

Mirador Discusses the Winners and Losers of the NFL Draft

Winners (Robin)

Cleveland Browns: The Browns are the clear winners in this year's draft. After several years of failure in the the NFL Draft It looks like the Browns might have got this one right. Cleveland started the draft right by picking up All-American Defensive end Myles Garrett. Garrett is a key addition to the Browns struggling defensive line who has applied zero to no pressure on opposing Quarterbacks. The Browns also got a big steal by acquiring one of the best all around player in the draft Jabrill Peppers. Peppers is an elite defensive player who has played multiple positions on the field, proving his dedication to the team over the individual. This is important for the struggling organization because they need their players to lock in and commit long term for them to achieve their goals. Peppers is a flat-out play maker. No matter where he is, he always seems to be in the right place to make the big play. The Browns should be an interesting team to watch this year as they have a lot of young ponential on the team and could do some damage in the years to come.

San Francisco 49ers:

This year's draft choice was no surprise for the Niners. Once again San Francisco drafted another defensive lineman in Solomon Thomas. Thomas, (6'3, 273) is regarded as one of the top pass-rushers in this year's draft. Thomas was named first team All-Pac-12, third team All-American and won the Morris Trophy as the Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Year. Thomas started all 13 games totaling 62 total tackles, 14 for loss,

and 8.5 sacks. He is a definite playmaker and should be feared this upcoming season by opposing offensive coordinators. The Niners had two first round picks and with their second first round pick, the niners selected talented linebacker Reuben Foster. Foster is a big risk according to many NFL scouts because of his injury status; but if all goes well and he remains healthy he can become a top-tier player.

Houston Texans:

The Texans had the best draft by far out of all 32 teams. The Texans finally established a franchise quarterback in Deshaun Watson. Watson is a dynamic passer who can pick apart any defense and won his team a National Championship. Houston has a great team to put around Watson. The former Clemson QB will be throwing too one of the league's best receivers in Deandre Hopkins and upcoming star Will Fuller. All the signs are pointing up for the Texans and I would not be surprised to see the Texans making a deep run in the Playoffs.

Losers (Xavier)

Chicago Bears: The Bears definitely gave up too much to move up only one spot in the draft from three to two. The Bears lost three picks in total to trade up for the second overall pick. With the second pick the Bears grabbed Quarterback Mitch Trubisky. On many mock drafts Trubisky wasn't even projected to go in the top five so the fact that the Bears traded up a spot for him is astonishing. In addition, Trubisky was only a one-year starter at North Carolina raising many question in the football community. In the second round the Bears selected TE Adam Shaheen. Shaheen's mediocre blocking ability might limit his immediate production on the field. With the

departure of Alshon Jeffery, the Bears were in severe need of a Wide Receiver; however, they didn't even address the position.

Kansas City Chiefs: The Chiefs moved up 17 spots to number 10, selecting the gunslinging Texas Tech QB Patrick Mahomes. In the process, the Chiefs lost two first round picks and a third round pick for a player who won't even play for the next couple years. Alex Smith will continue to be the starter in Kansas City, so Mahomes will have to sit. Overall, the Chiefs have a solid team all around. However, they failed to address their offensive line, in addition to wasting a useless pick on an unnecessary QB. This performance has prompted us to place the Chiefs on our losers board.

Pittsburgh Steelers: The Steelers selected edge rusher T.J. Watt with the 29th from Wisconsin. T.J.-the brother of star DE J.J. Watt-plays with a high motor just like his brother. However, at the time there were much more talented edge rushers still available. Projected top 10 pick Rueben Foster, from Alabama was still on the board and would have been a perfect fit for Pittsburgh's 3-4 defense. In the second round, the Steelers selected Juju Smith-Schuster from USC. This pick was quite questionable as Martavis Bryant is returning from suspensions and will line up across from star wideout Antonio Brown. Schuster's big frame won't allow him to play in the slot position, so his immediate production will be low.