

Draft 201 – A Study of the 2011 CFL Draft Section Three – Somebody Hit That Guy

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The tough guys that have a lot to learn on defense are a fun bunch to watch at E-Camp. Going from CIS/NCAA game speed to CFL game speed is a jump forward. Learning on the special teams units is vital to the linebacker trying to make an impact. Some of the best in recent years have gone that route to great success. Guys like James Yurichuk, Shea Emry and Jason Arakgi have put up great numbers on special teams to earn some playing time on the defensive unit.

5 Year Trend:

34 linebackers have been taken in the draft (2006 to 2010) [35 if you include the QB converted last year]
6 of those have been first round draft picks
4 more were taken in the second round
2006 saw 9 linebackers drafted

Expectations:

Likely we will see 7 to 10 taken in the 2011 Draft. There are a couple of separations in the Draft class that we are expecting to see 3 taken in the first 20 picks and another 5 or 6 taken in the final 18 picks. A couple of good players will show up in training camp as UDFA (UnDrafted Free Agents).

So here's a sampling of the players to watch as we get closer to the 2011 CFL Draft.

John Surla is a playmaking force. He really controlled the middle of the field and got teams around the OUA to play to the edges. Has the quickness to fit in and is a form tackle guy rather than a hit guy.

Western Ontario – 8 GP 29 Tackles, 35 assists, 0 sacks, 4 pass break ups, 1 forced fumble, 0 INT

2009 – 8 GP 36 Tackles, 32 assists, 3 sacks, 1 pass break up, 1 forced fumble, 3 INT

Henoc Muamba comes out of a football family. Strong bloodlines that continue here. Henoc was all over the field and made plays everywhere he went. Winning the President's Award as top defensive player in the CIS capped a great 2010 season. He will be a guy that will get a lot of attention at E-Camp. Attention that will either move him up or push him back.

St. Francis Xavier – 8 GP 47 Tackles, 33 assists, 3.5 sacks, 3 pass break ups, 1 forced fumble, 1 INT

2009 – 7 GP 24 Tackles, 25 assists, 3.5 sacks, 1 pass break up, 0 forced fumble, 0 INT

Patrick Jean-Mary went to the big city of Washington DC and found a home in the Bison defense. Earned himself a starting role as an inside linebacker in the 3-4 scheme. Has another year of NCAA action to look forward too.

Howard – 5 GP 7 Tackles, 4 assists, 0 sacks, 0 pass break up, 0 forced fumble, 0 INT

2009 – 11 GP 11 Tackles, 18 assists, 0 sacks, 1 pass break up, 0 forced fumble, 0 INT

Jadon Wagner worked his way up the ladder. From red shirt to scout team to earning starts. The former CJFL Rookie of the Year has another year of NCAA action but will only build on the 9 starts from this past season.

BYU – 12 GP 17 Tackles, 21 assists, 1 sack, 1 pass break up, 0 forced fumble, 0 INT

2009 – 4 GP 0 Tackles, 1 assist, 0 sack, 0 pass break up, 0 forced fumble, 0 INT