NFL DRAFT UPDATE

Pros like what they see in defensive backs

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there's a good chance that a rookie from a Glenn, one of the team's better cornerbacks ous knee injury in Super Bowl XXII against cornerback, then safety if that doesn't work predominantly black college will be in your last season, is coming off of a knee injury the Redskins, Perry will have the opportufavorite pro team's corner.

Six black college players were selected in the second and fourth rounds of this year's draft. Four are defensive backs and all four will be tried out at cornerback.

Terry Williams of Bethune-Cookman due to the retirement of Steve Nelson, a was the first black college player chosen. He was selected by the New York Jets in the second round and was the 37th overall

Michael Brim from Virginia Union was selected by the Phoenix Cardinals in the fourth round; Southern's Michael Ball was picked by the Indianapolis Colts; and Anthony Blaylock of Winston-Salem State was drafted by the Cleveland Browns.

The other two players that went in the early rounds were Vincent Brown, a linebacker from Mississippi Valley State (New England Patriots); and offensive tackle Gerald Perry of Southern (Denver Broncos). Brown and Perry were second round

This year's draft saw a total of 19 black college players chosen, up from the 17 taken in 1987. A total of 11 were selected in 1986 and 13 in 1985.

The other 13 players drafted were: Jackson State guard Houston Hoover, Atlanta Falcons (sixth round); Hampton running back Carl Painter, Detroit Lions (sixth round); Mississippi Valley tight end Dante Whitaker, New York Giants (seventh round); Delaware State linebacker Kevin Bryant, San Francisco 49ers (seventh round); Grambling State nose tackle Curtis Maxey, Cincinnati Bengals (eighth round); South Carolina State tight end Robert Tyler, Seattle Seahawks (eighth round); Howard running back Harvey Reed, Chicago Bears (eighth round); Jackson State nose tackle Deatrick Wise, Seattle (ninth round); Southern linebacker Vincent Fizer, New Orleans Saints (10th round); Tennessee State wide receiver Frank Pillow, Tampa Bay (11th round); South Carolina State defensive back Dwayne Harper, Seattle (11th round); Jackson State nose tackle Albert Goss, Jets (12th round); and Grambling nose tackle Johnny Carter, Denver (12th round).

prospects at cornerback in an effort to bol- positions. ster pass coverage against the league's potent aerial attacks. Williams is already Brown (6-2,245) to make the team, said Jim were troubled by an inept secondary for director. He runs a 4.85 in the 40-yard dash

At Williams' position, there will be four or get a lot of playing time."

During the upcoming 1988 NFL season, five guys competing for that spot." Kerry and the Jets aren't expecting him to return nity to start at left tackle. Studdard is not for the start of the '88 season.

Brown, the 43rd overall player taken, isn't expected to play right away with the last year's back-up at that spot, will be tried Blaylock. "You can never have enough cor-Patriots. The Pats need an extra linebacker at center this season to add depth behind

Because Dave Studdard suffered a seri- public relations director. "He'll get a shot at expected back until the third or fourth game best pair of pro cornerbacks in Frank Minof the season. Furthermore, Keith Cartz, nifield and Hanford Dixon, they still chose incumbent center Bill Bryan.

photo courtesy of Bethune-Cookman College Terry Williams of Bethune-Cookman will get his shot at the starting cor-

veteran LB. Ed Reynolds, Johnny Rembert and Lawrence McGrew are expected to bat-NFL teams are always looking for sharp the for the two starting inside linebacking Gladysiewski, Cardinals media coordinator. trying to determine who was the fastest

nerback slot for the Jets.

is self-explanatory --- he buries guys.

said Frank Ramos, Jets public relations in the draft, runs the 40 in 5.1. "He's a looks like he can fit in." director. "We drafted four defensive backs mountain," said Barry Hawkins, Broncos' and three of them are corners. We have 22 media relations assistant. "He has an excel-

Brim (6-0, 186) is "an athlete who needs some good coaching," said Greg draft. "We looked at the board and we were "Not to say that he didn't get any at Virginia linebacker on the board," Green said of

Brim will be initially tried at cornerback, Bowl and we thought he could play. We're penciled in as a starter for the Jets who Greenidge, New England public relations where Cedric Mack and Carl Carter are the hoping he can transfer some of that speed incumbents. "Brim is fast and has hitting as a nickel linebacker and on special teams. most of last season. Jerry Holmes, last and was a bright spot in Valley's 1-10 sea- ability," said Gladysiewski. "He played at a He would be our pass cover linebacker on year's starting left corner, will be moved to son in '87. His nickname, "The Undertaker" smaller school and wasn't tested by NFL- the inside." Bryant (6-3, 215) runs a 4.63 in caliber receivers week after week after the 40. "Williams had an impressive minicamp," Perry (6-6, 321), the 45th player chosen week. He looks like a raw talent, and he

tions in Southern's defensive backfield. "He Bengals see him playing. The pros like defensive backs coming to training camp. lent chance of starting, and if not, he should has good size, and we like the way he plays their nose tackles short and wide so offenman coverage," said Craig Kelley, Colts

Although the Browns probably have the ners," said Chip Falivene, Browns player personnel director. "We think Anthony has the talent to play cornerback."

Blaylock is 6-1, 180, and has exceptional speed (4.4 in the 40). "He's a good bump-and-run guy and a good cover corner," Falivene added. "Winston-Salem State happens to play bump-and-run coverage, which is what we were looking for."

Atlanta is very high on Hoover (6-2,262), said Danny Mock, who is an administrative assistant for player personnel with the Falcons. "We were looking for some help," Mock added. "Houston will push for a guard position."

Painter (5-9, 184) will be tried as a running back and kick return specialist with the Lions. The former Hampton star gained 981 yards and scored 14 touchdowns in his senior year. He was a medical redshirt in '86, but gained 1,186 yards as a junior in '85. Garry James and James Jones were the main runners for Detroit last season, but the team was decimated with injuries at that position in '87. Said Tom Pendell, Lions communications director: "Carl is very quick and is a strong runner. He seems committed to being a success here."

At 6-3, 240, Whitaker has 4.8 speed in the 40. He played tackle at Valley but will be tried at tight end by the Giants. "(Head Coach) Bill Parcells singled him out as one of the rookies who caught his eye during mini-camp," said George Willis, New York Newsday sportswriter who covers the Giants. "They're looking for a third tight end and will definitely keep a third tight end. They want to utilize Mark Bavaro and Zeke Mowatt more often in the two tight end formation. But to do that, they need a suitable back-up in case Bavaro or Mowatt

Regarding Bryant, the 49ers, according to receivers coach Dennis Green, were seeking a pass coverage specialist in the The Pats, however, are counting on Union, but the NFL can help him improve." Bryant. "We looked at him in the Freedom

> At 6-1 1/2, Maxey has the kind of height and weight (321) that could make him an Ball is 6-0, 211 and played all four posi- effective NFL nose tackle. That where the

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