

# At best, drafting collegians an inexact science

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competitive player he has ever seen in nearly 50 years of scouting.

Talent for the position? Emmitt Smith, Curtis Martin and Jerome Bettis, Nos. 1, 4 and 5 on the career rushing list, all were (and are) slow by running back standards, 4.6 seconds or worse in the 40-yard dash. Walter Payton, No. 2 on that list, wasn't super-fast either. Tiki Barber, who at age 30 last season had the second most combined yards rushing and receiving ever, ran a 4.55 in college - nine years ago.

But all are quick, the relevant standard for a running back.

So we go back 10 years. After Johnson was taken by the Jets, the Jaguars took linebacker Kevin Hardy. Defensive end Simeon Rice went to Arizona at No. 3 and offensive tackle Jonathan Ogden to Baltimore at No. 4.

Then came mistakes, the first by the New York Giants.

They took Cedric Jones, a defensive end from Oklahoma, who unbeknownst to them was blind

in one eye (now THAT should have shown up in the pre-draft tests). Jones' vision problems precluded his playing on the left side, so the Giants shifted their young right end, Michael Strahan, to the left side, where he thrived.

The Giants seem to have been shocked into taking Jones. They really wanted Ogden or Rice, and expected one of the teams ahead of them to take Lawrence Phillips, the troubled but talented running back from Nebraska. No one did and New York was stuck, a little confused, and took Jones.

The Rams then took Phillips at No. 6 and New England selected wide receiver Terry Glenn at No. 7 against the wishes of coach Bill Parcells, who later, in training camp that year, referred to Glenn as "she." Now Parcells, always comfortable with former players, has Glenn in Dallas and had Johnson there for two years after coaching him with the Jets.

Phillips is remembered for his off-field problems. But he wasn't very good on the field,

either, averaging 3.4 yards a carry in four seasons with four teams. He, Jones and Tim Biakabutuka, taken eighth overall by Carolina, are the three real busts from that top 10. Biakabutuka in part because of a series of knee injuries.

No. 9 was tight end Rickey Dudley by Oakland and No. 10 offensive tackle Willie Anderson by Cincinnati. Dudley was OK, no more, Anderson is a three-time Pro Bowler.

That's about par for the top 10 in any draft: the good, the bad and the ordinary.

So are the unexpected accomplishments of players taken much lower, as Owens certainly proves. Draft again today and No. 1 could be Owens, the 89th pick.

More probably it is Lewis, taken 26th overall by Baltimore; he dropped because he was a little undersized for a linebacker. The unmeasurables - leadership and, as with Thomas, competitiveness - have made him a two-time defensive player of the year, a Super Bowl MVP and the most dominant linebacker of

his era.

Make Harrison No. 2, although he was 19th overall and the fourth receiver chosen. Owens is No. 3, but in retrospect perhaps someone saw the potential personality problems that disrupted his tenure with the 49ers and Eagles. Owens, after all, was the 12th receiver taken in what turned out to be a receiver-laden draft. In achievement he is up there with Harrison, ahead of Johnson and a distinguished group that also includes Glenn, Eric Moulds (24th), Amani Toomer (34), Muhsin Muhammad (43), Bobby Engram (52), and Joe Horn (135).

Tomer, who in his prime had five straight 1,000-yard receiving seasons, partly makes up for the Giants'

choice of Jones in the first round. That's another standard draft story: We all emphasize the first round, but many teams make up for flops there by doing better later.

Continuing the redraft, keep Ogden at fourth overall, then go with three lower-rounders: Bruschi, who went to New England with the 86th pick, Dawkins to Philadelphia at 61; and Thomas to Miami at 154.

Bruschi was an undersized defensive tackle who led the nation in sacks at Arizona. Years after the fact, coach Bill Belichick, then the assistant head coach under Parcells, recalled the discussions about drafting him.

"The conversation was, 'Look, we're taking him,'" Belichick said. "We're taking

a good football player. We don't know what we're going to do with him exactly, but we figure we'll find something."

They did.

Make Rice No. 8. With 119 career sacks, he could be higher in the redraft. But like many players chosen high by the Cardinals, he didn't blossom until he got out of Arizona and landed in Tampa.

No. 9 is Eddie George, who was taken 14th, and make Anderson No. 10, right where he was taken. Like many Bengals, he didn't get his due until the team improved under Marvin Lewis, but he's now a perennial at the Pro Bowls.

Keyshawn?

Make him the wild card. Anywhere from 3 to 11.

## Globetrotter great has new mission

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from others in the sport of basketball. That's why he was called the "Clown Prince of Basketball." Lemon has been enshrined in basketball's Hall of Fame. He has performed with the Globetrotters and with his own basketball entertaining group, the Meadowlark Lemon All-Stars.

Altogether Lemon has performed in more than 17,000 games and in over 70 countries around the world. He has also had command performances before two popes.

Lemon now travels all across the country as an evangelist, preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Even though he was on a whirlwind schedule, he consented to a short interview.

**OBSERVER:** Describe life in the South, Wilmington, North Carolina when you graduated from High School in 1957.

**ML:** Medowlark Lemon. It wasn't segregated at all. That came later with the sit-in movement that started in Greensboro, North Carolina and spread to Wilmington. Then when I left Wilmington, the civil rights movement started in earnest.

**OBSERVER:** You were all state in basketball for three years during your high school years. Did you ever win the State Championships?

**ML:** No we didn't. Our main player got sick and we couldn't get it done in the State Championship Finals.

**OBSERVER:** After your successful high school career, was the NBA an option for you at that time?

**ML:** No there was no option. When I did get involved with the

Globetrotters back then, there were only a few Blacks in the NBA at that time in the early 60s. Bill Russell came into the NBA and was a success and Wilt Chamberlain came soon after that, then Blacks were more readily accepted in the NBA.

**OBSERVER:** Did you ever play with Wilt Chamberlain?

**ML:** Yes, I played with the "Dipper" for 13 years.

**OBSERVER:** What are some of your memories of Wilt Chamberlain?

**ML:** He was a giant, both on and off the court. When Wilt passed away a few years ago, we were all in disbelief, because he was bigger than life and we thought that he would never die. He did everything big.

**OBSERVER:** Why did you leave the Globetrotters and start your own traveling basketball team, the Meadowlark Lemon All-Stars?

**ML:** Actually, I had a team called the Bucketeers first. This was a team that I played on and started with Wilt Chamberlain and Andy Johnson. I started the Meadowlark Lemon All-Stars later. I started the team because I became a man. I was not the same young boy out of Wilmington, North Carolina.

**OBSERVER:** You were famous for your half-court "Hook Shot." How and why did you develop the shot?

**ML:** I had to do something, because I stopped growing and everyone else kept growing. I could make the shot from the corner as well as I could from half-court.

**OBSERVER:** Did you have the same success with the Meadowlark Lemon All-Stars as you did with the

Globetrotters?

**ML:** We had some success; however, after a couple of years, I disbanded the team to do other things, such as acting in movies and moved back to North Carolina to concentrate on evangelistic ministry. I have been involved with my ministry now for over 20 years, traveling all over the country. I really enjoy my role and work in ministry.

**OBSERVER:** You have traveled all over the world, in over 70 countries. Name your Top three.

**ML:** Number one is Austria, and I love Germany and France. All of those countries are good today and once you get past all of the other stuff, people are people. I would rather be here in the USA.

**OBSERVER:** I know you are a fan of the NBA. Name your all-time former NBA players and your favorite current NBA player?

**ML:** Oh gosh, there are too many of them! You have the "Big Dipper" (Wilt), you have Bill Russell, you got to put Michael Jordan in there, he is from my home town, you have Dr. J (Julius Erving) and the Big "O," Oscar Robertson. You got Kevin Johnson from right here in Sacramento. Today, if I were going to start a team, my choice would be Tim Duncan.

**OBSERVER:** What advice would you give to the youth of today?

**ML:** Seek you first the Kingdom of God.

**OBSERVER:** As you go through life, what do you want people to have as the enduring memory of Meadowlark Lemon?

**ML:** I just want people to know that I'm a Man of God.

## 49er expects Moore in spring

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I haven't quite gotten to my 200 meter goal yet, but I still have enough time. My 100 meter goal I surpassed that and I am still getting better at it."

Slight of build, Moore is a technical sprinter who shaves seconds off his time by hours of work in the blocks, and the perfection of his stride during his work out sessions. Sprint coach Tim Hall says that Moore doesn't have to transform himself into a power sprinter to be successful.

"He has surpassed all of his seasons best as a sophomore. He has been running very hard in the indoor season and has already qualified for

the regionals in outdoor," Hall said. "I think he will be fine as a technical runner. By Jason being small in stature it doesn't necessarily limit his ability to run fast, if he continues to improve and educate himself about sprinting he's gone to be awesome."

Working with Hall on his starts and coming off a surprisingly successful indoor season has Moore excited about his future.

"I'm not really an indoor runner," he said. "I'm still getting used to the banked tracks and what not, but my time has dropped (indoors) tremendously. Although I'm more slender, my strength is increasing every day, and I'm getting faster."

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## NC A&T Charlotte Metro Aggie Club 3rd Annual Spring Golf Tournament at The Olde Sycamore Golf Club

Date: Saturday, April 29, 2006

Time: Check-in at 7:00 AM; Shotgun Start at 8:00 AM

Place: The Olde Sycamore Golf Club (Soft Spikes Required)

Format: 4-Players Captains Choice

### Support Levels:

**Platinum \$400**  
- four players  
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- banner recognition  
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- Choice of start point

**Gold \$300**  
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- 1 mulligan  
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Prizes: 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place Teams; Longest Drive;

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Entry Deadline: Registration due by Friday, April 21, 2006

Make checks payable to NC A&T Charlotte Metro Aggie Club