WILKER'S WEEKLY:

GRADING THE BEST AND WORST HAULS OF THE 2026 NFL DRAFT

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The Chiefs reload is well underway

First Five Selections: CB Mansoor Delane, LSU (1.6), DT Peter Woods, Clemson (1.29), ED R Mason Thomas, Oklahoma (2.40), DB Jadon Canady, Oregon (4.109), RB Emmett Johnson, Nebraska (5.161)

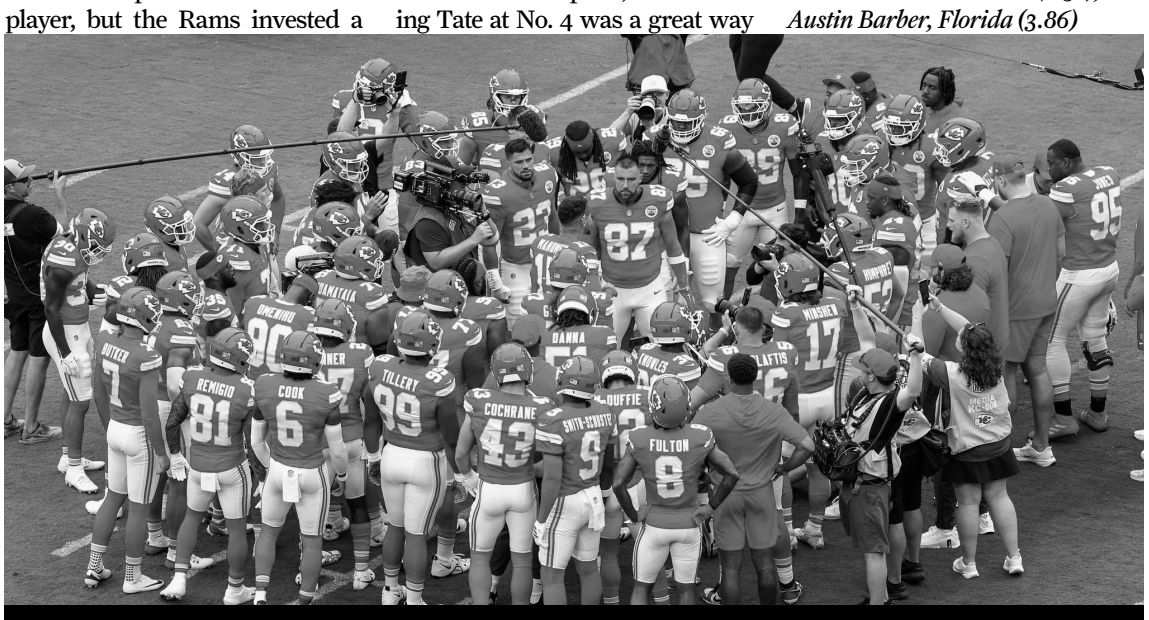
The Chiefs moved up for Delane in the first round to make up for the loss of Trent McDuffie and Jaylen Watson to the Rams. They added Woods with the pick acquired from the McDuffie selection, who was thought to be a potential top ten pick as recently as February. Thomas was injured last season but is an excellent pass rusher and Canady adds a versatile defensive back to the fold. Nussmeier could develop into Mahomes' backup in the long term and in the event of an injury to Justin Fields, he has an outside chance to play. Don't be surprised if the Chiefs end up with a top five defense next season.

Grade: A+

The Rams have an out of character draft

First Five Selections: QB Ty Simpson, Alabama (1.13), TE Max Klare, Ohio State (2.61), OT Keagan Trost, Missouri (3.93), WR CJ Daniels, Miami (6.197), DT Tim Keenan, Alabama (7.232)

The Rams have had excellent drafts almost every season with Sean McVay at the helm. From draft weekend until the end of their rookie contracts, each pick always seems to be respected as a solid addition to their squad, be it for star power or depth. This draft weekend, however, they seemed to make out of character selections. Rather than selecting USC's Makai Lemon with the 13th pick, they instead opted to find Matt Stafford's successor, which McVay didn't seem thrilled about in his presser. While preparing for the future would seem wise, 2027 is thought to be an incredible quarterback draft, and one where Simpson would not have been a first round pick. Klare is a solid player, but the Rams invested a second-round pick at the position last year, while both Colby Parkinson and Tyler Higbee are under contract. Daniels and Keenan could turn out to be Day 3 contributors.



The Kansas City Chiefs huddle up. The Chiefs selected Mansoor Delane as their first draft pick.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE KANSAS CITY CHIEFS ON FACEBOOK

Grade: D-

Robert Saleh and Co. support Cam Ward in Tennessee

First Five Selections: WR Carnell Tate, Ohio State (1.4), ED Keldric Faulk, Auburn (1.31), LB Anthony Hill Jr., Texas (2.60), OG Fernando Carmona, Arkansas (5.142), RB Nick Singleton, Penn State (5.165)

The Titans may have had the best overall offseason of any team. I always felt Robert Saleh ran out of New York too fast, and now he's back in a head coaching role down south. The Titans need to give Cam Ward weapons, and selecting Tate at No. 4 was a great way to do just that. They moved back into the first round for Faulk, who I noted as a potential bust in a recent article, but there's no coach I'd trust to work with him more than Saleh. Hill and Cedric Gray are a dynamic linebacker duo, and the depth of the offensive line was upgraded down the board. Jaren Kanak was one of my favorite late round gems: after 102 career tackles with a scoop and score in 2024, he made the move to tight end and totaled 533 yards from 44 catches.

Grade: A-

The Browns build around their quarterbacks

First Five Selections: OT Spencer Fano, Ohio State (1.9), WR KC Concepcion, Texas A&M (1.24), WR Denzel Boston (2.39), SAF Emmanuel McNeil-Warren (2.58), OT Austin Barber, Florida (3.86)

The Browns now have four with the addition of Arkansas' Green. While they work out who their best option is for the future, they've done an excellent job surrounding their mystery signal called with talent. After a tremendous draft last season, the Browns added a pair of top 100 linemen, two first-round quality receivers, and a safety I had mocked in the first round with the 58th pick. It's hard to tell whether they opted for talent or need, because this draft hit both nails on the head. Todd Monken's squad could make a jump if one of their quarterbacks can find consistency.

Grade: A

Aaron Glenn may have saved his job following excellent Jets draft

First Five Selections: ED David Bailey, Texas Tech (1.2), TE Kenyon Sadiq, Oregon (1.16), WR Omar Cooper Jr., Indiana (1.30), CB D'Angelo Ponds, Indiana (2.40), Darrell Jackson Jr., Florida State (4.103)

After what I found to be an underwhelming free agency, the Jets needed a home run draft if they wanted any chance of real improvement in 2026. While Geno Smith remains the team's quarterback, his supporting cast got significantly better. Sadiq is an incredible athlete, and Cooper was a sure-handed slot option for Fernando Mendoza as Indiana won the National Championship. I was pleasantly surprised to see Ponds not fall nearly as far as I thought he would, and it's been reported he will be cross trained as both a slot and outside cornerback. The defensive interior got bigger this offseason with the addition of T'Vondre Sweat, but FSU's Jackson is another huge frame to add to the mix. Cade Klubnik is a very worthy flier to take in the fourth round: he was once a five-star recruit ranked only behind Drew Allar. Of course, kicking off your draft by adding an edge rusher who led the FBS in sacks isn't too shabby either.

Grade: A+

GRADING EVERY PATRIOTS PICK OF THE 2026 NFL DRAFT

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Round 1, Pick 28: OT Caleb Lomu, Utah

Grade: B

While it may not have been the flashiest pick, it was a responsible one. The Patriots traded up for the Utah left tackle who didn't allow a sack last year. Among all first-round linemen, he has the lowest career pressure rate allowed, even lower than fellow Ute Spencer Fano, who was selected at No. 9. He'll add NFL strength in his rookie season and eventually take over for Morgan Moses.

Round 2, Pick 55: ED Gabe Jacas, Illinois

Grade: B+

The Patriots needed an edge rusher, and that's what they got with Jacas. The senior captain had 11 sacks last season and has a sturdier build than the departed K'Lavon Chaisson. Harold Landry, Dre'Mont Jones and Jacas will hopefully revitalize the team's pass rush that ranked 22nd in sacks last season.

Round 3, Pick 95: TE Eli Raridon, Notre Dame

Grade: C

A former basketball player, Raridon, tore his ACL twice in college. This past season, he had 32 catches for 482 yards in nine games. He opened up the season with 97 yards against No. 10 Miami and 85 yards against No. 16 Texas A&M, but nearly 38% of his season's production came in those two games. He should have an instant impact as a blocker and redzone threat, despite no touchdowns last season.

Round 5, Pick 171: CB Karon Prunty, Wake Forest

Grade: C+

Prunty wasn't invited to the Combine, but he's a five-year college player who started in the ACC last season. He allowed a sub-50% completion rate and two touchdowns with an 11.9% missed tackle rate. He ran a 4.45s 40-yard dash that should allow him to contribute on special teams immediately, while he could be the team's fourth cornerback in the long term.

Round 6, Pick 196: OT Dametrious Crownover, Texas A&M

Grade: A+

I had Crownover going to the Patriots at Pick 63 in my mock draft, so it shouldn't come as a surprise. I think this is a homerun selection in the sixth round. Crownover has an excellent size (6-foot-7, 319 lbs) for the position and could easily claim the swing tackle job after Caleb Lomu eventually steps in for Morgan Moses. An excellent pick for New England late on.



Caleb Lomu from the University of Utah. Lomu was the Patriots' first round pick in the 2026 draft.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @CALEBLOMU ON INSTAGRAM

Round 6, Pick 212: LB Namdi Obiazor, TCU

Grade: B

Eliot Wolf mentioned an affinity for the depth of the linebacker class, and Obiazor was clearly among his favorites. The Patriots lost Jack Gibbens, Jahlani Tavai, and Marte Mapu this offseason, while K.J. Britt was the only addition. He's undersized at 229 pounds, but his 4.53s 40-yard dash could prove useful on special teams. I do, however, feel that Texas A&M's Taurean York (UDFA) would have been a better selection.

Round 7, Pick 234: QB Behren Morton, Texas Tech

Grade: D-

The Patriots opted to release Josh Dobbs and re-sign Tommy DeVito earlier this offseason, leaving a need for a third quarterback. They used a pair of top 30 visits on late round prospects, with Morton being one of them. While a rookie, Morton is older than Drake Maye. He had a decent college career, with nearly 9,000 passing yards with 78 total touchdowns across five seasons in Lubbock. He had a 66% completion rate with 22 passing touchdowns to 6 interceptions in 2025. While modest stats, he didn't turn the ball over much in a Power 4 conference. Given his extensive injury history, I didn't think any team would have drafted Morton, and I also feel there were better options (Kansas' Jalon Daniels).

Round 7, Pick 245: RB Jam Miller, Alabama

Grade: C

I originally graded this pick a "D," but I've come to understand the Miller pick as time has gone on. The Alabama back is a good athlete: he ran a 4.43s 40-yard dash with a compact frame, and he has the physical makeup of a potentially solid kick returner, which will be important following the release of Antonio Gibson. Following the departure of Justice Haynes to Michigan, a breakout was expected, but he actually saw a regression. He took fewer carries for fewer yards and fewer touchdowns, and he didn't take a single carry in Alabama' CFB playoff loss to Indiana. In fairness to Miller, no Alabama player who took 20+ carries during the season had even 4.0 yards per carry, so overall rushing production was down. He'll compete with Terrell Jennings, Lan Larison and others for the RB3 role.

Round 7, Pick 247: ED Quintayvious Hutchins, Boston College

Grade: F

While this may seem a harsh grade for the 247th pick, simply put, I don't think Hutchins was a draftable player. He had only 5.5 sacks through his collegiate career, with two coming this season. While the competition he did so against was impressive (Michigan State and Clemson), he was unable to sustain success during a disastrous 2-10 season for BC. Homers may love the connection to the Golden Eagles, but Hutchins wouldn't likely have had a robust market during rookie free agency, either. Next Gen Stats gave him a 53/99 athletic score, ranking him 33rd in the class on the edge. At 233 pounds, he's unlikely to hold up in run force, and he didn't show any signs of versatility in the front seven last year given that 94% of his snaps came off the edge. Hutchins doesn't look to be a better option than any of New England's depth options as things stand.