

## **HIGHEST DRAFT CHOICES TO NEVER APPEAR IN AN NFL GAME** by Tony Villiotti

The analyses done by **DRAFTMETRICS** shows that virtually every early draft choice manages to play in the NFL for at least one season, and almost always longer than that. The following table shows the earliest draft choices from 1991 through 2008 that failed to play even one season in the NFL and provides some flavor as to why.

Selection	Year	Player	Pos.	College	Drafted By
<b>31</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>Leon Bender</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>Washington State</b>	<b>Raiders</b>
Died of a seizure disorder shortly after the draft					
<b>43</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>Eddie Blake</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>Auburn</b>	<b>Dolphins</b>
Injured most of career; cut after showing up out of shape in 1994 training camp					
<b>49</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>Kenny Irons</b>	<b>RB</b>	<b>Auburn</b>	<b>Bengals</b>
Tore ACL in first preseason game; rehabbed but failed physical in 2008 and was cut					
<b>51</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>Paul Toviessi</b>	<b>DE</b>	<b>Marshall</b>	<b>Broncos</b>
Injured knee in training camp and required surgery; never recovered and was cut in 2002					
<b>56</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>Michael Boireau</b>	<b>DE</b>	<b>Miami (FL)</b>	<b>Vikings</b>
Missed 2000 season with knee & hand injuries; diagnosed after the season with ocular myasthenia gravis and was cut; played in CFL and had tryout with Browns					
<b>61</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>Jimmy Oliver</b>	<b>WR</b>	<b>Texas Christian</b>	<b>Chargers</b>
Shoulder injury in 1995 and knee injury in 1996 kept him off field and he was cut in 1997					
<b>62</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>Dan Bazuin</b>	<b>DE</b>	<b>Central Michigan</b>	<b>Bears</b>
Two surgeries on his left knee ended his career; cut in 2008					
<b>63</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>Shane Hannah</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>Michigan State</b>	<b>Cowboys</b>
Spent most of his rookie season on IR; left camp in 1996 preseason questioning whether he wanted to play football; returned but never saw field and was cut in 1997					
<b>63</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>Brandon Burlsworth</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>Arkansas</b>	<b>Colts</b>
Died in car accident less than two weeks after the draft					
<b>64</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>James Richards</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>California</b>	<b>Cowboys</b>
Waived in his first training camp; was resigned later but never hit the field					
<b>65</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>Giovanni Carmazzi</b>	<b>QB</b>	<b>Hofstra</b>	<b>49ers</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> QB taken in 2000 draft; was on roster for 2 years but never played					
<b>72</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>Donnell Washington</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>Clemson</b>	<b>Packers</b>
Suffered foot injury as rookie; healthy in 2 <sup>nd</sup> year but didn't play; waived in 2006					
<b>73</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>Mitch Marrow</b>	<b>DE</b>	<b>Pennsylvania</b>	<b>Panthers</b>
Ruptured spinal disk in rookie training camp, then reinjured in offseason camp; decided to retire					
<b>74</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>Paul Siever</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>Penn State</b>	<b>Redskins</b>
No real story here, just didn't make it					
<b>77</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>Robert Barr</b>	<b>OT</b>	<b>Rutgers</b>	<b>Seahawks</b>
Spent a year on the roster but didn't play and was cut in 1997					
<b>78</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>Ervin Collier</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>Florida A&amp;M</b>	<b>Patriots</b>
Waived before 1994 season; spent some time on Bears practice squad but didn't see field					
<b>80</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>Ed Bunn</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Texas- El Paso</b>	<b>Redskins</b>
Cut in training camp but went on to become an attorney					
<b>84</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>Mike Middleton</b>	<b>DB</b>	<b>Indiana</b>	<b>Cowboys</b>
Waived in training camp and signed to Dolphins practice squad					
<b>84</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>Shannon Brown</b>	<b>DT</b>	<b>Alabama</b>	<b>Falcons</b>
Missed his rookie season with a knee injury and never appeared in a game					
<b>85</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>Tim Kohn</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>Iowa State</b>	<b>Raiders</b>
Was quoted as saying he was surprised to get drafted this high -- he was smarter than the Raiders scouts!! Active for one game but didn't play					
<b>85</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>David Greene</b>	<b>QB</b>	<b>Georgia</b>	<b>Seahawks</b>
Hung around for several seasons with a number of teams but never got on the field.					