Son Heung-min apologizes to South Korean fans

By TEO CHOI

Son Heung-min's semi-final loss to Jordan should have been no surprise. They had played quite well, but they were not able to win the game. Son said he didn't blame his teammates or the fans. He believed that winning a cup on his own would have been impossible. He admitted that he was not the best player in the world, but he was not the worst either. He said that the fans were right to blame him, but he would not resign. He would continue to work hard and try his best to win the cup.

Son Heung-min's performance in future matches should be watched. He is genetically gifted, but he needs to work on his skills. He is not a prolific goalscorer, but he is a talented player. He needs to focus on his weaknesses and improve his skills. He also needs to work on his physical fitness and his speed. He is not the fastest player, but he could be faster with proper training.

Son said that he knew he was the best player in the world, but he also knew that he was not the best player in the world. He believed that he could improve and become even better. He also believed that he could win the cup with his team. He said that he would not give up and would continue to work hard.

Son's coach, Jurgen Klinsmann, also congratulated Son and his team. He said that Son had shown his class and his determination. He also said that Son was a great player and a great person. He believed that Son would continue to improve and become even better.

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Ali Farag Defeats Diego Elias To Win J.P. Morgan Tournament Of Champions

WILLIAM WEISSMAN

On January 26, Ali Farag defeated Diego Elias in the J.P. Morgan Tournament of Champions (ToC) to win his fourth title of the season, adding another Platinum tournament victory to his resume. As Farag continues to play superb squash in recent years, he has further etched his name into history as one of the greatest players to pick up a squash racket.

The ToC, one of the most prestigious tournaments in the world, hosts 48 players in the men’s and women’s draws with a total prize of $190,000 each. First played in 1993, the event has taken place in 17 different cities and now resides in Grand Central Station in New York City.

Playing in his first tournament of 2024, Ali Farag looked to bounce back in the new year after losing a thrilling 5-game match to World No. 3 Paul Coll in the Hong Kong Squash Open back in December. His campaign began with a first-round bye and a quick 3-game victory against fellow Egyptian Omar Mosaad. Farag continued through the draw, only dropping a game apiece to France’s Baptiste Masotti and Egypt’s Tarek Momen in the third round and the quarter-finals. In the semi-finals, he faced France’s Victor Crouin, who forced a major upset against New Zealand’s Paul Coll in the previous round. However, the Egyptian played three excellent games to take his spot in yet another ToC final.

The championship match comprised Peru’s Diego Elias, the tournament’s defending champion, and a matchup of the two best players in the world. While Farag had won their previous three matches, Elias put these results aside as he stormed out with a 6–0 lead in the first game. The Peruvian took the first game 11–7, controlling the center of the court, while Farag passively extended each rally with a few attacking shots. Farag gained momentum in the second game by regaining position on the “T” and moved Elias to all four corners of the court. The Egyptian’s strategy proved effective in the second and third rounds, after he won 11-6 and 11-4. While Elias tied the match at two games apiece, Farag relentlessly worked his opponent around the court. As Elias faced fatigue, Farag easily won the final game 11-5, adding another trophy to his collection.

With another Platinum title in the year, Ali Farag further separates himself as the best squash player in the world. Through the PSA’s point ranking system, Farag has attained an average of over 2,200, for a total of 25,730 points in 13 tournaments. In comparison, World No. 2, Diego Elias, has a point average of only 13,450 for a total of 16,840 points in 14 tournaments. Ali Farag’s recent dominance in the PSA distinguishes him as the best player in the world. At only 31 years old, he still has many years to secure his legacy.

SEBASTIAN VERMUT

"Best" is a very ambiguous word. In terms of baseball, this could be the best pitcher, best hitting, best defense, best on-base percentage (OBP), best batting average, so and so forth, but in recent years, winning World Series teams have had the best hitting. The 2023 World Series Champions, the Texas Rangers, boasted a lineup with All-Stars Marcus Se– mean, Corey Seager, Ado – lis Garcia, Josh Jung, and Jonah Heim. All of these are hitters. The 2022 Houston Astros were superstar-studded with position players such as Jose Altuve, Kyle Tucker, Framer Valdez, and Yor – dan Alvarez. This team was aided by All-Star pitcher Justin Verlander, but most of the winning came from their bats. The 2021 Braves had Ozuna, Riley, and Albies, and the 2020 Dodgers had Betts, Seager, Muncy, and May. The point is, even if your pitcher throws a quality start, unless your offense can put numbers up, you will not win. Let’s keep this in mind as we take a look at the top rosters heading into the 2024 season.

Starting with the obvi – ous favorite, the Los Angeles Dodgers. With the new acquisitions of Yoshinobu Yamamoto, Shohei Ohtani, and Ty – ler Glasnow, one almost forgets how good they already were. Mookie Betts, Freddie Freeman, and Will Smith combined to produce a total of 18.9 wins above replacement (WARR). This means that if you replaced the three of them with average play – ers, the Dodgers’ instead of having won 100 games, would have won 80 or 81. A World Series-caliber team to a team that misses the playoffs. Now con – sider the three additions (not to mention the trio will cost the Dodgers over one billion over the next few years): Shohei had 10 WAR in 2023, Glasnow had two, and Yamamoto, although yet to throw a single pitch in the ma – jor leagues, is projected to have close to a four pitching WARR. This team is elite in every sense of the word.

Next, a team that has a lot to prove. The New York Yankees won just 82 games last year. Plagued with injuries, the Yankees had to find some way to replace star pow – er that suddenly found themselves on the in – jured list: Aaron Judge, Nestor Cortes, Anthony Rizzo, and Carlos Rodon were all out for multiple months. The situation was so bad that by the end of the season, manag – er Aaron Boone decided to call up players like Jasson Dominguez, Oswald Peraza, and Ever – son Periera to get some big-league playtime. For a team that aims to make the World Series every year, 82 games is nothing short of a massive failure. This pressured general manager Brian Cashman to make some big chang – es. The Yankees shocked the press by trading pros – pects and nearly worth – less players to the Padres for young superstar Juan Soto and center fielder Trent Grisham, as well as trading with their rival the Red Sox for Alex Verdug – go and signing Marcus Stroman to a 2-year con – tract. Trading for Soto vastly improved their lineup. Soto, along with posting a 5.5 WAR, brings a new sense of youth to a since-aging team filled with veterans like Josh Donaldson and Giancarlo Stanton. I have high hopes for the Yankees in 2024.

Perhaps the best team currently that made hardly any moves this offseason is the Atlanta Braves. They were unstoppable in 2023. Led by Ronald Acu – na Jr. and Matt Olson, they seemed to be the surefire World Series favorite — until they got cold at just the wrong time. Knocked out of contention by the Phillies in the National League Division Series for the second year in a row, Braves fans were understandably upset. Even with this letdown, the Braves did not make any significant moves. Even so, they have an ab – solutely stacked lineup filled with speed, power, and pitching. Another in – credible season is almost guaranteed for 2024.

Other teams of note in – clude the reigning World Series-winning Rangers, the Astros, the Baltimore Orioles, and the Philadel – phia Phillies. Each team is expected to be better next season. That being said, you take into ac – count just how endlessly incredible their lineup seems to be, the Dodgers have easily the best line – up by far. But nothing is certain the Orioles were predicted to have 88 wins but went ballistic in 2023, winning more than 100 games. That is the beau – ty of baseball. If we knew what was going to hap – pen, no one would watch. which mlb team has the best roster? - the new york yankees traded for juan soto in december of 2023.
Top Three Swimmers To Look Out For At The 2024 Men's NCAA Championships

JAY WEI & WOORIL EE

The annual NCAA D1 Men's Swimming Championships have drawn hundreds of thousands of fans in the swimming community from its electric atmosphere to the exhilarating races, this prestigious event has become a pillar of collegiate swimming, captivating its audience with a display of athletic prowess and competitive spirit. This year, the competition will be held from March 27th to March 30th at the Indiana University Natatorium in Indianapolis.

As one of the only short-course yard (25-yard) competitions with international swimmers studying and swimming abroad in the US for college, the NCAA is an exciting opportunity to see world-class swimmers in a different type of competition pool. Some would even argue that certain NCAA records like Caeleb Dressel’s 17.63 50 free and 50.00 100 free, are more impressive than LCM (50 m) records set at the US long-course nationals. This competition has elevated the standards of swimming by pushing swimmers to achieve extraordinary feats and redefine the boundaries of the sport. With that said, here are the top three swimmers that we think you should keep your eye on, for the 2024 Men's D1 NCAA Swimming Championships.

Leon Marchand:
Leon Marchand’s performance at the 2023 NCAA Swimming Championships was nothing less than an extraordinary achievement, showcasing his versatility in all strokes and dedication in the pool. He posted a 1:36.34 in the 200 IM, 1:19.91 in the 200 breast, 1:28.42 in the 500 free split as the anchor, and 49.23 in the 400 medley relay as the breaststroke leg. All of these times either broke the NCAA record or were among the fastest times in history. Perhaps the most impressive swim of the 2023 NCAA Championships was his 400 IM, where he absolutely shattered his own record of 3:31.57 by going 3:28.82. Over the summer, Marchand broke Michael Phelps’ legendary 400 IM LCM (long course meter) record at 4:02.50, becoming the first person ever to go under the 4:03 mark. Without a doubt, he has had one of the best seasons ever in history in 2023 and is certainly on track to keep that up. Despite taking a short break from the pool due to sickness and injury, Marchand has posted some pretty impressive times this season. He went 1:38 in the 200 IM twice in 24 hours at the Fall Invitational held from October 27-28 and set a personal best LCM 100 fly in his signature event, landing himself in the Olympic Games, World Championships, and the NCAAs, his experience will definitely pay dividends in the upcoming battle where he is set to face off against some tough rivals. His best times stand at 18.22 for the 50 free, 40.28 for the 100 free, and 43.40 for the 200 fly from the 2023 season, but he has already shown signs of what he’s capable of. At the Georgia Fall Invitational held from November 16-18, 2023, he had a respectable outcome of 18.61 in the 50 free, 40.90 in the 100 free, and 44.39 in the 100 fly. With appropriate preparation, we can expect Liendo to be one of the most exciting and electrifying swimmers to look out for.

Ilya Kharun:
Ilya Kharun has been an up-and-coming star since the beginning of the season. He is now boasting several school records in the butterfly events. Fresh out of school, although primarily known as a talented 200 butterfly after an impressive 1:53.82 LCM at the recent World Championships in Fukuoka, he has shown his competence in the sprint butterfly and freestyle events as well. He has broken his own school record in the 100 fly multiple times over the course of the season already, but his best time stands at 44.33, while his 50 free stands at a striking 18.93. Moreover, he shocked the swimming world recently when he boasted a time of 1:37.93 in his signature event, the 200 fly—nearly clipping the NCAA record. His consistent rate of improvement has been crucial in Arizona's cause in the 200 fly, 1:37.35. His consistent performance at the Georgia Fall Invitational held from October 27-28, and a half to go, one thing is certain – the NCAA Swimming Championships are set to be an unforgettable showcase of talent, dedication, and the enduring spirit of the sport.

Josh Liendo:
Josh Liendo already had a solid showing at the 2023 NCAAs as a freshman at the University of Florida, specializing in sprint butterfly and freestyle events. Having time to the Olympic Games, World Championships, and the NCAAs, his experience will definitely pay dividends in the upcoming battle where he is set to face off against some tough rivals. His best times stand at 18.22 for the 50 free, 40.28 for the 100 free, and 43.40 for the 200 fly from the 2023 season, but he has already shown signs of what he’s capable of. At the Georgia Fall Invitational held from November 16-18, 2023, he had a respectable outcome of 18.61 in the 50 free, 40.90 in the 100 free, and 44.39 in the 100 fly. With appropriate preparation, we can expect Liendo to be one of the most exciting and electrifying swimmers to look out for.

ASU freshman Ilya Kharun is looking to get his first NCAA Championship in the 200 fly after boasting some of the fastest times in history at in-season dual meets.

NBA Contender Tiers

ADRIAN WERNER

Tier 1 - All eyes on the title: Celtics

The Boston Celtics have cemented themselves as the clear favorites to win the NBA. They have not lost a game on their home floor until January and hold the league’s best record after five games. General Manager Brad Stevens went all out this offseason, trading Marcus Smart and other key pieces for sharpshooting big Kristaps Porzingis and All-NBA defensive guard Jrine Holiday. This is truly a championship or bust year for the Celtics, with Jayson Tatum improving supermax deal limit all star roster building and retention after this season.

Tier 2 - Aspiring finals teams: Nuggets, Thunder, Clippers, Cavaliers, Timberwolves

Nuggets: This has been a bit of a down year after the Nuggets finished last in the West last season. They have consistently been within reach of the Western Conference’s best but haven’t been able to string together consistent wins. In my eyes, this team is still the favorite to come out of the west, even if Jokic and Murray lost some of the help they had last year.

Thunder: Many view the Thunder as ahead of schedule in their rebuild, it view it as one of the few window years, they want to get since it is harder to retain stars as a small market. They are in contention for the first seed in the West, and trading for veteran Gordon Hayward has positioned them to make a deep run.

Clippers: The Clippers have been struggled through injuries and how to operate their big three, with Russell Westbrook leading the bench unit. After losing to the Celtics by nearly 40 on December 23, they turned around and won 17 of their next 20 to put them as the third seed in the west. What once looked like a dumpster fire has now become a legitimate threat.

Cavaliers: The Cavaliers are a similar story; they started out trying to avoid the play-in and gone on a hot streak since the regular season, fall Invitational held from January 1 and won 17 of their last 20 contests. Although not enough to catch the Celtics, they have surpassed the floundering Sixers and underwhelming Buckets.

Timberwolves: The Timberwolves have figured out a winning formula and Karl-Anthony Towns’s “Twins” experiment, and Anthony Edwards looks like a future MVP. The Twolves have put together a nice season but need to be a little more consistent.

Tier 3 - Aspiring conference finals teams: Knicks, Suns, Bucks

Bucks: The Bucks are inherently limited in how deep they can go in the postseason by new coach Doc Rivers. They are also having trouble scoring in the regular season, falling behind the Cavs and leaving them without much depth. The Fourth seed. Giannis still

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looks alone on the floor against good teams as Damian Lillard has been unable to string togeth-
er any consistent offense that counters his defen-
sive liabilities.

Sun: The Suns’ big three have found their stride and have moved the team to the front of the chase pack for the one seed in the west. If they can all stay healthy and get quality contri-
butions from their role players, this team could go deep into the postsea-
son.

Knicks: The Knicks have been surging after their acquisition of OG Anunoby before the new year. Although their push has recently been slowed by injuries to both Anuno-
by and key forward Julius Randle, Jalen Brunson has shown his ability to lead a team to success in May.

Tier 4 - Playoff light-
weights: Kings, Heat, Pacers, Pelicans

Kings: The Kings have not been able to repli-
cate their historic offen-
sive performance last season, but De’Aaron Fox and Domantas Sabonis are still leading this team to a playoff-worthy sea-
son, with their defense improving from last year as well.

Heat: The Miami Heat have been nothing but disappointing this year after their finals appear-
ance. They were in a very similar situation last year, though, and Jim-
my Butler can never be written off come crunch time. Last year, he led the eight-seeded Heat to the NBA finals, upsetting the one and two seeds on the way. If this team can figure out where to get more offensive produc-
tion, they will be a whole different animal.

Pacers: Tyrese Halibur-
ton’s breakout and Pascal Siakam’s acquisition have launched this team from a play-in team to a playoff team to keep on your ra-
der. Overall, it was an im-
pressive year, even if they can’t find success in the postseason.

Pelicans: The Pelicans have been playing (and winning) under the ra-
dar and are firmly en-
trenched in the race for the final playoff spots. Zion Williamson has been playing well even if he hasn’t unlocked his full potential due to his weight, and Brandon In-
gram has had a career year as well.

Tier 5 - Play-in cham-
pions: Mavericks, Sixers, Lakers, Warriors

Mavericks: The Maver-
icks two stars have been playing well, with Luka Dončić averaging an in-
sane 34.9/9. The defense continues to be an is-
sue, though, and Derek Lively’s rim protection has been missed in the last couple of weeks. We will see if Jason Kidd can ramp up the team’s effort and bench production. Until then, this team will keep fighting to avoid the play-in.

Sixers: The loss of Joel Embiid basically end-
ed this team’s hopes of being a real contender. Without his 35/11/6 every night, they fall into the league’s bottom half. The breakout of Tyrese Max-
ey has been a nice posi-
tive, but general manager Daryl Morey continued to confuse fans with his moves at the trade dead-
line. This team was proba-
ably end up in the play-in, but it’s really just time to gear up for next year and pray Joel Embiid can stay healthy.

Lakers: The Lakers are in a similar spot as last year. There are questions about the coaching, co-
hesion, and emotions of Lebron James. I assume they can pull things to-
gether, but with how competitive the playoff spots are in the West, I can’t see this team lighting out of the play-in. It’s time to think about mov-
ing the 29-year-old Leb-
ron for the sake of the team’s future.

Warriors: The Warriors’ fall from dynasty may fi-
nally be over for the sec-
ond time. Klay Thompson is a shell of his old self, and Draymond is more focused on tech and his post than playing his team win. Curry and the younger players on this team are keeping it afloat, but if the Warriors make it out of the play-in, this team could not win more than two games against the league’s best.

Tier 6 - Play-in teams: Magic, Bulls, Jazz, Hawks

Magic: The Orlando Magic are much like the OKC Thunder last year. They are a fun up-and-
coming team entering their contending window. We saw this potential ear-
ly in the year when they were near the top of the East until early January. As their young players progress, this team will become more and more dangerous, though right now, their ceiling is win-
ning the Last play-in.

Jazz: Lauri Markkanen has continued his im-
pressive improvements as a first option, and the starting five is still put-
ing up good numbers. However, this team just doesn’t have the depth to stay competitive in games, and the post-Don-
ovan Mitchell era rebuild continues.

Bulls: The Bulls are still bad, but Coby White has emerged as a potential star in the years to come. The Bulls did not sell their remaining pieces at the deadline, and they stay in the to-tank or not-to-tank range. They are fighting to stay near .500 and rank as one of the lower play-
in teams.

Hawks: The Hawks have fallen from the edge of the playoffs, and the Dejounte Murray ex-
periment has clearly not worked. Pairing two ball-dominant guards that aren’t great defenders is not a recipe for success. This team does have some good young talent, though, and could improve if they can get someone like Herb Jones or a defending guard to anchor the starting five.

Tier 7 - Play-in hope-
fuls: Raptors, Nets, Rock-
ets

Raptors: The Raptors finally went into rebuild mode and got some de-
cent returns for OG Anunoby and Pascal Siakam. They will be a bottom ten team in the league for the foresee-
able future, and it will be interesting to watch the development of RJ Barrett and Immanuel Quickley.

Nets: The Brooklyn Nets have remained a fun team, but they can-
note compete with teams without a true number 1 or even number 2 scoring option. Mikal Bridges has not quite progressed as hoped, and Cam Thomas has remained frustrat-
ingly inconsistent. Luck-
ily, they have plenty of picks from their failed big three.

Rockets: The genius of James Dolan’s Ireland cannot be ignored with his turn-
around of the Rockets’ team. He has turned the p-
layers into defensive masterminds. The confus-
ing signing of Fred VanVleet has worked out pretty well, but their recent injury has seen this team fall out of the play-in. Just a couple more years of rebuilding left for this team until they enter their contending window.

Tier 8 - Tank tank tank: Hornets, Wizards, Pis-
tons, Grizzlies, Blazers, Spurs

Hornets: Although the Hornets are 3-0 in the new Grant “Batman” G“GOAT” Williams era, they

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are wallowing in a half reb- run and the injuries of Lamelo Ball. Not much to say about this team.

Grizzlies: The Grizzlies season may be the most heartbreaking in league history, coming into the season with eyes on a top seed, their hopes have been derailed by an in- sane amount of injuries, playing seemingly a new team lineup every night in re- sponse to absences. This is a wasted year of their fleeting title window, but eyes are focused on the high draft pick and next season.

Blazers: The Trailblaz- ers season has gone as expected after Trading

Brandon Horne

Michael Mechegia

MARCH 11, 2024

Boston College Football Hires Bill O’Brien As Head Coach

BRUCE MCLAREN

Ex-Boston College coach Jeff Hafley shocked the college world by leaving BC in late January to become the defensive coordina- tor for the Green Bay Packers. This came one day after complet- ing an interview on You- tube explaining his ex- pectations for BC in the upcoming season. When this happened, many BC fans began to talk about the potential for Hafley to be the new head coach at BC. BC has already hired their offensive coordinator, former Patriots tight end coach Will Lawing, as BC has already hired defensive coordinator, former Patriots tight end coach Will Lawing, as BC has already hired defensive coordinator, former Patriots tight end coach Will Lawing, as BC has already hired defensive coordinator, former Patriots tight end coach Will Lawing, as BC has already hired defensive coordinator, former Patriots tight end coach Will Lawing, as BC has already hired defensive coordinator, former Patriots tight end coach Will Lawing, as

+1000 odds and only the seventh best odds to become the next head coach at BC. Af- ter around a week of searches, three main candidates got inter- views: Bill O’Brien, Al Wistrom, and one unknown coach. A few different people could have been this third candidate, including Jeff Monken (current Army coach) or Chip Kelly (ex-UCCLA coach, current Ohio State of- fensive coordinator). When O’Brien (known as BOB by many) was hired by BC, this excited many fans, including myself. This is because of his track record as a head coach of the Houston Texans in the NFL, along with being the head coach of Penn State, the offensive coordinator for Alabama, and the offen- sive coordinator for the New England Patriots very successfully. An anonymous opinion that I got on X is as stat- ed: “Let’s go! That’s huge news!... If we can main- tain all of the Hafley port- al players, I believe this team has a lot of potential.” There were numerous other public opinions, most of which were very positive. A former BC player also mentioned, though, that many players may trans- fer out due to a lack of familiarity, but this has not been apparent so far in the offseason.

Another unknown when BOB was hired as head coach was who he would bring with him and keep on his coaching staff. It seems that the hiring process has gone very fast so far, as BC has already hired their offensive and de- fensive coordinators, former Patriots tight ends coach Will Lawing and ex-NFL defensive coordinator Tim Lewis. The defensive coordi- nator hire especially is a bit questionable, as Tim Lewis hasn’t coached in the NFL or college football for many years, but it has been report- ed that it is only a one- year deal, so this may be a placeholder until next year when O’Brien can hire a full staff with more time. Also, BC is keeping many offen- sive coaches, including well-renowned offen- sive line coach Matt Ap- plebaum, who has done an excellent job at BC in his multiple stints.

Another unknown when BOB was hired as head coach was who he would bring with him and keep on his coaching staff. It seems that the hiring process has gone very fast so far, as BC has already hired their offensive and de- fensive coordinators, former Patriots tight ends coach Will Lawing and ex-NFL defensive coordinator Tim Lewis. The defensive coordi- nator hire especially is a bit questionable, as Tim Lewis hasn’t coached in the NFL or college football for many years, but it has been report- ed that it is only a one- year deal, so this may be a placeholder until next year when O’Brien can hire a full staff with more time. Also, BC is keeping many offen- sive coaches, including well-renowned offen- sive line coach Matt Ap-plebaum, who has done an excellent job at BC in his multiple stints.

When entering this coaching search, it was unbeknownst to many fans which direction Boston College would go in when hiring their next head coach, and they went for the ob- jectively best option. However, this option was most definitely expensive, which is a trend that BC tend- ed not to follow in the past. This shows change under Blake James’ leadership in that Bos- ton College knows that to stay relevant, they need to change and spend more than they may like to take a risk on their program. Also, with this hire, many transfers and recruits could be attracted to Boston College due to having a “big name” as their head coach. As for this upcoming season, QB Thomas Castellanos is proven to be a star, and it will be very inter- esting to see how he develops. In a later arti- cle, an in-depth analysis of each game on their schedule will be writ- ten, along with my pre- dictions for the upcom- ing season with players, coaches, and BC’s re- cord. Overall, this hire is a huge win and home run for Boston College, and it will be interest- ing to see how this team competes in this crucial 2024 season.

Bonus Note: There has been a source on X that has stated a poten- tial for BC to have Tom Brady (yes, the greatest quarterback of all time) come to BC during the spring and attend a practice or two. I am not sure if there is merit to this, but it would be amazing, so I wanted to add it!
Qatar Defeats Jordan 3-1 in AFC Asian Cup Final

XAVIER MORAN

The Asian Football Cup (AFC) recently came to an end with plenty of upsets and plenty of goals. Qatar’s journey into the finals was one that was hard-fought and impressive. The team swept the group stage without being scored on in all three games. Once the round of 16 began, the games started to get more difficult as Qatar knocked out Palestine and then Uzbekistan in a penalty shootout. Qatar then had a close game with Iran before scoring the winning goal to make it 3-2 and continuing their journey to their second AFC finals match in a row.

Qatar had a much different path to the finals. They began the tournament with a rocky start. In the group stage, they barely squeezed by with a win against Malaysia and a draw against South Korea. After the group stage, Jordan was feeling strong and ultimately up-set Son Heung-Min and the South Korean team in the semi-finals to then meet Qatar in the finals.

The final match started with Qatar controlling most of the possession while getting some solid shots on goal. Jordan had few counterattacks, but the ones they had would almost always result in a strong shot on net. During the 19th minute of the game, Akram Afif was illegally tackled inside the box for a penalty kick for Qatar. He scored with a low and fast paced shot to the left corner, giving Qatar an early lead. After that goal, Jordan adopted an offensive strategy that led to many shots, which proved successful in the second half following a brilliant cross, Yazen Al-Naimati scored a full volley for Jordan. However, in the 70th minute, a debatable foul happened again to a Qatar player in Jordans’ goal box. The video assistant referee (VAR) soon confirmed the penalty, and Afif would score another penalty. 20 minutes later, the referee went over to VAR again to review another penalty kick for Qatar. The referee gave a third penalty to Akram Afif, where he banked it into the bottom right corner for a hat trick. By this point, the Jordanian fans and team had given up hope. The next five minutes of the game were spent delaying.

On Saturday, February 10th, Qatar became the first-ever team to win back-to-back Asian Cups after defeating Jordan 3-1. Last FIFA World Cup, Qatar did not make it past the group stage, but now, this two-time Asian Championship team will have to prove their talent to the world in the 2026 World Cup in the Americas.

How VAR is Ruining the Premier League

ALEX LEE

The Premier League implemented the video assistant referee (VAR) at the beginning of the 2019-2020 season in hopes that it would eliminate the potential for human error from the referees. It was meant only to be utilized when one of the referees makes a glaring mistake, such as missing a clear handball or offside call. Yet, what we see today is quite the opposite.

More than ever, VAR is being used to review calls that stray far from the system’s original purpose. VAR was never intended to determine offside decisions where one player’s foot is just centimeters ahead of the other or review a seemingly harmless tackle in the middle of the pitch that was brought into the game to rule out “clear and obvious” errors; however, stopping the game for minutes to review several camera angles of an offside call does not meet this criteria. Former England striker and Ballon d’Or winner Gary Lineker shared his frustration with the tight offside calls that are even more common.

“Once again, the technology can’t prove tight decisions. Two replays is the maximum you need to see if the referee’s assistants have badly erred. Get rid of the silly lines and dots. If it’s that tight go with on-field decision,” Lineker said following a weekend of questionable VAR decisions. The question about what should be deemed clear and obvious also arises when considering tackles or potential fouls. A study showed that referees are much more likely to award a harsher penalty for tackles that are viewed in slow motion as opposed to real-time. A tackle that might normally be a yellow card is more likely to become red when VAR slows the video down and analyzes. This means that VAR is not actually providing objectivity (its intended goal) in these scenarios, as it is changing the referee’s initial opinion on a contested decision. Slowing it down and re-watching cannot guarantee that a correct decision is made, as a lot is meant to be left up to the referee’s discretion. VAR and its tendency to award harsher punishments also encourage players to go down or exaggerate their reactions when fouled, as they know if VAR checks it, it is more likely that the other team or player will be penalized.

Another issue I find with the current VAR system is the way it interrupts the flow of the game. Too often is there a five-minute pause in play as officials deliberate over a decision, which can deflate the atmosphere of an energetic match. The game is meant to be fast-paced, but long pauses, as a result of VAR, force the game to take on a considerably slower speed.

The tight offside calls, harsher decisions, and excessively long stoppages in play are not what VAR was implemented to achieve. These outcomes not only misrepresent VAR’s original goals but also affect the game in other ways that need no change. It is time to see a thorough rework of the way VAR is used in the Premier League, addressing how to stay true to the game and its energy and uncertainty while at the same time assisting referees in their decision-making instead of taking over the entire process.
Los Angeles Chargers Sign Michigan Head Coach Jim Harbaugh

On January 24, the Los Angeles Chargers football team announced one of the most groundbreaking coaching hires in the NFL’s last few years. The Chargers hired Jim Harbaugh, former Chargers quarterback and brother of Baltimore Ravens Head Coach John Harbaugh. Although Harbaugh will be new to this Charger’s organization, he will most definitely not be new to coaching football.

Harbaugh has an extensive career as a coach in both college and the NFL. He started his coaching journey at the University of San Diego, where he coached for two seasons before being named head coach at Stanford University, where he coached for another three. Following his stint at Stanford, Harbaugh got his first head coaching opportunity in the NFL with the San Francisco 49ers, where he showed that he was an excellent coach at both the collegiate and professional levels. Harbaugh left the 49ers with a 19-1 regular season record before deciding to go back to college coaching, this time at his alma mater, the University of Michigan. This is where Harbaugh is perhaps most well-known.

Since his start at Michigan in 2015, Harbaugh made a name for himself as one of the most elite college football coaches, slowly transforming the program into the Big 10 powerhouse that we know today. Of course, this includes Michigan’s unstoppable march to the national championship this past January, where they claimed a breezy 34-13 win over Washington to crown them the best in the nation. This was Michigan’s 12th national championship, putting Harbaugh up there with the all-time best college coaches, with a record of 144-42. Now, Harbaugh makes his return to the NFL, as he is leaving Michigan for the Chargers on a five-year deal. Due to his success in both the NFL and at the collegiate level, Harbaugh has been one of the most sought-after coaching candidates, making his decision to sign with the Chargers big news within the football community.

As Harbaugh steps up to coach a team that went 5-12 this past season, he already has his work cut out for him. In order to start making changes within the Chargers organization, Harbaugh will need to surround himself with a strong team of players and coaches in order to rebuild the Chargers from this past season. However, if anyone is up to the job, it is Jim Harbaugh. As Chargers president John Spanos once said, “Jim is the one.”

East vs. West Format Makes Return to NBA All-Star Game

On October 25th, 2023, the NBA announced that the 2024 All-Star Game format would return to its original format of an East team versus a Western team format. This format consists of 12 players from the NBA Eastern Conference competing against 12 players from the NBA Western Conference.

Many believed the 2023 NBA All-Star Game in Salt Lake City was uneventful and the players were not playing hard enough. In recent years, players have started viewing it as just a game for fun rather than a competitive one, and they have become more cautious of getting injured. Seeing the reactions of the fans due to the uncompetitive nature that the All-Star Game shifted towards, the NBA decided to revert to the old format for 2024.

Since 2018, the All-Star teams have been selected in a televised draft. Two team captains were selected based on votes, and they would each select a team consisting of eleven other players. This year, the NBA decided to move away from the All-Star draft. Additionally, in 2020, the NBA introduced an Elam-ending game with an unlimited four-quarter and a target score. However, that is getting removed along with the draft as the league decided to return to the typical 12-minute, four-quarter game. Many are interested in seeing how removing the Elam ending will affect the game’s competitiveness and how the East and West will match up against one another.

The decision to return to the old format was met with a mix of reactions. Some fans were excited about the decision, and felt that it was a good call. Former Utah Jazz general manager Kevin O’Connor shared his thoughts on Twitter: “NBA returning to a traditional format for All-Star is cool. I’d like to see them switch it up every few years.” O’Connor, along with many others, appreciates the decision, and he believes making changes like this every few years is beneficial. On the other hand, some fans did not agree with the decision. Although some people thought the recent All-Star Game was boring, many believed the Elam-ending provided an exciting ending, with that gone, many question how that will affect the game’s competitive nature.

This year’s East vs. West All-Star Game will take place on Sunday, February 18th, 2024, at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis. Many people believe the West has an advantage with its team consisting of Lebron James, Nikola Jokic, Luka Doncic, and more. The East can not be counted out, though, as stars like Giannis Antetokounmpo, Jayson Tatum, and Tyrese Haliburton headline their team.
Max Holt Rejoins The U.S. Mens National Volleyball Team

ARTHUR WU

The shocking rumors of Max Holt’s return to the U.S. Mens National Team for the 2023-2024 season have been reaffirmed. His status as arguably the best middle blocker in the sport and his journey back to the national team is marked by his undying passion for the sport. Born with a natural talent and interest in volleyball, Holt’s unexpected return represents his willingness to develop younger players as well as his faith in the bright future of the U.S. national team.

Returning to the national team posed numerous challenges for Holt. He faced obstacles such as injuries, intense competition for roster spots, and the evolving dynamics of the sport. Yet, he overcame these hurdles through perseverance, emerging stronger and more determined than ever. As he stepped onto the court once again, it became evident that he was not just a contender but a vital asset to the team. His unmatched skills, strategic gameplay, and unwavering mentality were visible to coaches and fans alike. Despite the rigorous competition and demanding training routines, Holt’s return to the national team showcased his commitment to pushing the boundaries of his abilities as a 36-year-old athlete.

Although the duration of his prolonged career is unknown, we can expect to see Holt’s presence impact the team daily. His experience, leadership, and exceptional talent will undoubtedly contribute to the continued success and growth of the U.S. Mens National Team. Additionally, his willingness to mentor younger players and his passion for the sport will leave a lasting legacy in the volleyball community.

Lebron James or Shaquille O’Neal Set to Own NBA Team in Las Vegas

NOAH PARE

The Los Angeles Lakers’ Lebron James, a renowned basketball legend with 19 All-Star appearances, first expressed his interest in taking at least partial, if not full, ownership of a new NBA team in June of 2022. He stated, “I want a team in Vegas,” despite his current ownership of the Boston Red Sox, the Pittsburgh Penguins, Liverpool FC, and RFK Racing. Four months later, James repeated his request to the world more directly: “I would love to bring a team here [Las Vegas] at some point. That would be amazing.”

I know Adam [Adam Silver, the NBA’s 3rd and current commissioner] is in Abu Dhabi right now, I believe, but he probably sees every single interview and transcript that comes through from NBA players. So I want a team here Adam. Thank you.”

Despite a lack of promising feedback, James persisted, unwilling to give up on his goal. A year later, when questioned about why he wants the team to be located in Vegas, he responds, “Obviously, you have the Raiders here, you have the Knights here, you have the Aces here. You got F1 coming very soon. All-Star Weekend has been a few times,” James explains. “I think adding an NBA franchise here would just add to the momentum that’s going on in this town.”

Surprisingly, James is not the only one who expressed interest in owning an NBA team in Las Vegas. Retired 19-year NBA star with 15 total All-Star appearances, Shaquille O’Neal shares James’ goal. In October of 2023, Shaq stated, “I would like to have my own group. I know Vegas hasn’t been awarded an NBA team yet, but if they ever get to the point where they are awarded a team, I would like to be a part of that. I don’t want to partner up with nobody. I want it all for myself.” Though it is unwanted, it is possible the NBA will approve this request for expansion due to their struggling financial circumstances. There is currently no policy for the formal expansion of the NBA concerning teams. If the expansion occurs, who do you think will gain ownership? Will it be in Las Vegas as requested?
Why UCLA is Dominating NCAA Men's Volleyball

ZACHARY YUAN

The 2024 UCLA All-Star games took place on February 18 in Indianapolis. There will be many fun events, including the slam dunk contest, a three-point contest between Stephen Curry and Luka Doncic, and celebrity games, the rising star challenge, the skills challenge, and the G-league all-star game. The weekend wraps up with the NBA all-star game, where the best players from the Eastern and Western conferences face off. The players in this game have already been decided, with Giannis Antetokounmpo and Lebron James captains of the Eastern and Western conferences respectively. The All-Stars are voted in by fans, players, and the media, while the reserves are voted in by the coaches.を選ぶ.

The Biggest Snubs From The 2024 NBA All-Star Selections

Continued on Page 10

ZACHARY YUAN

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The Biggest Snubs From The 2024 NBA All-Star Selections

Continued on Page 10

Even though Ice Trae did make the team as an injury replacement, he wasn't initially selected, which was a shocker. The fact that he's been snubbed is surprising but not surprising at the same time. One of the main reasons why Young didn't make the All-Star game is because of the Atlanta Hawks' abysmal record (24-30). People had put the blame for the Atlanta Hawks' shortcomings at Trae Young's feet, but he has felt very unfair when has he's putting up All-Star numbers on the court, ranks tenth in average points per game (27.0), and second in assists per game (10.9). In fact, he's the only player in the league averaging 25+ points and 10+ assists per game. However, he has a reputation for being a poor defender and is criticized for his foul-drawing style of play. Young isn't exactly the most炙着 player in the league and given that the all-star bench spots were select by the coaches, he could be another reason behind his snub.

Derrick White, G (Boston Celtics)

Even though Boston Celtics' Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown are already All-Stars, there's nothing wrong with the team getting multiple All-Stars. And one person playing on almost the same level as Tatum and Brown is Derrick White. White's two-way brilliance is a crucial piece in the Celtics' machine, which has a record of 41-12 this season and is currently the best team in the league. First of all, he's the second best defensive backcourt player in the Eastern Conference and a huge factor behind the Celtics' second-ranked defense in the league. White leads the Celtics in both defensive estimate plus-minus, and defensive rating swing (the difference between a team's points allowed per 100 possessions when a given player is on or off the floor). Moreover, White has the most assists per game on the Celtics, and he's a very reliable catch-and-shoot three pointer option for the Celtics, shooting 40 percent from deep.

Scottie Barnes, F (Toronto Raptors)

Scottie Barnes has been amazing this year, yet he's another player whose success has been overshadowed by their team's underwhelming season. As the Raptors' took a nosedive in January, plummeting to 12th in the Eastern Conference with a 19-35 record, Barnes is putting up incredible numbers at 20 points, eight rebounds, and six assists per game. The 21-year-old has blossomed into one of the most versatile forwards in the game in his third season, and he's shown clear improvement in his three-point percentage, playmaking and passing, and his williness to play aggressively. One weak spot that Barnes has is his defense, yet if he works on that, he is a clear talent who could definitely make the All-Star selections in the future.

Kristaps Porzingis, C (Boston Celtics)

Another Celtics play...
er worth mentioning is Kristaps Porzingis. As The Celtics boast the NBA's record, with Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown as their two All-Stars. While a contender, it seems like little's room for Porzingis. However, it's worth mentioning that Porzingis is a crucial part of this incredible Boston offense, his skill level compared to last year's Celtics team. Even though Porzingis doesn't have many numbers, average 20 points, seven rebounds, two blocks, and shooting to from three, these stats are incredible given he's a Center. Porzingis excels at his three-point shooting, and he's having the best efficiency in his career. He provides the Celtics with not only more floor space from a center position but also cutting and pick-and-pop at the rim. With the addition of an incredible big man, the Boston Celtics look unstoppable. Ultimately though, his low-game play makes him worth mentioning. His numbers below the other All-Star candidates kept him off the roster.

**West**

**Dominant Sabonis, F (Sacramento Kings)**

The former Louisville Cardinals star is a great player in all aspects, and he's just one more player with other superstars like Luka Doncic, Devin Booker, and Ben Simmons. Furthermore, Sabonis is a player with advanced playmaking and knockdown shooting. In fact, it feels unfair that Harden didn't make the team when Leonard and George both had a 35-17 record, 3rd in the West. Even though Harden had to sacrifice some scoring to have a better team, the Clippers are one of the most surprising teams this year, with a 35-17 record, 3rd in the West. Even through Fox is incredible, this snub is understandable, as the West is loaded with elite guards, including Luka Doncic, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, Devin Booker, Steph Curry, and Anthony Edwards. However, Fox does not outperform them. The league should consider expanding the All-Star roster to 15 players instead to make the top-tier players not miss out on the recognition they deserve.

**Rudy Gobert, C (Minnesota Timberwolves)**

Rudy Gobert is arguably the second most important player on the best team in the West this season, the Minnesota Timberwolves. Gobert is an All-Star worthy of the All-Star recognition over KAT and another guard. Rudy is a dependable and efficient player, a great floor-spacer, capable of blocking shots and defending the rim. He is the best rim-protector in the league. When he's playing, the team is plus 12.2 when he's off. As the Timberwolves already have two All-Stars in Anthony Edwards and Karl Anthony Towns, it makes sense to leave Gobert out, but personally, Gobert definitely deserves this recognition on both over KAT this season.

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**De'Aaron Fox, G (Sacramento Kings)**

The Kings getting double snubbed is particularly brutal, and De'Aaron Fox is another player who deserves an All-Star appearance with the Kings' top tier. At top 5 in the Western Conference this year after making it for the first time last year, Fox is averaging over 27 points, four rebounds, five assists, and a steal per night while performing like the best player on a solid Kings team. Fox is a reliable three-point shooter, shooting 38 percent behind the arc, and a crucial part of their defense, especially in limiting the flow of an opposing offense. However, through Fox's incredible play, this snub is understandable, as the Kings are loaded with elite guards, including Luka Doncic. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, Devin Booker, Steph Curry, and Anthony Edwards. However, Fox does not outperform them. The league should consider expanding the All-Star roster to 15 players instead to make the top-tier players not miss out on the recognition they deserve.

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NFL Scouting Report: Terrion Arnold

The NFL Draft is right around the corner, and with Lamar Jackson's return to the field, the GOAT's getting into it. In this article, star Alabama's star cornerback Terrion Arnold will be reviewed. Remember, watch his film before forging your own opinion, but here's mine.

Even before looking at the film, it is clear that Arnold is a very productive season. Additionally, he only allowed a 60.5 passer rating when he was targeted by opposing quarterbacks. While film matters far more than box scores, the box score is still something to consider.

The first thing that a scout notices when watching a player on tape is that he is an extremely physical athlete. Additionally, when Arnold is in the zone, you can tell that his fluidity and explosiveness shine in all of the right ways. He anticipates throws with ease and makes jumps on balls that most corners wouldn't dream of getting to. In press man, a common technique among cornerbacks, he is extremely physical, and his jams at the line are more than not enough to disrupt the timing of the receiver's route.

His athleticism is also a plus. At 6'0" and nearly 200 pounds, this guy is the perfect pocket package for a corner. His mid-4.4 forty-yard dash time is good but not great. He's a consistently fluid mover all over the field. His hip fluidity and shoulder turn quickness are high-speed, and his ability to switch between vertical and lateral is a hallmark of his game.

Arnold has had one of the better corners at sticking with the ball in his year's draft. His close explosiveness led to some massive pops on running backs this year, hits that wouldn't usually expect to see out of a boundary corner.

One issue with Arnold is that while he has short area burst, and he can't keep up with the longer spacing receivers. He has not developed an understanding of what a player plays as physically strong, but he can be physical, and he might want. If Arnold presses up hard on a receiver and the receiver somehow gets him by his tackle, Arnold might not be the best at catching up to him before the ball ends up in his opponent's hands. He slows in any sense of the word, but isn't tin out in that tier one of speedy corners.

Another issue with this is that Arnold's game stem from his hips. He's not as shifty as he looks. While he certainly a smart football player, his play recognition can sometimes be lacking. When the protection hits a double move on him, there is a chance it works. He always wants to jump down on those hips. One thing that sets him apart is a receiver stems inwards and then bursts back upfield, he can leave Arnold standing on his heels, watching a helmet go by him. This, combined with his lack of elite recovery speed, is an issue.

The fact of the matter is that Terrion Arnold was a winning cornerback in the SEC as a young player right from the start. As a former five-star recruit at safety, his football IQ allowed him to play from the corner quickly. He proved it on Saturdays, and he's a guy NFL teams want to make on Sundays. Over Replacement Player Value (VORP) and VORP (Value Over Replacement Player) are two numbers below the other All-Stars. No question Arnold is talented and has a great skill set, but he also isn't in the tier one of speedy corners.

The official grading system, I give Arnold a score of 6.4, meaning 1 grade him as a high-quality future starter who just need a year or so to get used to the NFL. This is a tough grade to give, but I just think that his lack of top-end speed will keep him from that top-shelf type of lockdown corner unless he develops his technique better. He's my CB3 this year. I could see him profiling as a game-changing starter and I would be happy for any team that drafts this young man. I can't wait to see his career.
NFL Scouting Report: Nate Wiggins

JOHN MORAN

It's that time of year: NFL Draft prep. As we run through the Super Bowl in the books, every team looks to retool for the 2024-2025 season, and now, the GOAT's getting some attention. In this article, star Clemson cornerback Nate Wiggins will be reviewed. Remember, watch the film before forging your own opinion, but here's mine.

The first thing to note is Wiggins' perfect production number this past season. The start here is about as perfect as a corner can be: in 293 coverage snaps this past season, Wiggins allowed only one touchdown on film and a 46.7 yard interception return touchdown. By the numbers, Wiggins has been an absolute force.

Things get more interesting beyond the box score, though. With the rest of the class, Wiggins stands out in the combine. His play numbers include allowing only 1 TD in 293 coverage snaps, an 80.1% coverage grade, and a 46.7 yard return touchdown. By the numbers, Wiggins has been an absolute force.

In this article, star Iowa defensive end Wiggins will be reviewed. Remember, watch the film before forging your own opinion, but here's mine.

Wiggins' footwork and athleticism already make him an extremely desirable prospect, but his versatility makes him even more exciting. Iowa, his alma mater, chose to play him at slot corner much of the time, but he took reps at boundary corner as well. Even in that role, he was agile and intelligent enough to maintain lockdown coverage. As stated earlier, his size would make him a potential safety as well. Additionally, he took a lot of snaps in the box as a nickel corner, and he was excellent there as well, showing a strong ability to stop the run and tackle through the legs of running backs. It is true that he does have a higher chance of getting swept out of the play by pulling blockers, but he isn't afraid to try to stack and shed like a linebacker. It doesn't work all of the time, but he is better at it than your average...
NFL Scouting Report: Cooper DeJean

Continued from Page 11

corner by far. So the guy can line up at nickel CB, boundary CB, slot CB, or safety, and be a stand-out player wherever.

DeJean isn't the most instinctual of corners this year, but he has a good football IQ, certainly enough to handle the complexities of NFL defenses. His style in zone coverage is to slay in the right spot rather than gambling on guessing routes or attacking opponents too aggressively. This more reserved approach keeps opponents too aggressive rather than gambling on his style in zone coverage.

His explosiveness, short burst quickness, strength, and general athleticism are off the charts, but his tackling frame makes him less of a speedster than he could be. However, I think that's fine for the way he plays the game. He lined up a lot as a slot cornerback, a place where an underneath route is more likely than a deep go-post-corner route, so playing him in the nickel or slot cornerback role where he can help with the run would erase this speed problem that isn't out of the question. I think he will certainly succeed in the NFL, and I await his career with anticipation.

2024 NFL Mock Draft

JOHN MORAN

1. Chicago Bears - QB Caleb Williams

With the first pick of the 2024 NFL Draft, the Bears are asked the biggest question of the draft season. Will they wait on from Justin Fields, their 2021 11th overall selection? Will they trade the pick and, with it, take a haul of picks or players from some hopeful franchise (Commanders, Falcons, etc.)? However, Caleb Williams is seen as a generational prospect, and it seems like he will be the Bears’ pick.

2. Washington Commanders - QB Drake Maye

The Commanders have a fair few needs, especially on the line and at edge rusher, after they traded away stars Robert Griffin III and Chase Young. But most of all, they need a quarterback. Last year, the most sacked QB in the league last year, and his fellow University of North Carolina product was the type of physically gifted prospect that makes a scout’s eyebrows raise. He has a cannon of an arm and the legs to run circles around defense, but he’s not some raw prospect. Maye is actually quite technically sound. Think of a more polished Josh Allen.

3. New England Patriots - QB Jayden Daniels

This one is tough. Realough the Patriots had one of, if not the, most lethal offensive in the

league this past season, and who’s to blame? To be honest, everyone. The receivers were awful, the tight ends were so-so, the line play was terrible, and most glaringly, the quarterback play was consistently the worst in the league. Everything needs to go. But I think the most likely scenario is with the quarterback. The Patriots start the offensive rebuild with the rushing rocket Jayden Daniels, whose Heisman-winning season came due to a perfect deep ball and an incredible rushing ability.


With the way this draft has shaped up so far, this next pick is a lay-up: Marvin Harrison Jr. He is one of the most technically polished yet most athletic receiver prospects ever (yes, even, he’s is well rounded, from his smooth routes to his top-end speed, and his hand fighting at the line of scrimmage. And of course, his super power-speed makes him one of the best in the league. He lined up a lot as a slot receiver and will be a game breaker (if the QB gets the ball in his hands). Harrison Jr. will be a dream for Cardinals QB Kyler Murray.

5. Los Angeles Chargers - EDGE Laiatu Latu

The Chargers desperately need some difference makers, and Latu is the guy to bring that. There are some disputes about whether Latu or Jared Verse are the top edge rushers in this draft cycle, but my money is on Latu.


With the Giants comes the glaring issue at quarterback. Is Daniel Jones going to go out for another season? But the sixth pick isn’t the place to address that problem, not with the tier one QBs already off the board. Here, the Giants take a receiver who will be a game breaker (if the QB gets the ball in his hands). Nabers is the type of guy who could take it to the house on any given reception. Whoever the QB is for New York, Nabers will be a top tier number one receiver for them.

7. Tennessee Titans - OT Joe Alt

This one’s easy. With a great offensive line in Tennessee, it is best to grab a guy who can take it to the house on any given reception. Whoever the QB is for New York, Nabers will be a top tier number one receiver for them.

8. Atlanta Falcons - WR Rome Odunze

The Falcons want a quarterback, and I expect them to make a big move to get one. They’re going to trade a second round pick in order to get Justin Fields from the Bears, and with this first round pick, they will get him some help with Odunze as their pick, they will have another potential WR lining up with established receiver Drake London and incredibly talented TE Kyle Pitts, as well as Bijan Robinson in the backfield. If a quarterback materializes for the Falcons, they’ll be a scary offense.

9. Chicago Bears - TE Brock Bowers

With this pick, the Bears have a chance to pull off a 2023 Texas-style draft with two franchise-changing players in one year. Here, the Bears commit highway robbery and take current Georgia tight end Brock Bowers far below where he should be taken. He is the perfect tight end prospect, bringing solid blocking ability as well as incredible skill at receiver. He could play slot or even X receiver, as he did at Georgia as their number one pass catcher. He’ll be a baller for Caleb Williams.

10. New York Jets - OT Olumuyiwa Fashanu

We all saw what hap Continued on Page 13
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pened last season with the Jets, Aaron Rodgers ended his season in the first min-

utes, but being a lock-down corner by way of Olu Fasahamu was perfect in
college. He didn’t allow a single sack in 697 total pass-blocking snaps. He would have been a target at Lc

for New York.

11. Minnesota Vikings - DT Byron Murphy II

The Minnesota Vikings defense was solid last year, but it certainly wasn’t per-
fect, and the lack of a star at defensive tackle was partly to blame. They’re still missing edge rushers, but why not start in the middle? Murphy would be great in the middle. He would flourish in Brian Flores’ blitz-heavy scheme, as he was the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) leader in sacks per pass block pressures recorded.


This is the most outland-
ish of the picks so far. With the 12th pick, the Bron-
cos take the University of Washington’s star quarter-
back, Michael Penix Jr. This is a reach of massive pro-
portions, but I think Sean Payton is crazy enough to do it. It’s clear Pey-
ton wants to be able to do things his way, and a mold-
able prospect like Penix Jr. might be what he wants.

13. Las Vegas Raiders - OT JC Latham

Just like the Broncos, the Raiders need a quar-
terback, but the Las Vegas front office isn’t quite as
crazy. Here, they take long-
time Alabama standout Latham as a strong addi-
tion to the line who could realistically play at tackle or guard. With only three
sacks in 970 coverage snaps, he is consistently an excellent 

14. New Orleans Saints - CB Terrion Arnold

The Saints have a slew of new faces, but they have a lock-
down corner is always a want from teams while he isn’t
in New Orleans and has a very high upside. With well-used inter-
ceptions and no touch-
downs allowed this sea-
sion, his SEC production speaks to his great ability to strap up.

15. Indianapolis Colts - WR Brian Thomas Jr.

The Colts were a fine offense last year, and with the return of Anthony Rich-
ardson at quarterback, they could be a force with Michael Pitman Jr. as a free agent this season, perfect style of play would around their second-year QB by taking the 6’4” 255 lb Ls,

16. Seattle Seahawks - EDGE Jared Verse

In 2023, the Seahawks defense was fine. Nothing more, nothing less. The addition of Florida State star Jared Verse could be massive for this in-the-

hunt, playoff-fringe team. The service the defense’s strengths would be vital.

17. Jacksonville Jaguars - OT Aamuris Mims

Jacksonville has their guy at quarterback in Trevor Lawrence, but they need to build the offense up around him so that he can operate to the best of his ability. Taking athlet-

18. Cincinnati Bengals - CB Nate Wiggins

The Clemson Tigers’ star corner Nate Wiggins could make his NFL debut in his second year in college. Wiggins’ extreme-

19. Los Angeles Rams - EDGE Dallas Turner

Name one player on the Rams’ defense besides Aaron Rodgers. Do I dare you. The Rams need some depth at the position, and this might be the right guy. He’s a pass-rusher and a solid player, with only 3 sacks in 970 coverage snaps, he is consistently an excellent 

20. Pittsburgh Steelers - IOL Jacks
pers-Johnson

Oregon’s big guard Powers-Johnson could pro-
cut as a solid, long-term starting ability for the poor Steelers line. Guard is not the highest of the 12th overall prospect.

21. Miami Dolphins - WR Keon Coleman

This pick feels odd, see-

22. Philadelphia Eagles - CB Kool-Aid McK

Of all the teams in the National Football League, you could say the Eagles are the most desperate for a secondary. The lack of depth in their chart-
score is a significant part of the Eagles’ crash and burn. For the Eagles, DeJean will bring range and versatility as a second-
ary player, possibly taking snaps at perimeter cor-
ner, nickel, or even safety.

23. Houston Texans - OT Talieese Fuaga

Last season, the Texans had the draft of dreams, and this year is their chance to solidify their place as contenders. With Talieese Fuaga, they can also

24. Dallas Cowboys - IOL Troy Fautanu

People won’t like this pick. It’s an abrasive one, for sure, but the Cow-

25. Green Bay Packers - EDGE Braziel Trence

The Packers took an edge last year in Lukas Van Ness, and he has been a perfectly fine rotation-

26. Tampa Bay Buccaneers - CB Kool-Aid McK

The Buccaneers were one of the pleasantly sur-
prising teams of 2023, and with the addition of a top-
end cornerback talent like Kool-Aid, they could con-
continue their hot streak into next season. McKinstry was one of two stars Ala-

27. Arizona Cardinals - OT Jordan Morgan

Quarterback Kyler Mur-
ray has proven two things: that he’s a great quarter-
back when he’s healthy and that he is not healthy very often. Taking tackle Jordan Morgan would be an ex-
cellent move for the Car-

dinals, as they would also be taking Marvin Harrison Jr. earlier in the draft. Get-

ing a franchise tackle is a (possible) franchise tackle in the same draft would be transformative for the offense.

28. Buffalo Bills - WR Troy Franklin

Stefon Diggs is Buffa-

29. Detroit Lions - CB Quinyon Mitchell

All of the areas on the field, the secondary was the weakest for Dan Camp-
bell and the Lions. Quinyon Mitchell balled out this year’s Senior Bowl, and it shot him up onto every

30. Baltimore Ravens - WR Adoniell Mitchell

WRs not named Zay Jones last year have had their most incredible years in Baltimore this past season. Sure, they’re not the names at receiver with Ra-

31. San Francisco 49ers - DT Jer’Zhan Newton

This is a steal, and it is exactly what the 49ers need. This pick should ei-

32. Kansas City Chiefs - WR Adonai Mitchell

Just proposing this pick feels weird. Ladd McCon-
ey? Really? If the film is looked at, though, McCon-
key had a great season for Texas. He’s ranked as the 22nd overall prospect by PF, and while I per-
sonally believe he’s better than that, he is definitely a fringe first-rounder, which is considered strong for this draft with receivers. His light frame, but she has the speed and agility for him to be a great gad-
guy or even starting slot receiver in Andy Re-

2024 NFL Mock Draft