

SOME QUARTERBACK HISTORY by Tony Villiotti

With all the talk about a record number of quarterbacks being selected in the first round of the 2011 draft, **DRAFTMETRICS** thought it might be useful to take a look at the history of first round quarterback selections. A few facts:

- 46 quarterbacks have been selected in the first round over the last 20 years (1991-2010)
- 28 of the 32 NFL teams have taken a first round quarterback in those 20 years
 - Exceptions are the Chiefs, Cowboys, Dolphins and Saints
 - Bengals, Broncos and Redskins have taken 3 first round QBs
 - 49ers, Bears, Browns, Bucs, Chargers, Falcons, Jets, Lions, Raiders, Ravens, Seahawks and Titans have all taken 2 first round QBs
- Quarterbacks have been selected 1st in 11 of the 20 years
 - 27 QBs were taken within the first 10 draft selections
 - 9 QBs were taken with selections 11-20
 - 10 QBs were taken in the first round after the 20th selection
- 20 of the 46 QBs drafted started as rookies
 - **DRAFTMETRICS** definition of a starter is a player who started at least 8 games in a season
- Of the 27 QBs selected in the first 10 picks, 13 had or seem on track to have very successful careers, 7 had or seem on track to have moderately successful careers, 6 were flops and judgment is withheld on 1
 - Very successful QBs were Bledsoe, Peyton Manning, Vick, Palmer, Eli Manning, Bradford, McNabb, McNair, Ryan, Rivers, Collins, Dilfer and Sanchez
 - Moderately successful QB were Couch, Carr, Alex Smith, Mirer, Harrington, Young and Leftwich
 - Flops were Russell, Leaf, Shuler, Akili Smith, Klingler and Leinart
 - Hard to judge Stafford at this point
- The 9 QBs taken between the 11 and 20th pick were fairly successful
 - Roethlisberger, Flacco, Cutler and Freeman are in this group
 - Only Cade McNown and Dan McGwire were major flops.
- Of the 10 first round QBs selected after the 20th pick, only Aaron Rodgers and Jason Campbell have been successful
 - Jury still out on Tim Tebow

The following pages list the 46 first round quarterbacks by year taken, including their selection number (DP in the table) and briefly describes their careers. Please note that when the number of years played is referenced, a player received credit for a year only if they appeared in a game (e.g., manning the clipboard doesn't count).

Year	Player	College	Drafted By	DP	Comments
1991	Todd Marinoich	USC	Raiders	24	Played 2 seasons, starting 8 games
1991	Dan McGwire	San Diego St	Seahawks	16	Played 5 seasons, starting 5 games
1992	David Klingler	Houston	Bengals	6	Played 6 seasons, 1 as a starter
1992	Tommy Maddox	UCLA	Broncos	25	Played 9 seasons, 2 as a starter after making a comeback with Pittsburgh
1993	Drew Bledsoe	Washington St	Patriots	1	Became an immediate starter and was the starter in each of his first 8 seasons
1993	Rick Mirer	Notre Dame	Seahawks	2	Was a starter in each of his first 4 seasons, then fizzled
1994	Trent Dilfer	Fresno State	Bucs	6	Played 13 seasons, 7 as a starter and won a Super Bowl
1994	Heather Shuler	Tennessee	Redskins	3	Played 4 seasons, starting 22 games
1995	Kerry Collins	Penn State	Panthers	5	Started his first 4 seasons and has been a starter for 11 of his 16 seasons
1995	Steve Mc Nair	Alcorn State	Oilers	3	Became a starter in his 3 rd season, then started 10 straight years
1997	Jim Druckenmiller	Virginia Tech	49ers	26	Your classic flop, lasting 2 years
1998	Ryan Leaf	Washington St	Chargers	2	Started 21 games over 3 seasons
1998	Peyton Manning	Tennessee	Colts	1	No explanation needed
1999	Tim Couch	Kentucky	Browns	1	Played 5 seasons, starting 59 games
1999	Dante Culpepper	Central Florida	Vikings	11	Became a starter in his 2 nd season and started 5 straight years in an 11 year career
1999	Donovan McNabb	Syracuse	Eagles	2	Became a starter in 2 nd season and has been one ever since
1999	Cade McNown	UCLA	Bears	12	Played only 2 seasons, starting 15 games
1999	Akili Smith	Oregon	Bengals	3	Played 4 seasons, starting 17 games
2000	Chad Pennington	Marshall	Jets	18	Became a starter in his 3 rd season
2001	Michael Vick	Virginia Tech	Falcons	1	Became a starter in his 2 nd season and became a top QB before stumbling
2002	David Carr	Fresno State	Texans	1	Started first 5 seasons before his career descended
2002	Joey Harrington	Oregon	Lions	3	Started first 6 seasons and didn't appear in a game after that
2002	Patrick Ramsey	Tulane	Redskins	32	Played 7 seasons as mostly a backup
2003	Kyle Boller	California	Ravens	19	Was a starter his first 3 seasons; still around as a backup
2003	Rex Grossman	Florida	Bears	22	Still active but has been a full-time starter in only 1 of his 8 seasons
2003	Byron Leftwich	Marshall	Jaguars	7	Started his first 3 seasons before moving into a backup role
2003	Carson Palmer	USC	Bengals	1	Became a starter in his 2 nd season and remained one; injuries have taken toll
2004	JP Losman	Tulane	Bills	22	Has been a starter in 2 of his 6 seasons
2004	Eli Manning	Mississippi	Chargers	1	Became a full-time starter in 2 nd season
2004	Philip Rivers	No Carolina St	Giants	4	Became a starter in his 3 rd season and has started every game since
2004	Ben Roethlisberger	Miami (OH)	Steelers	11	Became a starter as a rookie
2005	Jason Campbell	Auburn	Redskins	25	Became a full-time starter in his 3 rd season and has been a starter last 4 years
2005	Aaron Rodgers	California	Packers	24	Backed up Favre until his 4 th season, then blew it up

2005	Alex Smith	Utah	49ers	1	Career still unfolding, has started 3 of his 5 seasons
2006	Jay Cutler	Vanderbilt	Bears	11	Became a starter in his 2 nd season
2006	Matt Leinart	USC	Cardinals	10	Started as a rookie, then fizzled
2006	Vince Young	Texas	Titans	3	Started first 2 seasons, a roller coaster ride since
2007	Brady Quinn	Notre Dame	Browns	22	Seems on his way to obscurity; has started 12 games
2007	Jamarcus Russell	LSU	Raiders	1	Ouch!!
2008	Joe Flacco	Delaware	Ravens	18	An immediate starter who has started every game of his career
2008	Matt Ryan	Boston College	Falcons	3	An immediate hit
2009	Josh Freeman	Kansas State	Bucs	17	Stepped in midway through his first season and has the look of a good one
2009	Mark Sanchez	USC	Jets	5	Immediate starter
2009	Matthew Stafford	Georgia	Lions	1	Started 10 games his rookie season; injury issues in 2010
2010	Sam Bradford	Oklahoma	Rams	1	Immediate starter
2010	Tim Tebow	Florida	Broncos	25	Too soon to tell