



# 30 YEARS OF D-I FOOTBALL CHAMPS

August 25, 1978 St. Petersburg Times:

## FAMU makes Division I bid

A council of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, meeting in Dallas, considered a request Thursday from Florida A&M University to permit the school to enter the NCAA's Division I. FAMU was appealing a June decision by the NCAA's classification committee to deny the school's application for Division I status. The committee claimed the Rattlers did not meet the NCAA's scheduling requirements in football and basketball. The Division II school in Tallahassee is seeking to move up to Division IAA in football and Division I in seven other sports to gain added prestige and greater chances at television exposure. A spokesman for the NCAA said an official announcement on the appeal would not be made until Monday from the NCAA's headquarters in Shawnee Mission, Kan.



## Florida A&M is the First

*After being allowed to join D-I in 1978, the Rattlers struck and struck again to capture the first NCAA Division I football crown.*

# 1978<sub>TO</sub> 2008

# THE TOP

# THIRTY

Top 30 Lists of the  
Players and Title Games  
that helped make  
the Highest Level of  
NCAA Championship Football  
the Very Best in College Football

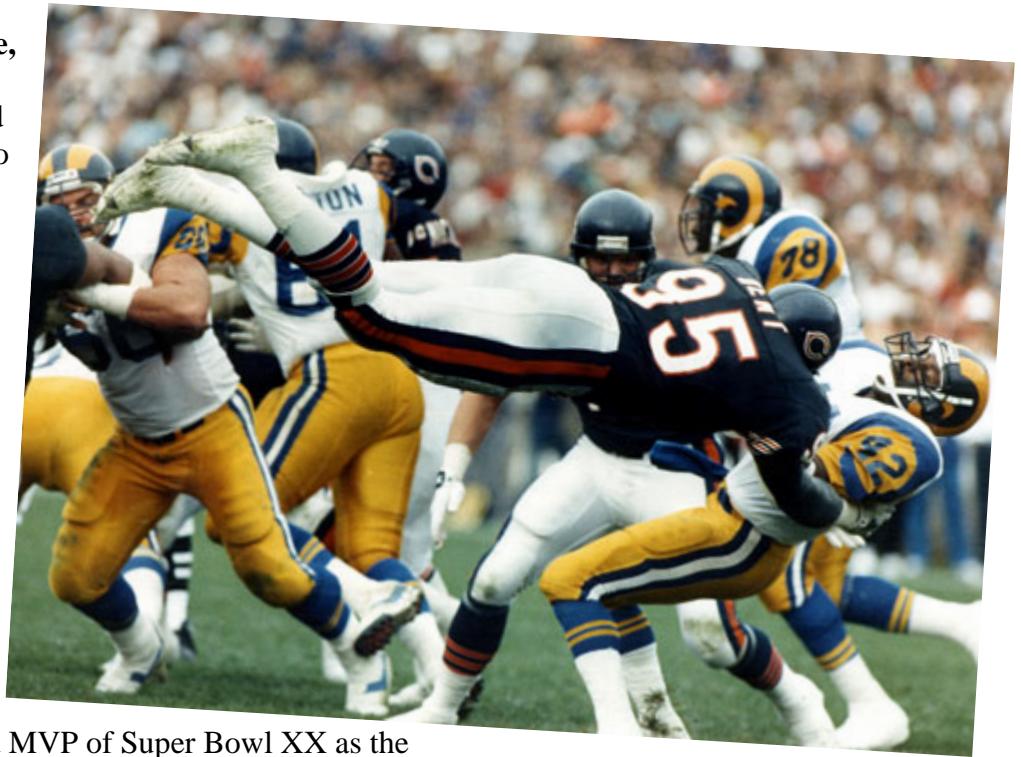
# TOP THIRTY: DEFENSIVE LINEMEN – 1978/2008

By Kent Schmidt, CSN Columnist

(List: Ranking, Player, Position, School, NFL Draft)

## 1. Richard Dent, DE, Tennessee State, 8th Rnd-1983

Dent was a two-time All-American and played for the TSU Tigers from 1979 to 1982. He was the Sheridan National Defensive Player of the Year as a senior and was a member of three Black College National Championship teams during his tenure. Following TSU, he embarked on his highly successful NFL career, playing with the Chicago Bears from 1983-93 and then having stints with the San Francisco 49ers, Indianapolis Colts, and the Philadelphia Eagles. Dent was named to play in four Pro Bowls and was on five NFC Pro Bowl teams. He helped the Bears to their only Super Bowl title and capped off the stellar 1985 season by being named MVP of Super Bowl XX as the Bears routed the New England Patriots, 56-10. He recorded 137.5 quarterback sacks in his career.



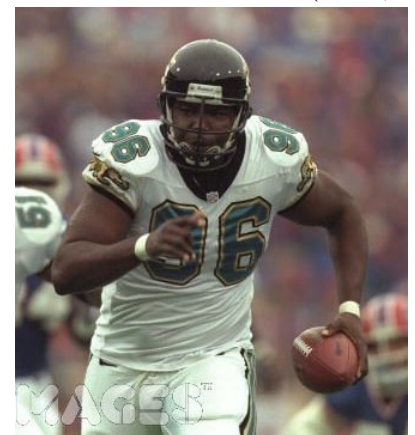
## 2. Michael Strahan, DE, Texas Southern, 2nd Rnd-1993

As a senior at Texas Southern in 1992, Strahan was selected as an All-America when he recorded 62 tackles with a school-record 19 quarterback sacks and 32 tackles totaling 142 yards in losses. He was selected as the FCS Defensive Player of the Year by The Poor Man's Guide that year as well. In 1992, he was the SWAC's Player of the Year for the second consecutive season and was also named Black College Defensive Player of the Year. As a junior in 1991, Strahan led the SWAC with 14.5 quarterback sacks. His 41.5 career sacks is a Texas Southern record. He played his entire NFL career with the New York Giants and retired after the Giants defeated New England in last year's Super Bowl. He has the record for sacks in a season of 22.5, which he obtained in 2001 when he won the NFL's Defensive Player

of the Year Award. He finished his career with a total of 141.5 sacks. He made seven Pro Bowls in his career (1997, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005).

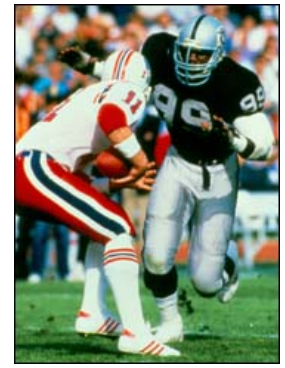
## 3. Clyde Simmons, DE, Western Carolina, 9th Rnd-1986

Simmons was a key member of the 1983 FCS National Championship runners-up team. He played from 1982 to 1985 and is ninth on the Catamount career tackle list with 307. In the NFL, Simmons played for the Philadelphia Eagles (1986-1993), Arizona Cardinals (1994-1995), Jacksonville Jaguars (1996-1997), Cincinnati Bengals (1998), and the Chicago Bears (1999-2000). Simmons was selected to the Pro Bowl in 1991 and 1992. Simmons led the NFL with 19 sacks in 1992 and finished his career 11th all time on the NFL sack list, with 121.5.



#### 4. Sean Jones, DE, Northeastern, 2nd Rnd-1984

He played in the NFL for the Los Angeles Raiders (1984-1987), Houston Oilers (1988-1993), and the Green Bay Packers (1994-1996). Jones was selected to the Pro Bowl after the 1993 season. He is currently an administrator for the Raiders. At NU, Jones spent two seasons (1980-81) as an offensive tackle before converting to a defensive force in his final two seasons. After football, he has become a sports agent and founded an investment firm, Amaroq. He retired among the NFL's all-time sack leaders (113) and ended his NFL career after the Packers won Super Bowl after the 1996 season. Northeastern honored Jones by retiring his number 77 on April 10, 1997.



#### 5. Charles Mann, DE, Nevada, 3rd Rnd-1983

Mann played three seasons (1980 to 1982) for Nevada and was named as an All-American after his senior season in 1982 for the Wolfpack. He played in the NFL for the Washington Redskins for eleven seasons and the San Francisco 49ers for one season from 1983 to 1994. Mann was a four time Pro Bowler in 1987, 1988, 1989 and 1991. Mann recorded 10 or more sacks in four different seasons and won three championship rings in Super Bowl XXII, Super Bowl XXVI, and Super Bowl XXIX. He also was a member of the Redskins Super Bowl XVIII team in his rookie season. Mann finished his career with 83 sacks and 7 fumble recoveries in 177 games.

#### 6. Marcellus Wiley, DE, Columbia, 2nd Rnd-1997

Wiley led Columbia to an 8-2 record and second place in the Ivy League in 1996, his senior season, when he recorded 63 tackles – 17 of them for losses – 6.5 sacks, eight pass breakups and three blocked field goals. He also doubled up on offense in short-yardage and goal line situations. He was named third team All-America, first team All-East and twice first team All-Ivy. He was chosen national Defensive Player of the Week as a senior and twice Ivy League Defensive Player of the Year twice. He played ten seasons in the NFL for four different teams. After four seasons with the Buffalo Bills, he played for the San Diego Chargers, Dallas Cowboys and Jacksonville Jaguars. He was selected to the AFC Pro Bowl team in 2001, as a member of the Chargers.

#### 7. Jared Allen, DE, Idaho State, 4th Rnd-2004

Allen started 33 of 41 games during his career at Idaho State. The four-time All-Big Sky Conference selection finished his Bengal career with 250 tackles, 38.5 sacks, 73 stops for losses, seven fumble recoveries, 3 touchdowns, 13 forced fumbles, three interceptions, 26 pass deflections, and a blocked kick. In this senior season in 2003, he was selected as the Buck Buchanan Award winner after he recorded 17.5 sacks, 102 tackles, 28 tackles for loss, six forced fumbles, three recovered fumbles, and nine pass deflections during 2003, ranking among the Big Sky Conference leaders in several defensive categories. Allen was selected as the starting defensive end for the AFC in the 2008 Pro Bowl after he led the NFL in sacks (15.5) for 2007. Allen was also selected to the Associated Press's All-Pro team for 2007. In February 2008, the Chiefs placed the franchise tag on Allen but later traded him to the Minnesota Vikings.

#### 8. Robert Porcher, DE, South Carolina State, 1st Rnd-1992

Porcher was named an All-American and All-MEAC performer his senior season with South Carolina State in 1991. That season he aided the Bulldogs to overtime win over Tennessee State in the first round of the FCS playoffs. It was the Bulldogs first time in the postseason event in school history. He played for the Detroit Lions his entire NFL career. He retired before the 2004 season with 95.5 career sacks. He was a Pro Bowl selection three times (1997, 1999, 2001). Porcher has been involved in the Detroit community since his retirement. He has opened 3 successful businesses in Downtown Detroit: Detroit Breakfast House & Grill, Sweet Georgia Brown, and Seldom Blues.



#### 9. Jeff Robinson, DE, Idaho, 4th Rnd-1993

At Idaho, Robinson was twice named the Big Sky Conference player of the year, sharing the award with UI quarterback Doug Nussmeier in 1992. Robinson is one of six Vandals to earn three first-team all-conference selections. For his efforts, he was named to the Vandal Hall of Fame this year. He has played in the NFL for thirteen seasons

(1993-2007) as a defensive end, tight end and long snapper. He began playing for the NFL's Denver Broncos and was there for four seasons. He signed with the St. Louis Rams in 1997 and in 1998, the Rams converted him to tight end after he showed ability at the position while working with the scout team. The stint with the Rams included a Super Bowl ring. He remained at tight end through the rest of his tenure with the Rams and the Dallas Cowboys. Robinson came out of retirement last December to be the long snapper for the Seattle Seahawks.

#### **10. Kavika Pittman, DE, McNeese State, 2nd Rnd-1996**

Pittman played just two seasons at McNeese State but made them memorable as he was named to the Southland Conference first team both seasons in 1994 & 1995. He was also the SLC Defensive Player of the Year, as well as an All-American in 1995. He helped guide the Cowboys to the playoffs in each of those two seasons--making it to the semi-finals in 1995 before losing to Marshall. He played eight seasons in the NFL for the Dallas Cowboys, Denver Broncos, and the Carolina Panthers. He recorded 18 sacks and 159 tackles in his career.



#### **11. Lee Williams, DE, Bethune-Cookman, 1st Rnd-1984Sup.**

Williams played for Bethune-Cookman from 1980 to 1983. He played ten seasons for the San Diego Chargers and the Houston Oilers from 1984 to 1993 in the NFL. Previously, he played one season in the spring of 1984 with the Los Angeles Express of the USFL. Williams tied for second in the AFC with 15 sacks in 1986 and had 73 total tackles. He reached the Pro Bowl two consecutive seasons after the 1988 and 1989 seasons.

#### **12. John Jurkovic, DT, Eastern Illinois, Last College-1990**

Jurkovic was an All-American his final two seasons at Eastern Illinois (1988 & 1989) as well as the 1986 season. In both 1988 & 1989, he was named the Gateway Conference Defensive Player of the Year. He still owns a share of the Panthers' record for sacks in a game with six in 1986. He played in the NFL for the Green Bay Packers, Cleveland Browns and Jacksonville Jaguars from 1991 to 1999. Jurkovic is now an afternoon drive host on ESPN Radio 1000 in Chicago along with Dan McNeil & Harry Teinowitz.

#### **13. Kimo von Oelhoffen, DT, Boise State, 6th Rnd-1994**

Von Oelhoffen started playing at Hawaii but transferred to Walla Walla JC the next year and finally settled at Boise State for his final two years of eligibility. He suffered a number of injuries in college that slowed his development including a stress fracture in his foot in 1992 and a sprained ankle in 1993. Despite the injuries, he was named to the All-Big Sky team in 1993. The Cincinnati Bengals selected Von Oelhoffen in the 1994 NFL Draft. In his first three seasons, he was largely a reserve but moved into the starting lineup in 1997. The next season, Von Oelhoffen became a mainstay of the defensive line. In 2000, he signed with the Pittsburgh Steelers and would start all but one game from 2000-2006. He won a Super Bowl ring in 2006 in his final season as a Steeler. For the 2006 season, Von Oelhoffen signed with the New York Jets but was released in training camp before last season and signed with the Philadelphia Eagles. His career NFL totals are 173 tackles and 26.5 sacks.



#### **14. Al Lucas, DT, Troy State, Last College-1999**

In his senior year (1999) for Troy State, Lucas won the Buck Buchanan Award and was also honored as a unanimous All American and All-Southland first team selection that year. He compiled 126 tackles (twenty for losses), fifteen "quarterback hurries", four sacks, and two forced fumbles that season. Lucas played a total of forty-three games for the Trojans, and finished his college career with 255 tackles (36 for losses), twenty-five quarterback hurries, and eleven and a half sacks. In addition, he saw some limited action at running back in his junior and senior seasons, scoring seven touchdowns. Lucas played in 20 games for the Carolina Panthers over the course of the 2000 and 2001 NFL seasons. He then moved to the Arena Football League and helped win the Arena Bowl with the Tampa Bay Storm in 2003. He signed with Los Angeles Avengers in 2004 as a free agent. In April 2005, Lucas tackled Corey Johnson of the New York Dragons during a kickoff return and suffered a spinal cord injury. He was rushed to nearby hospital but the injuries were too great and he passed away.

### 15. Chris McNeil, DE, North Carolina A&T, Last College-1997

McNeil became the first defensive end to win the Buck Buchanan Award, and was also the first player from a MEAC school to win a major FCS honor. The North Carolina State transfer wreaked havoc on opposing defenses, finishing the 1997 campaign with 49 tackles and 21 sacks in leading North Carolina A&T to a 7-4 season. His 21 sacks set a MEAC conference record and that led the entire nation, at all levels, in sacks. He was named MEAC Defensive Player of the Week five times during his Aggie career. In just 15 career college games for the Aggies, McNeil posted 31.5 sacks. McNeil played professionally for the Hamilton Tiger-Cats of the CFL.

### 16. Osi Umenyiora, DE, Troy State, 2nd Rnd-2003

He played three of his four seasons at Troy at the FCS level as the Trojans moved up to FBS starting his senior season. He started 46 of 48 games for the Trojans, recording 276 tackles (129 solo) with 25 sacks for minus-140 yards, 39 stops for losses of 168 yards, 71 quarterback pressures, 7 forced fumbles, 2 fumble recoveries and a pass deflection. His 25 career sacks rank 7th in school history. He was drafted by the New York Giants and has played all of his five professional seasons there thus far. He set an individual Giant team record with 6 sacks vs. Philadelphia a year ago. He has 231 tackles and 41.5 sacks thus far in his NFL career.

### 17. Kroy Biermann, DE, Montana, 5th Rnd-2008

Biermann finished second nationally a year ago with 16 sacks, and was 24th with 18.5 tackles for loss. He had 70 total tackles, 34 solo stops, five forced fumbles, two fumble recoveries, two blocked kicks and one pass break-up. He finished his career with 33 sacks, 46 tackles for loss, nine forced fumbles, and seven fumble recoveries for a Grizzly team that went 43-10 and won a share of the Big Sky title each of his four years in Missoula. Biermann was drafted by the Atlanta Falcons in the fifth round of this year's NFL Draft after winning the FCS Buchanan Award.



### 18. Fred Stokes, DE, Georgia Southern, 12th Rnd-1987

Stokes played a vital part of the 1985 and 1986 Championship teams and in 1986 was voted to the First Team All-America. In 1987, Fred was drafted by the Los Angeles Rams. Stokes played ten seasons in the NFL for the Los Angeles Rams, Washington Redskins, St. Louis Rams, and New Orleans Saints. He started and won the Super Bowl XXVI while playing for the Redskins. He left the NFL with 38 sacks in 133 games played.

### 19. Dwaine Board, DE, North Carolina A&T, 5th Rnd-1979

Board played just one season at the FCS level--the first ever season of 1978 for the Aggies and was an All-American in that season--his senior season. He was also the MEAC Player of the Year in 1977. He was drafted in 1979 NFL Draft by the Pittsburgh Steelers, but they released him in the preseason and he signed with the San Francisco 49ers. He was a member of the 49ers' Super Bowl XVI and Super Bowl XIX winning teams and played his last NFL season with the New Orleans Saints in 1988. In his 10 NFL seasons, Board recorded 45 sacks and 9 fumble recoveries. He is currently the defensive line coach for the Seattle Seahawks.

### 20. Robert Mathis, DE, Alabama A&M, 5th Rnd-2003

Mathis registered 20 sacks his senior year, a FCS record. He was an All-SWAC preseason selection prior to his junior year, and he finished his collegiate career with 221 tackles, 44 sacks, 20 forced fumbles, and five fumble recoveries. He was selected by the Indianapolis Colts in the 2003 NFL Draft. He was a key member of the Colts' Super Bowl XLI victory and has played his entire career thus far in Indianapolis. He has recorded 42 sacks and 210 tackles in his five NFL seasons thus far.



### 21. Chris Gocong, DE, Cal Poly, 3rd Rnd-2006

In 2005, Gocong set a FCS season-record with 23.5 sacks and led the nation with 31 tackles behind the line of scrimmage. He recorded a career-high 98 tackles, caused four fumbles, recovered two others and deflected four passes.

This amazing season led to Gocong being the recipient of the Buck Buchanan Award. In 41 career games with the Mustangs, Chris started 35 times and recorded 212 tackles. He set an NCAA career-record with 42 sacks for minus 284 yards. Gocong play in 2005 aided to Cal Poly's 8-3 record and first-ever playoff berth that included a win at Montana. He was a two time All-American in his junior and senior seasons (2004 & 2005). Gocong was drafted by the NFL's Philadelphia Eagles in 2006 and became a starter in 2007. He has 54 tackles and 1 sack in his career thus far for the Eagles.

### **22. Kendall Langford, DE, Hampton, 3rd Rnd-2008**

After a strong junior campaign, Langford did not have the dominant senior season many were expecting. Nonetheless, Langford was solid in his final season, and led his team in total tackles with 73, while adding 6 sacks. In his junior season, he was named as an All-American and an All-MEAC selection. He recorded 55 tackles, which ranked third on the squad and was second in the MEAC with 15.5 tackles for loss. He was selected in this past year's draft by the Miami Dolphins.

### **23. Marvin Washington, DE, Idaho, 6th Rnd-1989**

Washington played on the Big Sky champion Vandal team as senior in 1988 and led the team with a school record with 14 sacks. His Idaho team made it as far as the FCS semi-finals that year but fell to eventual champion Furman. He transferred to Idaho from Hinds JC (MS) but played basketball at Texas-El Paso before that. He played in the NFL from 1989-1999 for the New York Jets, the San Francisco 49ers, and the Denver Broncos. While he was with the Broncos, he helped them win Super Bowl XXXIII. He totaled 155 games and recorded 40.5 sacks in his NFL career.



### **24. James Jones, DT, Northern Iowa, 3rd Rnd-1991**

Jones recorded 20 career sacks for the Panthers and was named to the Gateway's All-Decade team. He played at UNI from 1987 to 1990 and was a All-Gateway performer after the final three seasons in Cedar Falls. He he played ten NFL seasons from 1991-2000 for the Cleveland Browns, Denver Broncos, Baltimore Ravens, and Detroit Lions. Jones never missed a game in his 10-year career. He totaled 37 sacks in 160 games in his NFL career.

### **25. Anthony Pleasant, DE, Tennessee State, 3rd Rnd-1990**

Pleasant earned first-team All-OVC honors as a senior in 1989 when he totaled 54 tackles and nine sacks, as well as 12 tackles for loss. He earned honorable mention All-America honors when he led the team in sacks as a junior with 12. He played in the NFL for the Cleveland Browns, New England Patriots, New York Jets, San Francisco 49ers, Atlanta Falcons and Baltimore Ravens over the course of his 14 year career. The 1993 season was likely his best year as he recorded 11 sacks. For his career, he recorded a total of 58 sacks in 201 games.

### **26. Rich Owens, DE, Lehigh, 5th Rnd-1995**

Owens was an All-Patriot second team member his senior season at Lehigh in 1995 and was drafted into the NFL by Washington. He played in the NFL from 1995 to 2002 for the Washington Redskins, Miami Dolphins, Kansas City Chiefs and Seattle Seahawks. The 1996 season was likely Owens's best year as he recorded 11 sacks. He totaled 28.5 sacks in 97 games in his seven year NFL career.



### **27. Seth Payne, DT, Cornell, 4th Rnd-1997**

Payne is a member of the Big Red All-Time team--playing from 1993 to 1996. As a senior, he led the team with a career best nine sacks and ranked among the top on the team in tackles with 84. He was a three-time All-Ivy selection and remains the school's career leader in sacks with 19. He was originally drafted by the Jacksonville Jaguars in the 1997 NFL Draft. He was then selected by the Houston Texans in the Expansion Draft in 2002. He moved back to Jacksonville after the 2006 but the Jaguars released him before last season started.

**28. Robert Harris, DE/DT, Southern University, 2nd Rnd-1992**

Harris finished his college career at Southern with 158 tackles and 17 sacks and started his last two years with the Jaguars. He was a black college All American and a first team All-SWAC after his junior season. He was drafted by the NFL's Minnesota Vikings in 1992 and played with them for three seasons. He moved to play for the New York Giants and played five seasons there, finishing his career in 1999. Robert was the first Giant interior lineman to record ten sacks in a season in 1997.

**29. Terdell Sands, DT, Tennessee-Chattanooga, 7th Rnd-2001**

Sands played just one year (1999) at Chattanooga, recording 36 tackles (26), a sack, two passes defended but did not play in 2000. He was originally drafted by the Kansas City Chiefs in 2001 NFL Draft. He was allocated by the Chiefs to the Berlin Thunder of the NFL Europe League for the 2002 season. He then moved to the Green Bay Packers for the 2003 season and played in just one game. Sands then moved to the Oakland Raiders and that is where he is currently playing. He had played in 60 NFL games with 14 starts with the Raiders thus far in his career.



**30. Corey Widmer, DT, Montana State, 7th Rnd-1992**

Widmer was a two-time All-American and a three-time All-Big Sky choice while he played from 1988 to 1991 for Montana State. He was named the Big Sky's defensive MVP in 1990 and recorded 35 career sacks for the Bobcats. Widmer played his entire eight year NFL career with the New York Giants from 1992 to 1999. He recorded 365 total tackles (271 solo), 7.5 sacks, and four interceptions in his NFL career.