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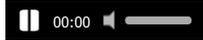
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MONDAYS @ 9:00PM EASTERN

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2013

## REVENGE OF THE SOCK: WHO SHOULD THE BEARS AND PACKERS PICK IN THE FIRST ROUND OF THE DRAFT?



Did you ever have that situation where you tried something the first time and you thought it was great, but the next time you tried it just wasn't that good?

For instance, you go to get some pizza from around the corner and afterwards you swear to your friends that you never had better pizza, but when you all go back there the pepperoni pizza actually tastes like your college roommate's old sweaty sock? And trust me, my college roommate didn't do his laundry often, so his sweaty sock was pretty darn nasty. At one point, I think I had to fight his old sweaty sock for a beer since it kept drinking everything in our fridge. And it really fought dirty. No pun intended of course. Aw, who am I kidding, that pun was totally intended. But I digress...

Just like some food tastes good the first time and taste terrible when you go back, the same thing is true for evaluating football players. Sometimes you get caught up in the hype, sometimes you get blinded by the numbers, and sometimes you're just darn wrong. Well, not me, but some people can be wrong. Now that the draft is around the corner, it's time to reassess who the Chicago Bears and Green Bay Packers will be taking in the first round.

### The Chicago Bears

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The Bears have been quite active during free agency filling lots of needs with mostly secondary players. They picked up two quality linebackers (D.J. Williams and James Anderson -- see my breakdown here [\(LINK\)](#). They picked up a serviceable left tackle in Jermon Bushrod and a similarly serviceable tight end in Martellus Bennett. In my opinion, this doesn't completely fill all the needs the Bears had before free agency [\[LINK\]](#), but it certainly gives them more flexibility in the draft. So who will the Chicago Bears pick in the 1st Round - (20th Overall Pick)? Here are my top three choices:

#### 1) Manti Te'o, ILB, Notre Dame

Manti Te'o is a tough player. He's put up with a lot on and off the field, including the entire invisible girlfriend thing. I admit to a little homerism in that I'm a Notre Dame fan, but Te'o has demonstrated that he has leadership skills and potential to be one of the better linebackers in the NFL. I've watched him play a lot, and although he's not quick to get in front of passes, he does have knack for being able to quickly adjust to intercept tip drills. And he's generally good to the gap. The Bears could do a lot worse. Williams and Anderson are short term solutions, they need some long term development and Te'o can be it.

#### 2) Alec Ogletree, ILB, Georgia

I like Alec Ogletree a lot. He's an amazing run defender. And you can probably tell that I believe the Bears should get some long term solution at linebacker before anything else. The reason I put him behind Te'o are his off the field issues. He was arrested this last February and charged for DUI in Arizona. In 2012, he suspended first four games for violating unspecified team rules. And in 2010, he was suspended a game following a misdemeanor arrest for theft-by-taking. But if those issues can be eliminated, there's no doubt he can be a great linebacker in the NFL.

#### 3) Cordarrelle Patterson, WR, Tennessee

He's not the best wide receiver out there, but I think he has the right size, height and speed to fit as a number three in a West Coast offense. He was a monster in college and with a little coaching and leadership, he could be a great long term addition to Marshall and Jeffery.

### The Green Bay Packers



in terms of priorities [\(LINK\)](#), but there could be a surprise in the midst.

Unlike the Bears, the Packers have done, as per usual, absolutely nothing during free agency. So the same needs apply. I stand by my original assessments

an Elite 2013 Fantasy Quarterback?

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Who will the Green Bay Packers pick in the 1st Round - (26th Overall Pick)? Here are my top three choices:

1) Eddie Lacy, RB, Alabama

As I said before, Eddie Lacy is amazing. I watched in horror as he ran all over Notre Dame at the BCS Championship Game in Miami. I also watched him do the same all year long. He was particularly crazy against Georgia in the SEC Championship game. In short, I still believe the Packers need a long term solution at running back, and has needed one for several years. I think this would be an ideal fit.

2) Cordarrelle Patterson, WR, Tennessee

Everything I said about Patterson above applies here as well. I know every Packer fan has learned to take their amazing aerial corps for granted, but I for one know what it's like when the well dries up. Patterson would be a good fit and may someday be a great primary target for Aaron Rodgers.

3) Matt Elam, S, Florida

Alright, I admit it. I didn't really consider safety as important for the Packers as I did defensive end and defensive tackle. But Matt Elam can be very good for a sorely abused secondary. He's not the best in coverage, but he certainly knows how to go up and break up passes and rarely finds himself out of position. He's also terrific in containing the box against the big run.

Disagree with me? Let me hear it! Just don't throw your old sweaty socks at me. I've had enough of that. And at the end of the day, it's not worth it. It can have my beer.



By Ha Kung Wong (Twitter: @Rhihan)

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### 13 comments:



**Anonymous** April 25, 2013 at 9:00 AM

Those damn socks!

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**Hakung Wong** April 25, 2013 at 6:47 PM

My thoughts exactly! Drink some of the tequila for goodness sake and save some the beer for us! So inconsiderate! ;-)

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**Anonymous** April 25, 2013 at 11:20 AM

If D.J. Fluker is available at 20, the Bears should definitely consider drafting him. He is massive but carries his weight very well. The Bears addressed the left side of the offensive line and should consider doing the same for the right side. I'm not sold on Gabe Carimi.

What are your thoughts on Arthur Brown?

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**Hakung Wong** April 25, 2013 at 6:13 PM

I love Arthur Brown. 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.



**Anonymous** April 25, 2013 at 8:21 PM

I think Te'o and Brown are the same size. I don't think Te'o is worth a 1st round pick. He is too slow and will need to play behind a very good defensive line to make an impact.



**Hakung Wong** April 26, 2013 at 1:32 AM

Well, apparently, that's what the NFL GMs thought as well.



**Anonymous** April 26, 2013 at 12:57 PM

Given what has happened in the first round, do you think the Bears should be looking to address the LB need or give Cutler another weapon on offense? Adding a TE would be nice (Zach Ertz is still available) as would drafting a WR (maybe Robert Woods but I doubt he'll slip that far), but Te'o, Brown, and Kevin Minter might be available.



**Hakung Wong** April 29, 2013 at 6:02 PM

I got back to this late, sorry about that, but judging from what the Bears did in later rounds, I still wish they had picked up a TE earlier. But I can't be too upset, considering the UDFA they picked up after the draft. I'll break it all down in my next article. Thanks for reading!

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**Po Lock** April 25, 2013 at 12:20 PM

I realize RB is a need for the Packers, but with the amount of mid-round value at that position, I don't see Ted Thompson using the 26th pick on Lacy. I believe he'll go for a DL or S. Then fill in the RB position later with guys like Giovanni Bernard, Stefan Taylor, Montee Ball type options in rounds 2-4. My opinion is grab a DL at 26 and if the price is right trade up to early round 2 and grab Cyprien out of FIU

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**Hakung Wong** April 25, 2013 at 6:15 PM

I don't disagree. But I'd love to see the Pack fill the gap left at RB in the draft instead of trying to go for has beens in free agency. Or maybe that's better for the Bears. ;-)

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[Reply](#)



**Anonymous** April 25, 2013 at 3:26 PM

agree with Po Lock. Ample RB options for the Pack and they really only need someone to keep the other team honest for the passing game. Perhaps blocking skills are equally as important as being shifty. Bluntly, I don't believe TT is looking for an arms race with AP in Minnesota. WR would be interesting, but as the Pack faithful (myself included) have seen the last two years, being loaded at that skill position = zero rings.

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**Hakung Wong** April 25, 2013 at 6:45 PM

Well let's be fair, the Pack have had one ring with a loaded receiving corp. I can see them going in a different direction, but RB just seems be such a glaring hole in their offense. Thanks for reading!

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**Hakung Wong** April 27, 2013 at 7:11 PM

So I was right on Eddie Lacy, but one whole round later, which is amazing. Great job by the Pack in drafting him so late.

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