



# FOOTBALL EXTRA POINTS

YARDBARKER part of FOX Sports Digital

NFL - Team Reports ▾

FXP Staff Writers ▾

## STAY CURRENT - FOLLOW FOOTBALLXPS



2179 readers  
BY FEEDBURNER

## RF SPORTS RADIO - LIVE



Happy Hour Network - Baseball Beer and BBQ

THE NFL NETWORK



Tim Tebow to sign with Eagles



Tony Romo zings Patriots at Country...



Report: Adrian Peterson Not Likely...



Green Bay Packers: Complete seven...



How Confident are the Steelers in Markus...



Dwayne Harris was the jack-of-all-trades...



Miami Dolphins set to begin phase one...

[NFL Rumors & News >](#)

FOOTBALL EXTRA POINTS - MONDAYS @ 9:00PM EASTERN

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2013

## REGGIE JACKSON KNOWS ITALIAN: WHY THE BEARS NEED TO TAKE CHANCES IN THE DRAFT

Reggie Jackson Knows Italian: Why the Bears Need to Take Chances in the Draft



Reggie Jackson does know Italian.

But before I get into that, I wanted to thank all the folks who read my [last article](#) and who left comments. The one thing I learned from the comments is that there are a ton of Project Runway fans out there. So from here on out, I'll only speak poorly of The Real Housewives of New Jersey. I'm sure no one watches that show. But I digress. Back to Reggie Jackson.

A number of years ago, I was taking a flight back from Chicago to New York for work. I got bumped up to first class after changing flights, so I was pretty excited. I walked on to the plane (so THIS is how it feels to walk into a plane with "Zone 1") and sat down next to a big African-American man with a very noticeable ring on his finger. I caught a quick glimpse at it and thought I saw a baseball. So, of course, I asked "Excuse me, is that a World Series ring?" To which he responded, "No, it's a Hall of Fame ring." Being a Yankees fan for a short period growing up, before

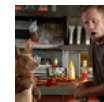
## MOST DISCUSSED

The Packers are improving, but they can't win the Super Bowl. [Week 17 Power Rankings.](#)

Geno Smith outperformed everyone's expectations

Percy Harvin is moving on to the Seahawks, where do the Vikings go to replace him?

How good is Seattle right now? Are they the best team in the NFL? [Week 17 Power Rankings](#)



Isn't That Kangaroo Cute?: [Early Week 1 Fantasy Football](#)

Pickups



Off-season

Troubleshooting: [St. Louis Rams](#)



Garbage In, Garbage Out: [Cleveland Browns Update 3](#)



Giant robots rock: [Overvalued players in 2013 fantasy football drafts](#)

The Ravens stole one against New England last week. [Here's a look at week 4 matchups.](#)

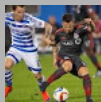


F5 Tomatoes Are For Wimps: Is Tom Brady



### RFSportsRadio

FC Dallas Get Redemption With Win Over Toronto FC 3-2 - FC Dallas defeat Toronto FC



3-2As the National anthem was sung players, fans, and staff alike let it be known

their here to see our boys leave the pitch w...

### Yahoo Fantasy Football Rankings

Tavon Austin can prove out to be a steal for the St.Louis Rams - Tavon Austin can prove out to be a steal for the St.Louis Rams There is no doubt that the St.Louis Rams have lacked of a solid option at the wide receive...

B4



FXP LOGO PROVIDED BY:



RTP Richard Thigpen Photography



ARE YOU A PASSIONATE FAN AND AN EXPERT ON YOUR SPORT/TEAM - SEND US AN EMAIL TO JOIN THE FXP STAFF

Name

unfortunately deciding to be a Cubs fan, I thought I recognized him and asked "Are you Reggie Jackson?" To which he responded, "Yes, I am." What ensued over the next two hours on the plane was surreal. I played it absolutely cool, not wanting to seem like an over-eager fan, so I didn't ask for an autograph. I just shot the breeze about him coming to New York to help the Yankees with batting, his thoughts on Compaq computers, and his Italian dictionary. At the time, Reggie Jackson carried a small Italian dictionary, and when I asked him why, he explained that he liked to speak Italian when he went to buy Ferrari's in Italy. Sure, don't we all? So one of the most surreal (and memorable) moments of my life was when Reggie Jackson tried to teach me a few words in Italian. On a plane. At any rate, after we landed, I just couldn't hold back anymore and I asked Reggie Jackson if he would sign my cocktail napkin. Reggie Jackson smiled and said something along the lines of "Now why didn't you ask me to do that before we landed?"

So why did I just waste 5 minutes of your life (10 minutes if you're a slow reader) telling you that story? Well, for one, I like Reggie Jackson. But with regard to football, it demonstrates that sometimes you just don't know how things will work out, and you have to take chances. I was so afraid that Reggie Jackson would be annoyed with me asking for an autograph that I waited until the last possible minute and almost missed my opportunity to get one of the all-time greats to sign my napkin. Boy would I have regretted that!

The same is true for the Bears and this draft. We're starting to see how Free Agency is shaping up, and although the Bears have made two minor moves, they're also losing players to other teams. For instance, Nick Roach, an excellent surprise at linebacker over the last several years for an undrafted free agent, left to join the Oakland Raiders. Geno Hayes, admittedly not a big part of the Bears defense, also left to join the Jacksonville Jaguars. And of course, with Brian Urlacher flirting with the Minnesota Vikings, things are starting to look a little scary on the linebacker front. And the Bears still don't have a viable third or fourth receiver in a system that is bound to be pass heavy. So what do the Bears have to do? Other than make sure they re-sign Urlacher, they have to take some chances in the draft. The Bears only have five picks in the 2013 Draft, so playing it safe will not do. Time for a Tom Brady-sized surprise outside the first round (as a side note, I'm obligated to note that my wife hates Tom Brady, but that's a story for another day). And who might those people be? Here are four players that I think the Bears should take a chance on outside the first round.

### Ace Sanders, Wide Receiver

Ace Sanders was a great wideout and punt returner at South Carolina. He led the team in 2012 with 45 receptions for 531 receiving yards and nine touchdowns and also set a school record for punt return yards in a season with 429. He's fast, has good hands and played at high level all year long. After the Outback Bowl, Sanders decided to skip his senior season and opted for the draft. So what's not to like you ask? Well, he was subpar at the NFL Combine, posting a 4.58 second 40 yard dash. Although that's only 0.08 seconds behind the draft average for wide receivers at the 2013 Combine (4.50 seconds according to DraftMetrics), many of the fastest receivers were in the 4.4 range. And this is a metric where 100ths of a second matter. Of the 35 wideouts listed on the official Combine results for the 40 yard dash on NFL.com, he ended up 29th. For bench press, he ended up tied for 27th out of 30 wideouts. He was also the 3rd worst wideout at the vertical jump and among the bottom for the broad jump for wideouts. Is he doomed to be relegated to special teams? Why am I piling on this poor guy? Well, I'm here to say buy, buy, buy.

Watching him play in South Carolina, you'll note that he makes great cuts and can change course on a dime, something you see in both his return game and as a wideout. That's essential for a fast tempo, timing route dependent offense like Trestman likes to use. Sanders rarely breaks many tackles after contact, but his elusiveness makes it difficult for defenses to stand him up. Oftentimes this allowed Sanders to grab 9 or

an Elite 2013 Fantasy Quarterback?

### JK FAN CLUB CHARMS

Cheer Them On in Style

- Create your own charm in the online JK Studio.
- Our JK Production Artists will handcraft it for you.

Contact your Stylist to create yours today!

Privacy Policy

Meet the FXP Staff

Find us on Facebook

Conservative NFL  
January 3

I can't watch NFLN because of Irvin and Sapp and I can't watch ESPN a because of Berman, looks like I'm hosed.

1 Like

Comment Share

Conservative NFL  
January 2

53 people like Conservative NFL.

Facebook social plugin

Email \*

Message \*

Send

10 yards when it looked like he would only get 4 or 5. And didn't I say the Bears were one of the worst at getting first downs? This surely will help. Maybe Sanders blows the doors off at South Carolina's Pro Day on March 27th, but his poor Combine results right now is shifting him down from 4th rounder to 5th or even 6th rounder. Getting him as the 20th pick in the 5th or 6th round could be a steal.

#### **Arthur Brown, Linebacker**

Arthur Brown is no secret. And he's no ultra-late round value. I include Brown because as he currently stands, he can fall to Chicago's pick at 20 in the second round, yet he has potential rookie of the year value. In 2012 at Kansas State, Brown had 100 total tackles, four pass breakups, two interceptions (one returned for a touchdown) and one sack. He was the 2012 Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year. So what's his problem, sounds perfect, right? Well, he might be too small to play inside linebacker in the NFL, and doesn't have the strength to break through blocks, so pass pressure might be difficult. Brown also missed both the Senior Bowl and most of the NFL Combine due to a shoulder injury. And no one likes to use a high draft pick on a potential injury and durability question.

However, he looked good at the Kansas State Pro Day, putting up 21 reps on the bench and timing between 4.56-4.66 seconds in the 40 yard dash. That's pretty fast as compared to the 4.75 second average from the NFL Combine for linebackers (again, according to DraftMetrics). And being able to cover ground in short amounts of time can be much more dangerous than simply knocking over an offensive lineman. At Kansas State, he was fast to hit gaps, to blitz or challenge the running back and knew how to strongly contest balls in the air. He could easily pick up a pass catching tight end and provide coverage like a corner. He's also begun to address the size and strength issue by going from 227 lbs. in college to 241 lbs. at the NFL Combine. Frankly, I wouldn't be surprised if someone reached in the end of the first round for Brown. But if he's around in the second round, he'd be a steal.

#### **Aaron Mellette, Wide Receiver**

I'm betting most of you have never heard of Elon before. Neither did I until I ran across Aaron Mellette. Mellette was amazing at Elon and I now wish I watched some of his games (although I doubt that would've been possible for anyone other than people on close circuit television at Elon). In 2012, Mellette caught 97 passes for 1,398 yards and 18 touchdowns. And that wasn't even his best year. In 2011, Mellette had 113 receptions and an incredible 1,639 receiving yards while scoring 12 touchdowns and earning first-team All-Southern Conference honors. It's not many times that a wideout from the Football Championship Subdivision gets noticed in the draft, but Mellette has certainly earned it. So why are we even thinking about it? Why not take him in the first round? Let's look at his Combine results. Of the 35 wideouts, he ended up 23rd in the 50 yard dash with 4.54 seconds. For bench press, he ended up tied for 23rd out of 30 wideouts. And the rest of his results weren't anything to write home about either. He's not going to have consistent speed to break away from defenders, and there's always questions regarding the level of play and whether he can translate his success from the FCS to the NFL. He also had some inconsistent game to game performance in his senior year, which may make many teams nervous. When I was looking up his video clips on Youtube, I ran across his performance against North Carolina in 2012, which demonstrated some sloppy routes and very little downfield ability. But even in light of this, I'd love for the Bears to take a chance on him.

Watching some of his highlights in 2011 (for some reason, I couldn't find his 2012 highlights), he looks slick catching on the run, something that an aggressive West Coast offense will need. He has good eyes and hands and has no fear running into traffic to catch a pass, even if it means being mauled by a linebacker at full speed. He also ran great routes at pass happy Elon, and can get to a spot, turn and catch. His floor might be low, but his ceiling is also really high. What better lottery ticket to pick in the 5th round (assuming someone doesn't reach for him beforehand)? He

could be a solid third wide receiver for Trestman for many years to come. And if not? Heck, that's what 5th round picks are for.

### Brandon Williams, Defensive Tackle

Brandon Williams was a real force at Division II Missouri Southern. In 2012, Williams amassed 50 tackles, 8.5 sacks, 16.5 tackles for a loss and 5 forced fumbles. Those are some great numbers. It's difficult to discuss how good a nose tackle is since a lot of what he does is create opportunities for others on the defense, but Williams is a little out of the ordinary. With his ability to get to the quarterback in college, either by pushing the o-line into the quarterback or just plain getting there himself, he was a real threat. For 335 lbs., he sure moves fast. Unfortunately, his on the field speed did not translate to the 40 yard dash. Williams ended up having the 2nd worst time out of all defensive lineman at the Combine (5.37 seconds). And, as with Mellette, there's always questions of his level of play and whether it will translate from DII to the NFL. There's not a lot of video on Williams, but from what I've seen and reports I've read, it looks like he can get lost in some plays, not quickly distinguishing between pass and run plays. But really, we're talking about value, right?

He looked good in the Senior Bowl and he's quick off the ball. Although his 40 yard dash was subpar, he set the record having the best bench press of any defensive lineman at the Combine with 38 reps. With his combination of speed off the line, relentless pursuit of the quarterback and pure strength, he can be a truly disruptive force for the Bears defense paired with Julius Peppers. If he falls to the 3rd round, he can be a real deal and a great way to insure the defensive line continues to put pressure on opposing offenses. Even in the 2nd round he might be worth the risk.

Are any of these draft targets a sure thing? No, they're not. But just like sitting there in awe of childhood hero in a plane trying to learn some Italian, sometimes you just have to take a chance. Who knows, maybe the Bears will find their own Reggie Jackson autographed napkin in the 2013 Draft.

By  
Ha Kung Wong  
@Rhihan

 +3 Recommend this on Google

### 18 comments:



**Anonymous** March 16, 2013 at 11:05 AM

great read!

[Reply](#)

▼ [Replies](#)



**Hakung Wong** March 16, 2013 at 12:24 PM

Thank you!

---

[Reply](#)



**Anonymous** March 16, 2013 at 11:18 AM

Great article! Nice intro about and references to Mr. October.

[Reply](#)

▼ [Replies](#)



**Hakung Wong** March 16, 2013 at 12:25 PM

Thanks! He's a great guy. I still have his autographed napkin in a frame with his business card and his rookie baseball card that I had as a kid.

---

[Reply](#)



**Blazer Vest** March 16, 2013 at 12:05 PM

Nifty! I liked your fair and balanced assessment of four possible Reggie Jackson cocktail napkins. Are they as versatile as Kevin and Jenny's wedding napkins?

[Reply](#)



**Anonymous** March 16, 2013 at 12:28 PM

Why didn't the bears take Tom Brady? Somebody should have stopped him from going to New England.

Appreciate the research! Keep it up.

[Reply](#)

▼ [Replies](#)



**Hakung Wong** March 16, 2013 at 3:31 PM

Thanks! I'll keep writing if you keep reading! Re Brady, well, he just wasn't that good in college. But you're right, I kinda wish he went someplace else. But then we wouldn't have those dramatic super bowls against the Giants!



**Hakung Wong** March 16, 2013 at 3:37 PM

Thanks! Actually, Brady wasn't that good at Michigan. But you're right, I kinda wish someone else picked him up. Of course then we wouldn't have those awesome Super Bowls against the Giants!

---

[Reply](#)



**Hakung Wong** March 16, 2013 at 12:29 PM

Nothing is as versatile as Kevin and Jenny's wedding napkins!! But then again, their napkins can't catch a pass or sack a quarterback, so there are some weaknesses there as well. :-)

[Reply](#)



**Anonymous** March 16, 2013 at 2:15 PM

Good stuff, keep it coming

[Reply](#)

▼ [Replies](#)



**Hakung Wong** March 16, 2013 at 3:39 PM

Thank you! Keep on reading!

---

[Reply](#)



**Anonymous** March 16, 2013 at 8:03 PM

I think the Bears will have chance, and I agree that a few wideouts late in the stay makes sense. Thanks for the article.

[Reply](#)

▼ [Replies](#)



**Hakung Wong** March 16, 2013 at 11:03 PM

Thanks for reading!

---

[Reply](#)



**Anonymous** March 18, 2013 at 11:33 AM

I think Aaron Mellette would be a great fit for the Bears!

[Reply](#)

▼ [Replies](#)



**Hakung Wong** March 18, 2013 at 8:16 PM

I think he would definitely be worth the late round pick. And who knows, maybe we'll get another Johnny Knox type value. My dream scenario would be Eifert in the first round to team up with Bennett and then Marshall, Jeffery and Mellette as WRs. That would be quite an explosive combination on offense!

---

[Reply](#)



**Anonymous** March 19, 2013 at 4:18 PM

Good read!

[Reply](#)

▼ [Replies](#)



**Hakung Wong** March 19, 2013 at 4:19 PM

Thank you! And thanks for reading and commenting!

---

[Reply](#)



**Hakung Wong** March 21, 2013 at 12:16 AM

With Urlacher now gone it's even more important that the Bears go out and get a Linebacker!

[Reply](#)

---

[Newer Post](#)

[Home](#)

[Older Post](#)

Subscribe to: [Post Comments \(Atom\)](#)