

## NFL DRAFT REPORT

# Holmes May Be The Pick Of The Litter

Linemen. That's the key word for this year's NFL draft in regards to predominately black schools.

That means Lester Holmes, a 6-3 1/2, 285-pound offensive tackle from Jackson State, and Michael Strahan, a 6-5, 270-pound defensive end from Texas Southern. These two linemen could be selected in the first round by the Detroit Lions in 1992.

Because of the NFL's new collective bargaining agreement, this year's April 25-26 draft has been reduced from 12 rounds to eight rounds. Which means many players must sign as free agents after the draft. Last year, 30 players from predominately black schools were selected; this year the number probably will decrease, not because of talent but the reduction in rounds.

Holmes, Division I-AA All-

Other players who should be drafted are: Herman Arvie, a 6-4 1/2, 330-pound offensive tackle from Grambling State; Steve Brannon, a 6-3, 265-pound defensive tackle from Hampton; Kevin Johnson, a 6-1 1/2, 303-pound defensive tackle from Texas Southern; Jimmy Bethea, a 6-2 1/2, 208-pound safety from Tennessee State; Henderson Moseley, a 6-1, 230-pound quarterback from Central State, Ohio; James Johnson, a 5-11 1/2, 212-pound running back from Jackson State; and Everette McIver, a 6-5 1/4, 345-pound defensive tackle from Elizabeth City State.

Others are: Chuck Duffey, a 5-10 1/4, 191-pound quarterback from Florida A&M; Charles Thompson, a 5-9 1/2, 176-pound running back from Central State; Stevie Anderson,

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*—Lester Holmes*

America player, dominated the competition, helping pave the way for Jackson State to average 216 yards rushing per game. But he expects to change positions.

"The scouts tell me I'll be a guard in the NFL," Holmes said the the Black College All-America Centennial Celebration in Baltimore in February.

He is a better run-blocker than pass-blocker. Mel Kiger Jr., author of the "1993 Draft Report," says Holmes can "create a lane you can drive a truck through." But he has trouble with "attacking sack artists that fly off the corner."

Strahan, who spent most of his high school career in Germany because his father was a Army veteran, recorded 19 sacks last season and totaled 64 tackles. Strahan "has the raw talent and work ethic to eventually develop into 1 4-3 defensive end," Kiger says. "It will take some time, tough, so don't expect anything spectacular in the first two years."

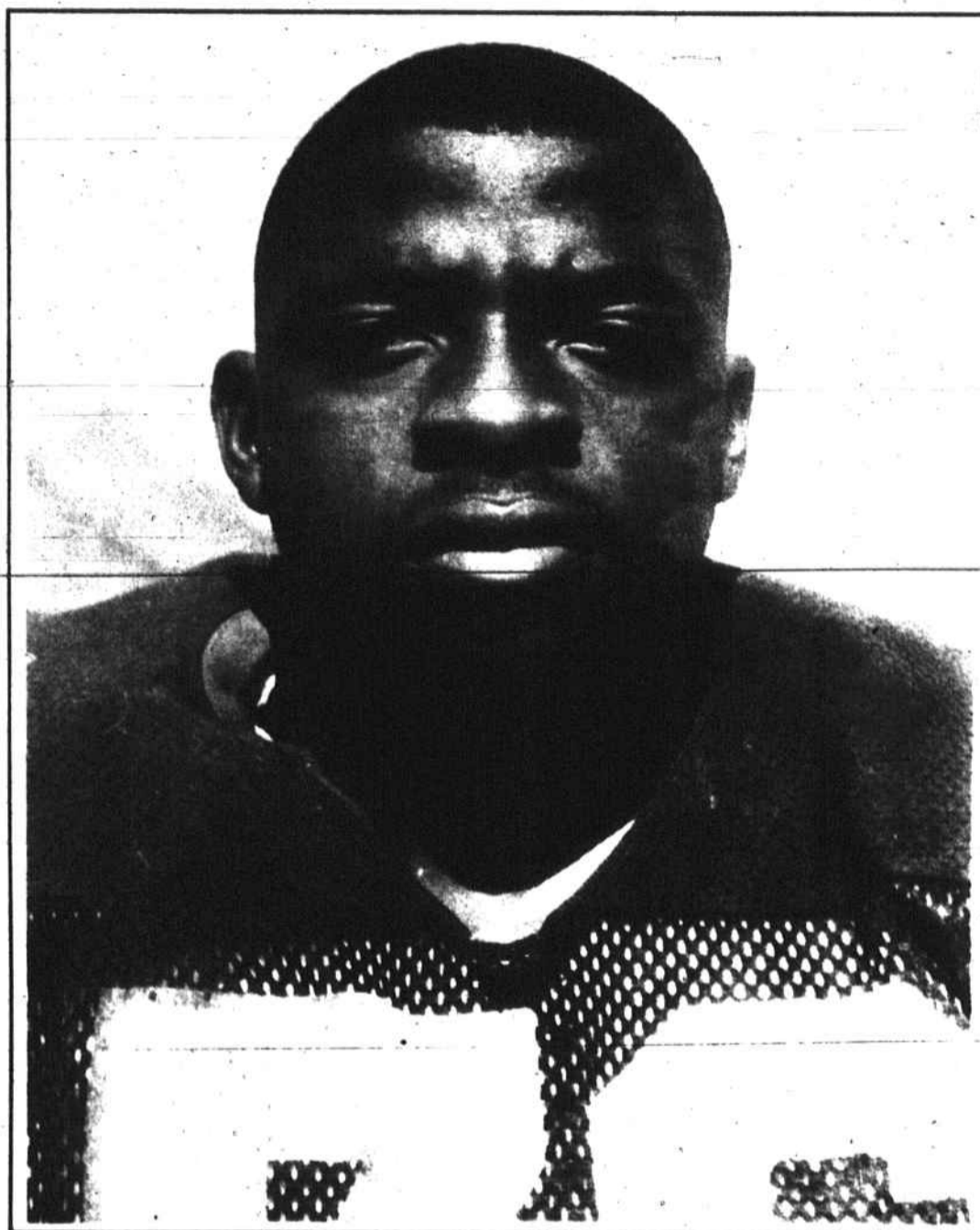
Still, the "German Warrior" should eventually be a force.

a 6-4 1/4, 205-pound wide receiver from Grambling State; Terrance Warren, a 6-0, 193-pound wide receiver from Hampton; Patrick Robinson, a 5-7, 176-pound wide receiver from Tennessee State; Antonius Kimbrough, a 6-2, 193-pound wide receiver from Jackson State; Fernando Evans, a 6-1 1/2, 182-pound wide receiver from Alcorn State; Horace Brooks, a 5-8 1/2, 170-pound wide receiver from Alabama State; Wally Williams, a 6-0 1/2, 303-pound center from Florida A&M; and Colin Godfrey, a 5-10, 165-pound punter from Tennessee State.

Grambling's Arvie man have to combat weight more than defensive linemen to find a spot in the NFL. He has reportedly ballooned up to as much as 350-360 pounds. But, as Kiger says, Arvie "when at a decent weight, he would destroy people."

Hampton's Brannon's, who had 18 sacks last season, has shown "the ability to chase down running backs some 50-60 yards down the field."

Texas Southern's Johnson recorded 73 tackles and 18 stops



*Lester Holmes is Jackson State's Top Lineman.*

behind the line of scrimmage. Johnson, projected as a nose tackle, is an active low-based athlete who moved up several rounds after his fine effort" in Senior Bowl, Kiger says.

Tennessee State's Bethea had 79 tackles 6 pass breakups, 1 interception and 2 forced fumbles last season. "Jimmy proved to be an opportunistic free safety," Kiger says, "reacting quickly in coverage, and never shying away from contact. He'll come up and stick the ball carrier, as he showed in the East-West Shrine game."

Central State's Moseley "lacks ideal height," Kiger says, "appearing shorter on film due to his strong frame." But he has arm strength, able to throw the ball 75 yards.

"Fortunately, his arm strength and top athletic skills will give him a chance to maybe hang around as a backup."

Jackson State's Johnson returned to play in 1992 after missing most of the 1991 season with a gunshot wound. He gained 1,327 yards rushing on 231 carries and scored 15 touchdowns. Johnson also can play either the halfback spot or the fullback slot. "Hard-nosed big backs like Johnson don't usually have a problem carving out a niche in the NFL," Kiger says. "He should be a valuable reserve since he can fill in at any spot, and also proved unstoppable in short yardage situations."

Elizabeth City State's McIver "went out and singlehandedly took over games at the NCAA Division II level," Kiger says. "His athletic ability is outstanding, allowing him to flash various moves that just aren't normally seen in a player in the NFL will hinge on whether or not he will gain the self-discipline to maintain his weight at an optimum level."