



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 TO 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

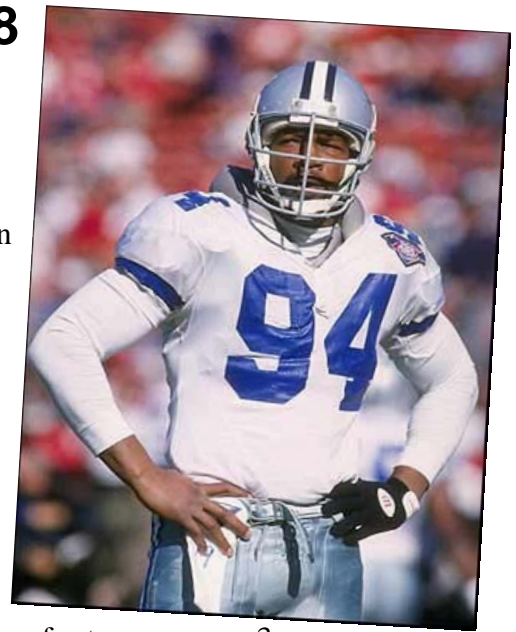
TOP THIRTY: LINEBACKERS – 1978/2008

By Kent Schmidt, CSN Columnist

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

1. Charles Haley, LB, James Madison, 4th Rnd-1986

Haley has the distinction of being the only player in NFL history to have been on five Super Bowl-winning teams. To date, no other player has surpassed this achievement. In his 12 NFL seasons, Haley recorded 100.5 quarterback sacks, 2 interceptions (9 return yards), and 8 fumble recoveries, which he returned for 9 yards and a touchdown. He was also selected to play in 5 Pro Bowls (1988, 1990, 1991, 1994, 1995) and was named NFL All-Pro in 1990 and 1994.



2. Dexter Coakley, LB, Appalachian State, 3rd Rnd-1997

Only two time Buck Buchanan Winner (1996 & 1997). He was named an All-American for three seasons, as well as Southern Conference Defensive Player of the Year for two seasons. 3-Time Pro Bowler (1999, 2001, 03) 10 year career with Dallas & St. Louis--started 141 games.

3. Bryan Cox, LB, Western Illinois, 5th Rnd-1991

As a senior, he was named as a First Team All-America selection by the Football Gazette and was a First Team All-Conference selection. As a junior, he was named the Western Illinois University MVP. He was a three time Pro Bowler (1992, 94, 95) and an All-Pro (1992). He had a 12-year career with Miami, Chicago, NY Jets, NE, & NO--starting 145 games. He won a Super Bowl title with New England after the 2001 season.



4. Bryce Paup, LB, Northern Iowa, 6th Rnd-1990

Paup was named the NFL Defensive Player of the Year by the Associated Press in 1995 and was a four-time Pro Bowl selection (1994, 95, 96, 97). Played for 11 years for Green Bay, Buffalo, Jacksonville, Minnesota, started 113 games.



5. Jeremiah Trotter, LB, Stephen F. Austin, 3rd Rnd-1998

Consensus All-American in 1997. Current Player and 4-Time Pro Bowler (2000, 01, 04, 05), 1 Time All-Pro (2000). 9-year career with Philadelphia, Washington, Tampa Bay thus far--starting 117 games.

6. Shawn Barber, LB, Richmond, 4th Rnd-1998

Barber began his collegiate career at Richmond as a safety but was moved to linebacker in his sophomore year. As a junior, Barber was an all-American honorable mention by the Associated Press and an all-Yankee Conference first-team selection. He recorded 94 total tackles (56 solo), six sacks, 13 tackles for a loss, and a forced fumble en route to becoming the Atlantic 10 Conference Defensive Player of the Year in 1997 as a senior. 10 year NFL career with Washington, Philadelphia, KC, & Houston, starting 75 games.



7. John Thierry, LB, Alcorn State, 1st Rnd-1994

Played in 131 games in 9 seasons with 4 NFL teams (Chicago, Cleveland, Green Bay & Atlanta).

8. Eddie Robinson, LB, Alabama State, 2nd Rnd-1992

Played in 11 seasons for Houston/Tennessee, Jacksonville, Buffalo--started 163 games. Started in Super Bowl XXXIV for Tennessee.

9. Gary Reasons, LB, Northwestern State, 4th Rnd-1984

Reasons was the first player to be named three times to FCS All-America teams while playing at Northwestern State and in 1996 he was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame. He had a nine year NFL Career with 2 Super Bowl championships while played for the NY Giants. He also played for Cincinnati and started 82 games NFL games in total.



10. Bart Scott, LB, Southern Illinois, NONE

While at SIU, he played safety and linebacker. He is a current NFL player and was a Pro Bowler in 2006. He has a six year NFL career thus far, all with Baltimore and has started 42 games.



11. Justin Durant , LB, Hampton, 2nd Rnd-2007

He became the first player in the history of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference to earn MEAC Defensive Player of the Year honors three times. While at Hampton, he started 39 of 43 games at middle linebacker and ranked second in school history with 353 tackles. Started 8 games in his first NFL season for Jacksonville.

12. Dino Hackett, LB, Appalachian State, 2nd Rnd-1986

Hackett became the first Appalachian State player to record over 100 solo tackles (106) since the stat was kept in 1980. His 200 tackles in 1985 is still a team record. Pro Bowler (1988). Started 82 games in his 7 year NFL career for KC & Seattle. Hackett's No. 38 uniform number has been retired. Hackett was named to the Southern Conference's all-time team and to Appalachian State's 75th Anniversary all-time team.



13. Johnny Meads, LB, Nicholls State, 3rd Rnd-1984

He was named as an All-American in 1982 for the Colonels. He played 9 Seasons in the NFL with Houston & Washington, started 97 games.

14. Vincent Brown, LB, Mississippi Valley State, 2nd Rnd-1988

Kodak All-America honors as a senior in 1987. He was a Second Team AP All-American as a junior. A three-time All-SWAC pick, he broke the school's record for career tackles with 570 stops while leading the team in tackles his last three seasons. 3-time All-Pro (1991, 92, 93) 103 games started in 123 total games all with NE in 8 NFL seasons.

15. Mike Caldwell, LB, Middle Tennessee State, 3rd Rnd-1993

Caldwell enjoyed an 11-year NFL career as a linebacker with Cleveland (1993-95), Baltimore (1996), Arizona (1997), Philadelphia (1998-2001), Chicago (2002), and Carolina (2003). He played in 159 career regular season games and posted 14.5 sacks and eight interceptions, while proving to be a top special teams performer. Caldwell currently serves as the defensive quality control coach for the Philadelphia Eagles.



16. Jordan Beck, LB, Cal Poly, 3rd Rnd-2005

The 2004 Buck Buchanan winner was the centerpiece for his team's flex defense and led the Mustangs in tackles all four seasons he played. He set school records for tackles in a game (23 at Montana in 2003), season (135 in 2004) and career (449). At the 80th annual East-West Shrine Game at SBC Park in San Francisco, he recorded a team-high six stops for the West. Current NFL player, has played in 26 NFL games with Atlanta & Denver.

17. Boomer Grigsby, LB, Illinois State, 5th Rnd-2005

Three year All-American performer and was named the Gateway Defensive Player of the Year each of those seasons (2002, 2003, 2004). Current NFL player. Has played in 44 games in 3-year career thus far--all with KC but has signed this off-season with Miami. Two-time CSN defensive player of the year.



18. John Rade, LB, Northern Arizona/Boise State, 8th Rnd-1983

Played 1978 in Flagstaff before transferring to then Big Sky rival Boise State. Started 112 games, all for Atlanta in 10 year NFL career. In 1988 John led his team in tackles with 137 for the second straight year. He had 4 100 plus tackle seasons in 6 years of his NFL career.

19. Henry Rolling, LB, Nevada, 5th Rnd-1987

Rolling played for the San Diego Chargers, Los Angeles Rams and Tampa Bay Buccaneers over the course of his 7 year career where he started 47 games. Most people believe that 1990 & 1991 were Henry Rolling's best years with San Diego.

20. David Bowens, LB, Western Illinois, 5th Rnd-1999

Bowens started his college career at FBS Michigan for two seasons before he transferred to Western Illinois. He was named as an All-American in 1998. He is a current NFL player, started 17 games thus far in 10 year NFL career, playing for Denver, GB, Washington, Miami, NY Jets.



21. Edgerton Hartwell, LB, Western Illinois, 4th Rnd-2001

2000 Buck Buchanan Winner and two time All-American performer, Started 60 games in 6 NFL seasons, playing for Baltimore & Atlanta.

22. Derrick Lloyd , LB, James Madison, None

As a senior at James Madison, Lloyd was named the Buck Buchanan Defensive Player of the Year. He was also named A-10 Player of the Year and a first team All-American. Lloyd finished his career with the Dukes with 320 tackles, ranking 10th all-time.



23. James Milton, LB, Western Illinois, None

James Milton became the first Leatherneck and Gateway Conference player to win a national award when he was named the Buck Buchanan Award winner following the 1998 season. Milton was the leader of a Western Illinois defense which led the nation in fewest points allowed (9.37) during the regular season, the second-lowest total in school history. Milton led the 1998 squad with 176 tackles, just seven shy of Western's single-season record, along with 22 tackles-for-loss, six pass breakups and two interceptions. Milton was signed as a free agent by the Kansas City Chiefs, but was released prior to the 1999 season.

24. Kyle Shotwell , LB, Cal Poly, None

Four-year letterman who started 35 of 46 games and finished his Mustang career with 392 tackles, 17.0 sacks and four interceptions. As a senior, he received 2006 Buck Buchanan Award for being best defensive player that season. He registered 122 tackles and 11.1 tackle-per-game average and was eighth in nation in total tackles in that award winning season. He is currently playing in the NFL with Indianapolis but was signed originally by Oakland in 2007.



25. Dwayne Gordon, LB, New Hampshire, 8th Rnd-1993

Gordon made his professional debut in the NFL in 1993 with the Atlanta Falcons. He played for the New York Jets, San Diego Chargers and Atlanta Falcons over the course of his 8 year career--starting 20 games in that span. Gordon currently works as a personal trainer.



26. Zack Walz, LB, Dartmouth, 6th Rnd-1998

Three time All-Ivy League performer (1995, 1996, 1997) and was an All-American in 1997. Played in 46 games, starting 16 in 4-year NFL career, all with Arizona.

27. Isaiah Kacyvenski, LB, Harvard, 4th Rnd-2000

In four years, Kacyvenski started every game at Harvard. As a freshman, he won the Ivy League Rookie of the Year award, and for three years, won All-Ivy League first team honors. As a senior, he had a school single-season record 135 tackles, and for his college career, finished with a school career-record record 395 tackles, 4.5 sacks, 11 interceptions, and 8 fumble recoveries. He played in 100 games, starting 22 games all for Seattle & StL Rams in 7-year career thus far.



28. Darion Conner, LB, Jackson State, 2nd Rnd-1990

Played in 8 NFL Seasons, with Atlanta, Carolina, New Orleans, & Philadelphia--started 76 games and also played for six seasons in the Arena Football League with TB Storm until 2005. He, however, is currently serving a 15-year prison sentence for Vehicular Homicide that occurred in July of 2005.



29. Zak DeOssie , LB, Brown, 4th Rnd-2007

Current NFL player. Played in all 16 games for NY Giants a year ago in first NFL season, including Super Bowl XLII. He is the son of Steve DeOssie, a former NFL player who also won a Super Bowl (Super Bowl XXV) with the New York Giants. Thus making them the first father-son combination to be on Championship teams for the same franchise.

30. Adam Hayward , LB, Portland State, 6th Rnd-2007

Adam Hayward spent his college career, playing at Colorado before transferring to Portland State. He bounced from position to position but by his senior season, he found a final position at outside linebacker. He was a consensus All-American and unanimous All-Big Sky Conference honoree his senior season of 2006. He was also named the league's Defensive Player of the Year by notching 104 tackles (56 solo), 9.5 sacks and 16.5 tackles for a loss. He is a current NFL player having played in 12 games in first NFL season with Tampa Bay.