yeah, I think you can draw some conclusions from Herm. You know, Herm is a pretty tough guy, and Herm believes in mental and physical toughness. Being a former defensive back, he drafted a lot of defensive backs in New York, and he did very well with the defensive backs that he drafted in New York. So I think that's a trend you're going to see continue in Kansas City.

I think they have got to start to play some defense out there if they ever want to get to the Championship Game. So they need an edge rusher, they need a couple defensive backs and they can continue to beef up that linebacker core.

Q. If you were to rank the first round core as 1, 2, 3, as far as readiness to play, how would you rank them? You mentioned some second and third round receivers you thought were going to be there and be good values at that point in the draft, could you elaborate on those guys?

MIKE MAYOCK: Sure. As far as corners are concerned, I've got 7 potential first rounders, realistically five of them will go. I think Michael Huff who can play free safety also is at the top of most people's boards. I think Jonathan Joseph, the junior from South Carolina has a love/hate relationship. You either think he's going to be the best corner in the draft or you can't stand him. **Tye Hill** from Clemson had a tremendous Senior Bowl, track guy, real quick feet. He could step in and be that nickel corner that a lot of teams covet right away. **Antonio Cromartie** from in Florida State, he's starting to move up charts. Here is a guy that started one game in three years, missed all of last season with an ACL, but he's almost 6-3, 208 pounds ran a 2:4 :40 and they are making him sound like he's the best DB to come out of there since Deion Sanders. He's a guy that's going to go somewhere between 20 and 25 and only has one start in his career. Williams is an enigma, another guy that either is a boom-or-bust candidate, either All-Pro or a washout.

Jennings from Miami who I may have neglected to mention earlier from the Miami discussions, he's a first or second rounder with

quick feet, can step in and play that nickel defender position, as can Richard Marshall from Fresno. So that's a quick overview of the six or seven corners but I think Michael Huff will be the guy to get on the field immediately.

Q. What about those wide receivers?

MIKE MAYOCK: I think a guy that not a lot of people talk about is Greg Jennings from Western Michigan, high production, real quick, can separate. I think he's a tremendous second round value, nobody is talking a whole lot about him. **Demetrius Williams** at Oregon, tall, thin, can separate another second round player. **Maurice Stovall** had a huge senior year at Notre Dame, played for **Charlie Weis** this year, just became a different kind of player dropping 15 pounds. I think he's kind of a late second round, early third round guy, 6-5, tremendous red zone asset. And then Brandon Williams and Brandon Marshall, Brandon Williams is at Wisconsin, great punt return guy, and Brandon Marshall is the guy that some scouts are teasingly calling baby T.O. out of central Florida. Lit up the whole Senior Bowl and ran about a 4:55 :40 so he's a big West Coast type of receiver. I think they are the type of guys that a guy at Oregon State might ask, they are the guys that are pretty good values that can get on the field and get some immediate production.

Q. What do you think of Jason Avant?

MIKE MAYOCK: I love him on tape. He's taken a beating lately because he ran so poorly in his Pro Day. He ran between 4-6 and 4-8 and he had a cast on one hand because he apparently broke it during the drill. I think he's a disciplined runner with great hands but there are not a whole lot of 4-7, 4-8 wide receivers getting drafted high in this league.

Q. What about the safety coming out of southern California, Darnell Bing, 6-2, almost 230, what about him?

MIKE MAYOCK: There's some mixed opinion on him. I don't believe he's a first round pick. Some people have him as second round, some people have him in the third round. The reason they don't have him as high as Huff (ph) is because he has some coverage issues; he's 225 or 230. I almost think he would be better suited for weak outside linebacker position, but I think he's good enough that he can make a living as an in-the-box, strong safety. He's a tough guy, but he is a little bit limited on the coverage side. So I think you're going to see him go kind of mid to late

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second round with the possibility of sliding into the third.

Q. Talking about wide receivers and a lot of wide receivers in the first round have not really panned out recently. Is there a reason behind that, that they are not quite living up to their billing?

MIKE MAYOCK: I would tell you that you could pick a couple of names each year that don't pan out. But I would say the majority of them the last few years have done okay. There were six taken last year, seven the year before, I would say that Reggie Williams has not panned out. I would say that Rashaun Woods has not panned out. Besides that, you know, there have not been that many busts.

But what I would also say is that I believe, for the most part, it takes a wide receiver a good two years to get comfortable an NFL offense. There's so much more reading; that the defenses, are so much more complicated. If you're not on your same page with your quarterback, it doesn't matter how fast you run and how great your hands are. So you've got to give them a little type. Michael Williams is another guy who I did not like coming out of USC, and he struggled a little bit. So I would say that -- it really takes two or three years for these guys.

Q. Any receives coming out this year that might make an immediate impact?

MIKE MAYOCK: Santonio Holmes has ability because of his quickness and the run after his catch ability to make the difference. That's the key in the NFL. At the wide receiver position, who can run after the catch, and I think **Santonio Holmes** is one of those guys that you can put in the slot, try to simplify it for him, and let him get open, get the football, let him break a tackle and go.

Q. What kind of impact can Vernon Davis make right away?

MIKE MAYOCK: Special. I'm a big believer that if you can get a tight end that can stretch a defense vertically and give you some blocking on top of it, you can change your whole offense. Look at Kansas City and look at San Diego. They have no wide receivers to speak of that are perennial all-pros, yet they continue to lead the league in total offense because they have got great tight ends and great tailbacks. I look at **Vernon Davis** and say here is a guy that's ridiculous, 254 pounds, he's willing to block people. That's why I think San Francisco is going to take

him at six because they have got average wide receivers and he can help with young quarterbacks and he can be a difference maker in the NFL.

Q. The Redskins might be in the market or a weak side linebacker, you mentioned some of the round two guys, anybody you think can step in and play right away for Greg Williams?

MIKE MAYOCK: You're right, they have one pick, I think of the first 152 picks or so. I think a guy like **Jon Alston** from Stanford is the kind of guy that could play in some Nickel in this case he will situations for them and help them on special teams. But beyond that, I don't think they are going to get a whole lot of help.

Q. What about the Falcons?

MIKE MAYOCK: Atlanta did well last year with some of those type of players. Michael Bollio (ph) came in on special teams and then got to play as a linebacker. Chauncey Davis, another guy like that. So they have done pretty well with their mid to late round guys to help them on special teams.

You know, I look at the safety position, they picked up **Lawyer Malloy** and Chris Crocker. Are they going to try to get a young safety -- and this is a pretty good year for second and third round safeties. I think a guy like Daniel Bollock (ph) would help them immensely on special teams and down the road as a starter.

Q. What about D'Quwell Jackson, University of Maryland, any talks about what teams are interested in him?

MIKE MAYOCK: Well, I'll tell you what, when I put tape on of him, I think he's a first round pick. I really like him a lot. Got to see him up close at **Senior Bowl**. His stock has fallen a little bit because he did not run that well. And I get frustrated sometimes because to me he just looks like a football player and I don't really care that he ran a 4:07.5. I don't really care at all. I just see a football player. I think he could slide into the second round and the nice thing about him is he's athletic enough as an inside linebacker and could even stay on the field in nickel situations. He's the kind of guy that I think could come in and play real well early on for an NFL team.

Q. Do you see any late round quarterback that might go and have an impact in the league in a few years?

MIKE MAYOCK: Yeah, a couple of interesting guys are **Charlie Whitehurst** from Clemson. There's a medical issue on him with his

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shoulder but he's a big, good-looking prototype drop-back passer that can throw the heck out of the ball with you he's been inconsistent. **Croyle** from Alabama is a guy who can be a solid backup in a certain type of offense, can be a starter down the road. I already mentioned **Clemens** and **Tarvaris Jackson**, both of whom I like a lot.

Then a couple of interesting kids to keep your eye on is Darnell Hackney from UAB, reminds me a lot of the backup down in Jacksonville, David Garrard (ph). And then there's Bruce Eugene from Grambling. If he doesn't make it at quarterback he may make it at guard because he's six feet, 262.

Q. You had mentioned that you have known Mel Kiper for about a dozen years. What do you think of the job he does and how his visibility opens doors for guys like you?

MIKE MAYOCK: I think Mel does a fantastic job, because it doesn't matter whether it's the first pick in the Draft or the 247th pick in the draft, he knows the kid's bio off the top of his head, and I give him a ton of credit for that. He's well-prepared and he's been living it, breathing it, sleeping it since he was a high school kid. So I respect him and my hat is off to him.

The beauty in what I'm doing right now and one of the reasons I'm doing it, and I thought of it a little bit, I wanted to be a playbook analyst and X&O analyst when I came to this network and they said, you don't have a big enough name. You only played in the NFL a couple years and nobody ever heard of you. When he would like you to do some college stuff and personnel evaluations. My dad is a coach, I've been watching tape since I was ten years old and the beauty of what I'm doing now, courtesy of **Mel Kiper**, there are not a whole lot of coaches and players retiring who want to be in player personnel. So I've got a little job security here.

Q. Could this be the year the Eagles look at some of the quarterbacks?

MIKE MAYOCK: Yeah, I think it's time to start thinking about that, I agree. They got rid of Andy Hall, the kid from Delaware they bought into for a couple of years. I think now is the time or next year is the time, depending on whether or not a kid catches their eye they have to start to groom somebody for a couple of years down the road as a No. 3, a degree.

Q. Do you have an opinion on Eric Henderson, defensive end out of Georgia Tech and where he may land or play in the NFL?

MIKE MAYOCK: Yeah, he is a defensive end that has some pass rushing playability and could play some outside linebacker. Most of the teams I've talked to have got him in the fourth or fifth round and I think that's probably where he's going to end up.

Q. Has Vince Young's representatives hurt his position or is more of that made than what it is? And are there any guys like DeMarcus Ware any guys would could jump up high this year?

MIKE MAYOCK: Yeah, the DeMarcus comparison is good, I loved him last year. This year there is a guy who is white hot right now who I gave a third round grade to and everybody is telling me he's going to go between 12 and 20 and that's Manny Lawson from North Carolina state, the other end besides Mario Williams. I'm not buying into the fact yet that that's what he is, but he's a 4-3 defensive end that lit it up at the **Combine** at 241 pounds. He ran a 4:40, he's a work-out warrior. To me, DeMarcus showed me at **Senior Bowl** a year ago he was a first round big. Manny Lawson did not show me that. So it looks like he's going to be a first round pick. I'm not buying into it yet.

The other guy that will be a first round pick, and I believe a good football player is **Kameron Wimbley** from Florida State, hands-down, 4-3 defensive end who will be a 3-4 outside linebacker. I think he could go as early as number 12 to Cleveland.

Q. As far as Vince Young's representatives, there's been a lot of talk about him being inexperienced, have they hurt --

MIKE MAYOCK: I answered this earlier, but to give you the quick overview I thought they made some poor decisions early. I don't know why he went on that ESPN Skills Competition because he had nothing to gain and everything to lose. But the reality -- why he would do that and not the **Combine**, I thought was inconsistent at best. The reality is, he threw the ball well at his Pro Day. I think he's going to be fine as far as Draft day. But a lot of people in the league right now they he's going to be 3 to Tennessee.

Q. What about Tamba Hali?

MIKE MAYOCK: I think there was more media frenzy about **Tamba Hali** than 100% pure substance. He's a really good football player that's a 4-3 defensive end. He's got tweener size. He's only about 261, 262. He probably can't stand up

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and play outside linebacker. He's got a tremendous first step, he's got a tremendous motor, but I think he's probably going to be an early second round pick. I like him a lot. It's just that he's kind of an outside speed rusher that isn't as big as people would like.

Q. Do you think *Matt Leinart* fired *Lee Steinberg*, is that going to have any impact -- inaudible?

MIKE MAYOCK: I kind of laugh when I hear those things about the agent and impacting his draft status. No, I don't think it will have any impact whatsoever. People are evaluating based on his tape, his personal interviews and his workouts.

Q. You mentioned the Redskins not having a lot of picks -- inaudible -- have you seen a team that doesn't help their depth at all?

MIKE MAYOCK: It's kind of like the old days with George Allen. I agree with you and I'll take it a step further. As active as they were in this off-season and with the amount of money they spent and I believe overspent on some of those players, down the road, two, three, four years, there's going to be hell to pay with the salary cap.

Q. Two questions about Florida State players, *Willie Reed*, *Leon Washington* (ph) both had injury problems. Your assessment of where they may end up?

MIKE MAYOCK: Yeah, both of them are on the rise. Both worked out well at the **Combine**, had a good on campus work out. Willie Reed I think because of his ability to separate in short areas probably goes in the fourth round, and that's, without a lot of college production. And Leon Washington, the tailback, was highly rated going into the season, a little heavy coming into it, didn't have as good of a year as he should have. I think he's probably going to climb back into the first day and I have him in my third round right now.

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