

NFL DRAFT REPORT

Black College Players Not Drafted

By G.D. CLAY

After having 30 players selected in the 1992 draft, 1993 collapsed like a roof cave-in on predominantly black colleges.

Get this: Only nine players were selected. That's right — nine. Yes, Jackson State tackle-guard Lester Holmes and Texas Southern defensive end Michael Strahan was selected by the New York Giants in the second round. But that 9 figure is 21 fewer than the year before.

So, if you are not drafted, then what do you do? Pick a team, any team, and try to sign as a free agent. But there's a hitch.

"The black college players can't pick and choose as much because so many things come into play," said agent Brian Ransom, who represents running back Robert Staten of Jackson State and safety Jimmy Bethea of Tennessee State, neither of whom were drafted. "You may have an agent who is related to team members, like Buddy Ryan, the coach with the Houston Oilers. His son is an agent."

See a connection brewing? A agent with those bloodlines can get his guy in a training camp much easier.

As for the other guys drafted, well, they should feel fortunate, to say the least. The other seven are:

Kevin Johnson, nose tackle, Texas Southern, selected by the New England Patriots in the fourth round; Terrance Warren, wide receiver, Hampton University, taken by the Seattle Seahawks in the fifth round; Herman Arvie, tackle, Grambling, selected by the Cleveland Browns in the fifth round; Tim Watson, defensive back, Howard, selected by the Green Bay Packers in the sixth round; Antonious Kimbrough, wide receiver, Jackson State, selected by the Denver Broncos in the seventh round; and Stevie Anderson, wide receiver, Grambling State, selected by the Phoenix Cardinals in the eighth round.

One of the reasons only nine players were selected may be attributed to the reduction in number of rounds. Last year, there were 12; this year, there were eight. Next year, there will be only seven.

Because of the fewer rounds, "Now, they're looking at players a lot closer," Texas Southern's Strahan said. "They cannot afford to take a gamble like they used to."

"Black college players must elevate themselves to be drafted in rounds nine and 12, the rounds that don't exist anymore. For the guys who thought they would be drafted but weren't, now it's time to start dialing for dollars."

"I've called all the teams for these guys," Ransom says, "and they say they're for them."

Then, what do you do?

"All you can do is just keep calling," Ransom says.

Added agent Peter Schaffer, who represents Grambling State's Herman Arvie, "other smaller schools, not just the predominantly black schools, are being hurt."

"Less players are being drafted, and people are getting less exposure. Players nowadays are setting up their own workout schedules. That's hurting the smaller schools, too. Now, if I'm a scout, if I do Alabama one day, I may have to fly to UCLA the next day because a player who is a major talent set up his own schedule. I can't do Alabama, and Alabama State the next day."

Jackson State's Holmes and Texas Southern's Strahan said after a May minicamp, "I loved it [coming to New York]. I had a good time. I liked the area up there. I'm looking forward to playing with the Giants."

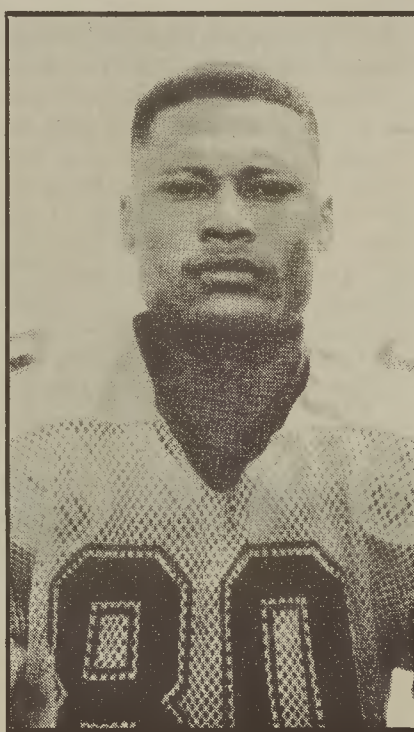
As for Texas Southern's Johnson, a 6-0 1/4, 306-pounder, Patriots director of player personnel Charlie Arme, said, "We really like this young man. He looked good in minicamp. He did a very good job on the athletic skills test. He did impress everybody. The things that were there when we drafted him were all in place. Now he has to come back in June and get ready to play. We already have a good nose tackle in Tim Goad, but Johnson will certainly play."

As for Grambling's Arvie, a 6-4 320-pounder, Dino Lucarelli, the Browns' director of player relations, said: "The offensive line has been under scrutiny the last couple of years. They've been trying to give Bernie Kosar protection. This year, they made a more concentrated effort to get offensive linemen. We're trying to patch up some holes."

"He has the ability to knock people off the ball. He has light feet, as they say. Apparently, he's very durable, since he started all 12 games for Grambling last year."

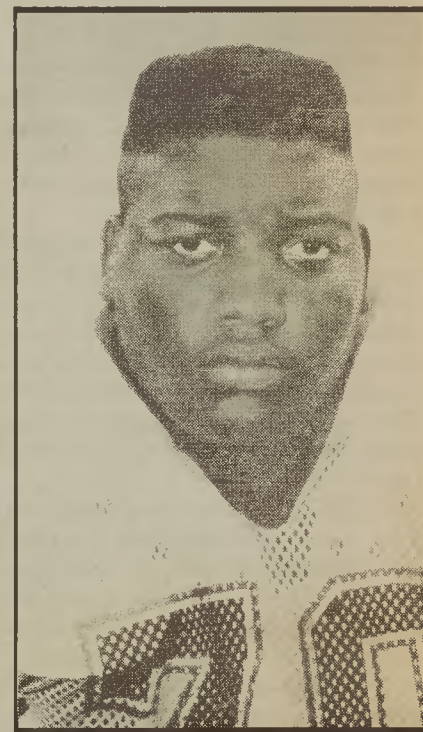
Other players who should have had a legitimate shot at being drafted, but weren't include: Steve Brannon, a 6-3, 265-pound defensive end from Hampton; Henderson Mosley, a 6-1, 230-pound quarterback from Central State, Ohio; James Johnson, a 5-11 1/2, 212-pound running back from Jackson State; Everette McIver, a 6-5 1/4, 345-pound defensive tackle from Elizabeth City State; Chuck Duffey, a 5-10 1/4, 191-pound running back from Florida A&M; Charles Thompson, a 5-9 1/2, 176-pound running back from Central State; Fernando Evans, a 6-1 1/2, 182-pound wide receiver from Alcorn State; Horace Brooks, a 5-9 1/2, 170-pound wide receiver from Alabama State; Wally Williams, a 6-0 1/2, 303-pound center from Florida A & M; Collin Godfrey, a 5-10, 165-pound punter from Tennessee State.

Other players who weren't drafted



Stevie Anderson, Grambling

include: David Carpenter, a 6-2, 285-pound defensive tackle from Mississippi Valley State; Kerry Henderson, a 5-7, 172-pound running back from Texas Southern; Charles Fleeks, a 5-11 1/2, 195-pound running back from Hampton; Dexter Butcher, a 5-10, 175-pound running back from Grambling; Deal Noel, a 5-9 1/2, 185-pound running back from Delaware State; Greg Clifton, a 5-10 1/2, 175-pound running back from Johnson C. Smith; Joseph Washington, a 6-2 1/4, 199-pound running back from Tuskegee; Rodney Hounshell, a 6-2, 186-pound running back from Virginia Union; Tyrone Davis, a 5-8, 160-pound running back from Florida A & M; Reginald Gilliard, a 5-11, 185-pound running back from Prairie View A & M; Earnest Greene, a 6-6, 315-pound tackle from Savannah State; Orlando Brown, a 6-6 1/2, 355-pound tackle from



Herman Arvie, Grambling

South Carolina State; Reginald Davidson, a 6-2, 310-pound guard from Jackson State; Robert Moorman, a 6-4, 296-pound guard from Tennessee State.

Others are: Eddie Smith, a 6-0 1/2, 345-pound defensive tackle from Texas Southern; Ronald Perry, a 6-2, 233-pound linebacker from Grambling; Darius Hadley, a 6-0 1/2, 188-pound cornerback from South Carolina State; Donnie Ellis, a 5-10 1/4, 164-pound cornerback from Texas Southern; Darren Butler, a 5-10 1/2, 185-pound cornerback from Alcorn State; Vernon Grier, a 5-11 1/2, 187-pound cornerback from South Carolina State; William Carroll, a 6-0, 200-pound safety from Florida A & M; Tommy Milton, a 5-11, 200 pound safety from Alcorn State; Alonza Barnett, a 6-2, 199-pound safety from North Carolina A & T; and Edward Buck, a 5-11 1/2, 180-pound safety from

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