

How Far Down That Draft List Do I Have to Read? By Tony Villiotti

It's getting down to crunch time for those with a serious interest in the NFL draft. The mock drafts are proliferating and the draft gurus are publishing their final prospect listings. The purpose of this article to bring some perspective to those final prospect listings by reviewing the number of players typically drafted at each playing position.

DRAFTMETRICS compiled the following information for the first seven rounds of all drafts for the past 20 years (1991-2010). Playing positions are those announced for the player when he was drafted, not necessarily the position he ended up playing in the NFL. One caveat - - **DRAFTMETRICS** would have liked to differentiate between safeties and corner backs but players have only been identified as "defensive backs" when they are drafted so that was not possible.

The following table shows the fewest players drafted, the most players drafted and the average number of players drafted by playing position for the last five years and then the last 20 years. Information is shown for both the first round and the entire draft.

	1996-2010						1991-2010					
	First Round			Entire Draft			First Round			Entire Draft		
	Least	Most	Avg	Least	Most	Avg	Least	Most	Avg	Least	Most	Avg
Quarterbacks	2	3	2.4	11	14	12.0	0	5	2.3	5	17	11.4
Running Backs	2	5	3.4	15	27	21.6	2	5	3.2	15	32	23.5
Wide Receivers	0	6	3.0	29	35	32.4	0	7	3.8	23	35	30.6
Tight Ends	1	2	1.2	13	20	16.6	0	3	1.2	7	24	14.6
Offensive Line:												
Centers	0	2	0.8	3	8	6.2	0	2	0.4	3	11	6.9
Guards	0	1	0.6	12	18	14.0	0	1	0.5	7	18	12.7
Tackles	1	8	4.0	19	25	21.6	1	8	4.1	16	26	20.8
Defensive Line:												
Ends	3	5	4.2	20	28	22.4	2	5	3.9	11	28	20.9
Tackles	2	5	3.0	17	21	19.2	1	6	3.1	11	27	19.4
Linebackers	2	4	3.4	31	35	33.6	1	6	3.0	23	40	31.9
Defensive Backs	2	7	5.8	45	55	50.2	2	7	5.4	39	55	46.2
Special Teams	0	0	0.0	4	6	5.0	0	1	0.1	0	7	4.1