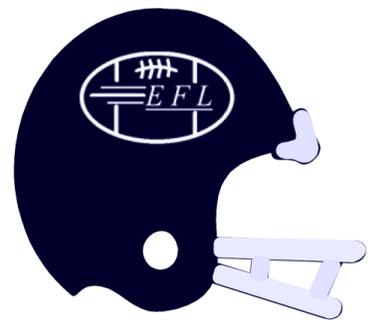


## *Express Football League 2021 Draft Day Extravaganza*



*ANN ARBOR, MI, USA plus other remote sites*

Last year at this time, we were mired in month 6 of a global pandemic that was destined to go away due to people following the evidence that masks, social distancing, and the impending availability of either vaccines, therapeutics or both that would quickly result in herd immunity and treatment options for the inflicted. Rampant use of hydroxychloroquine was finally easing in the face of published articles joining common sense in saying “what the F?” Fast forward one year and (1) masks are now considered by some to be part of the Nazi state, (2) vaccines are still experimental and undertested (including the one approved by the FDA), are strict violations of the Nuremburg Code, and are part of a greedy pharmaceutical company money grab, and (3) ivermectin has become the new hydroxychloroquine despite the fact that the greedy pharmaceutical company who makes ivermectin has come out and stated that there is “no scientific basis for a potential therapeutic effect against COVID-19 from pre-clinical studies; no meaningful evidence for clinical activity or clinical efficacy in patients with COVID-19 disease, and; [there is] a concerning lack of safety data in the majority of studies.” Welcome to insanity, which I hear can be treated as effectively by aducanumab as can Alzheimer’s Disease. Next year, both the pandemic and the draft will be virtually eliminated as we crisply travel west to burn through the draft while putting up smoke screens and firing insults at each other. Assuming one of the western conference owners offers an invitation and people set aside Labor Day weekend for the 36<sup>th</sup> annual draft rather than pleasure traveling with nary a thought of the EFL.

Back to this year. We again practiced massive social distancing with three holdouts (Cesar, Chris, Bruce) who nonetheless sat at least 3 feet apart to carefully guard their draft sheets/computers. None of us were silly enough to put them in a safe, however. The draft itself was challenged by the fact that Einar decided to go to the airport for a flight to Michigan at the start of the draft hoping to conclude it by the time he made the last pick. Barry decided to drive to San Diego to watch the debut of Brady Hoke, which didn’t look like a good decision when the Aztecs (is that name legal still?) trailed 14-0 at halftime. Brady stated “I was ticked off. ... I didn’t have a whole lot of fun” before promoting Daniel Bleske from running back coach to O coordinator resulting in a [28-0 come from behind victory](#). It was free replica jersey night for the first 10,000 in attendance, so Barry and Jane now have 6 jerseys since only 3,000 showed up. Kevin, who is local and could have driven to the draft, did not want to be in a visibly contentious battle with Connor for every pick. So we missed the [big boys bickering](#). After last year’s debacle, we also ditched Zoom and used Clicky chat and/or Cesar’s telephone to communicate when the inevitable technology and/or spelling errors occurred. Only two notable goofs – ET tried to draft David Moore from Carolina when he really wanted DJ Moore and Mike tried to draft Kyle Pitts two slots after Cesar took him. Not bad.

The first twelve picks followed a fairly predictable course, although Barry doubling up on wide receivers was something not seen since ... 2019, when he picked “me and Julio Jones down at the schoolyard” and “the farmer in Odell Beckham” back-to-back resulting in a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish. The first semi-sonic surprise was Guido taking DK Cooper Metcalf over some other more highly accomplished choices at WR. But there is always potential. A bigger shocker was Mike (“wait for the QB until the 6<sup>th</sup> round”) taking Josh Allen in the 3<sup>rd</sup> round (followed up by him taking his typical 6<sup>th</sup> round QB in the 6<sup>th</sup>

round). A run of 5 straight RBs concluded the 3<sup>rd</sup> round, with ET settling on Antonio Gibson after missing out on Harris, Taylor, Mixon and Edwards-Helaire. The Comebackers jumped the gun a bit on Rodgers, meaning he could not take the Packer trifecta of Adams-Jones-Rodgers in the first 3 rounds, assuming Rodgers would have slid to the mid-3<sup>rd</sup>. But he did draft Randall Cobb and Mason Jar Crosby to make up for the relative lack of subsequent Packers. He probably should have picked up AJ Dillon, but he was croupade by the Herding Kats (who inexplicably changed their name back from the Russian Collusion). The Exceln't Team put its trust in someone the Lions fans never did by taking Matt Stafford as QB1. Perhaps the bright lights of LA will allow his golden arm to glitter. He somehow was able to restrain himself from the irony of also drafting Jared Goff, who went to the Flying Einars. Five owners took 3 running backs in their first 5 picks. The goat, Tom Brady, was the 8<sup>th</sup> QB selected. How the mighty have fallen.

Mike has the Jones brothers for two of his QB slots. Good thing he is not dyslexic when searching for "Mac", otherwise he might have entered the semordnilap word "Cam" and selected Newton instead. Kevin drafted two Dallas receivers back-to-back in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> rounds. He'll be hanging with Mr. Cooper and listening to the CeeDee version of [The Lamb Lies Down on Broadway](#). Perhaps he was living in the [Land of Confusion](#). Goody two shoes. Cesar missed out on Alexander Mattison, but has "same team" running back duos of Chubb/Hunt, Jones/Fournette, and Mostert/Sermon, proudly establishing an EFL record in that category that may never be matched. ET drafted five QBs and three second string running backs. Barry loves Odell Beckham. Bruce hopes his running backs run for Miles and Myles. There were a few more croup picks and two New Orleans receivers drafted right next to each other in the 12<sup>th</sup> round (Calloway and Thomas).

In conclusion, there were no pictures (so no proof of any gathering), but the food was awesome (thank you Janice and, LOL, you all missed out on the handiwork of one of the best cooks in the league – one that Cesar prefers over Delvin), the Great Lakes [Edmond Fitzgerald](#) beer was flowing, and the company grand. According to the time clocks being monitored by [Harvey Keitel](#), Mike, Kevin, and Chris took the longest time to draft, Cesar and Bruce the shortest. ET and Guido bragged about their teams repeatedly. In order to get a more objective understanding of the skills of those who drafted, send in your rankings to Cesar and he'll report out the results. I hope you all lose to the BigTimers.