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GIANTS FANS LOVE "COLORFUL METAPHORS": THE GIANTS 2013 DRAFT

New York Giants fans can be a real pain in the neck.



And I should know, since I've had many run-ins with less than gracious Giants fans. Of course, there are plenty of Giants fans who are terrific people whom I really like (although some become a little less terrific during Giants games, but that's to be expected). And being in New York, I can't say that I haven't gotten a little out of hand at times myself after the two big Super Bowl wins over the New England Patriots. But there were at least two instances which I'll never forget concerning Giants fans.

First was during the Monday Night Giants v. Bears game in New York on October 3, 2010. At first, when I got there wearing my Devin Hester jersey, it was friendly banter with the woman next to me and the guy and his son in front of me. A lot of the typical "Bears are terrible, sit down!" and "Cutler is going to get crushed!" and "I'll take another overpriced beer because I don't have a choice!" -- you know, the usual. But then, after the Giants pretty much dominated the game (sacking Cutler 10 times), four drunk Giants fans behind me started hurling, let's just say, much more "colorful metaphors" (those of you who've seen "Star Trek IV: The Search for Whales"...err...I mean "The Voyage Home"...know what I'm referring to. And if you haven't seen the movie, what are you waiting for? Why wouldn't you want to see Mr. Spock swimming with whales? But I digress...). At one point, they resorted to interspersing a chant of "Hester the Molester" with such terribly "colorful metaphors" that the woman next to me turned around and said "What's wrong with you guys, there are kids here!" and the guy and his son in front of me left since he didn't want his son to hear the creative yet overzealous use of "colorful metaphors". I think these guys were so drunk that they actually

thought I might be Devin Hester. Which is ludicrous, since I look nothing

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like Devin Hester (just check out my staff picture here). And I'd like to think I can catch a pass better than Devin Hester (calm down Bears fans, I kid, I kid...or do I? Yeah, I do. Unless you're talking about Madden on the Xbox 360. Then I'm dead serious.).



Then, of course, there's when I was at the Giants v. Seahawks game in Seattle on November 7, 2010, just a month later. So you're probably wondering why I would want to go watch a Giants game in Seattle. The dark secret is that my wife just so happens to be a big Giants fan. Yup, football jersey, t-shirt, obnoxious attitude and all. So my friend John, from Seattle, was so kind to get us tickets really close to the field for the game. He's basically connected to every hot/cold spa used by most sport teams across the country. I kid you not, he's that good (see http://polarzonenw.com/). At any rate, we're all at the game and what happens? The Giants start blowing out the Seahawks. In fact, by the end of the third quarter, it was 41 to nothing. And what does my wife do? She starts yelling at all the Seahawks fans using "colorful metaphors" (I'm serious, I wonder if Giants fans are required to take a test of their knowledge of "colorful metaphors" before they're allowed to cheer for the team) and pointing out in very explicit terms how much better she thinks the Giants are. So these big burley Seahawks fans are turning around and seeing red. And who do they look at? They're looking at me. Not my wife. Me. I turn to my friend John, who is also a Seahawks fan, and note that he's now moved off into a completely different section of stadium. I have to say, I was lucky to get out of there alive.



Point is, Giants fans can be a bit on the rowdy side. I guess at least Giants fans are better than Jets fans, but that's setting the bar pretty low. Either way, they're much more obnoxious when they're winning. So will the Giants fans have reason to be obnoxious after this year's free agency and draft? Let's take a look.

The Giants' Draft

Round 1Pick #19Justin Pugh – OT - Syracuse
Round 2Pick #49Johnathan Hankins – DT - Ohio State
Round 3Pick #81Damontre Moore – DE - Texas A&M
Round 4Pick #110Ryan Nassib – QB - Syracuse
Round 5Pick #152Cooper Taylor – S - Richmond
Round 7Pick #225Eric Herman – OG - Ohio
Round 7Pick #253Michael Cox – RB - Massachusetts

an Elite 2013 Fantasy Quarterback?

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What's so surprising about the Giants' draft was their almost complete lack of addressing need on the defense. Clearly, selecting both Hankins and Moore were excellent values and both will likely slide in for immediate depth along the defensive line. But what are truly missing are any standout linebackers or corners. As we know, the Giants defense ranked 31st in 2012. Can't get much worse than that. And I don't see how the Giants hope to improve on that without improving their linebackers or corners.

Right now, the Giants are looking at starting Mark Herzlich, Jacquian Williams and Keith Rivers at linebacker. All three are concerns and none of them standout as real difference makers. I don't think the Giants needed to get three starting linebackers, either in free agency or the draft, but one would have been nice. In each of the final six games of 2012, the Giants gave up 110 yards or more on the ground. This current group showed almost no ability to stop the run last year, and I don't see anything that indicates that this will improve. No linebackers were added via the draft, and only Dan Connor (cut from the Dallas Cowboys) was added during free agency.

Further, the Giants did nothing to improve their corner backs. The Giants are currently looking at reusing the very burnable duo of Corey Webster and Prince Amukamara. I know Amukamara was a high draft pick that was supposed to really shore up the secondary, but he can barely stay on the field missing twelve games in his first two seasons. The Giants allowed the fifth most passing yards in the NFL in 2012 (4068) and tied the Saints for the most yards allowed per passing attempt (8.1). That's terrible. It practically guarantees first downs for the opposing team as long as they have a semi-competent quarterback. Yet, no corners were added in the draft, and only Aaron Ross was added (back) in free agency (who had a subpar 2012 in Jacksonville). At least the Giants picked up Cooper Taylor to play safety. He's a big guy with good speed (4.49 40-yard dash at the Richmond pro day) that can help the secondary as a third safety, or maybe even an outside linebacker. But he's no corner, and may ultimately end up being relegated to special teams.

But that's enough Giants bashing. Let's talk about the upside. Justin Pugh is a great versatile player. He probably was a little bit of reach, but I credit the Giants for taking him when they could as it was unlikely that he would fall to them in the second round. He can play either left or right guard or left or right tackle (although he started at left tackle in Syracuse, he's probably best staying away from left tackle in the NFL due to his relatively short arms). Although the Giants' offensive line has never been a huge concern, it's wise to pick up a great player like Pugh to shore up into the future. He excelled in college at both run blocking and pass protection. He has clear ability to reset after contact via power moves, and can neutralize most any pass rusher. He's going to start, no doubt about it, and his versatility will help the Giants figure out the best combination of their already excellent offensive line pieces.

I already mentioned Hankins and Moore, whom I think will give the Giants defensive line even more options. Interestingly enough, the Giants picked up defensive tackles Cullen Jenkins and Mike Patterson from the Eagles during free agency, more than addressing defensive tackle needs. Along with returning Linval Joseph, there really isn't any concern here. Hankins was a great value at #49 and excelled at stopping the run at "The" Ohio State University. As I mentioned previously, stopping the run was a problem for the Giants in 2012 and getting fresh personnel into the mix can't hurt. Perhaps learning from the veterans on the team will also help the Giants with continuity at defensive tackle. Defensive end actually looked pretty well controlled by Justin Tuck and Jason Pierre-Paul. Moore is an excellent edge rusher that has quickness to change directions when necessary. He'll fit right in with what the Giants like to do with their defensive ends. He had a poor showing at the Combine (a relatively slow 4.95 40-yard dash and he had the worst bench press among defensive ends at 12 reps), but his performance at Texas A&M tells a different story. As long as the Giants can get Moore to avoid off the field issues (like his arrest for marijuana possession in the summer of 2012) and get him a good work ethic, he could be a real steal.

I won't spend time going over the Ryan Nassib pick again, since I already did that in a previous article (see HERE), but I'll just reiterate that I'm not sold on drafting a presumptive backup quarterback for development if it's not in the 7th round. If the Giants want to develop and trade him, fine, but there's no reason to spend a 4th round pick on a backup, no matter how good the value is (and particularly when there were glaring needs at other positions).

So where do the Giants go from here? Well, I for one would be concerned if they don't find a way to upgrade their linebackers or corners. I guess on the bright side, if the Giants do nothing, I can finally start attending Bears v. Giants games again without being hit with "colorful metaphors". Unless my wife is there. In which case there may be no avoiding it.



By Ha Kung Wong (Twitter: @Rhihan)



2 comments:



Anonymous May 7, 2013 at 5:33 PM

Any impact from Michael Cox?

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Replies



Hakung Wong May 7, 2013 at 5:36 PM

David Wilson and Andre Brown will be the starters (perhaps in a time share), so best case scenario, Cox will push for third on the depth chart. As a side note, the Giants did get lucky with Bradshaw in the 7th round in 2007, so who knows?

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