

The Minds Behind the Decisions

Bob Harris and **Joe Bryant** are the minds behind Team Kneivel.
This is their 1998 Analysis Draft team and the reasoning for the selections made.

QB: PlummerMoon

RB:  **George**  **Alstott**  **Way**  **Warren**

WR:  **Galloway**  **Bruce**  **Owens**

WR:  **Moss**  **Pritchard**  **Metcalf**

TE:  **Chmura**  **Drayton** 

PK:  **Blanchard**  **Ford**

Pick	Player	NFL	Analysis
1.10	RB Eddie George		<p>Love the Big Man. One of the premiere athletes in the NFL, George is too much to pass on. Even with lucrative and fair trade offers on the table, Bob and I couldn't pass.</p> <p>He's Huge, Fast, Quick and Tough. I believe the improvement of McNair and the additional WR help will benefit. I get a kick out of these "gurus" who act like each team is only allowed one scoring threat. I seem to recall Emmitt and Irvin having more than a couple of good seasons simultaneously.</p> <p>I'm especially excited about the move to Nashville. The Oilers played essentially 16 road games last year. That takes a toll. There's visible and audible excitement coming from both the players and fans with regard to the move. Nashville is a booming city that will rally behind the team.</p> <p>George looks to carry the load for Team Kneivel in the same way he'll carry the Oilers this Fall.</p>

2.03	WR Joey Galloway		<p>As much as it pains me to open the draft with consecutive OSU picks, here goes.</p> <p>At 26 years old with 3 solid seasons and 47 games started under the belt, we're convinced Galloway's just entering his prime. It's scary to think of improving upon his spectacular 97 campaign, but I think it's there.</p> <p>Just as I liked the Oiler's WR moves for George, I'm excited to see what Watters can bring to the team and the double teaming pressure it will relieve. The speedy Galloway looks to lead what is shaping up to be a very potent offense.</p> <p>He was our top WR on the board given the scoring parameters of the FanEx league and we strongly considered him with the first pick. Certainly, we're thrilled to have him on board.</p> <p>Overall, we couldn't be happier with how the first two rounds played out for Team Knievel drafting from my personal favorite slot in the order.</p>
TRADE	.		<p>Atlanta Angst Kellogg 4.11 + 6.11 for Team Knievel Harris-Bryant 3.10 + 9.10</p> <p>Patience, Grass Hoppah. Your time will come. Is it tough to watch good players go while you trade down? Yes it is. IF you're confident in your player projection ability though, it can be a very profitable exercise in discipline.</p> <p>Greg and I followed the cardinal rule for all good trades. We both got something we wanted. Greg had a desire to move up and grab his #1 rated TE. He got that.</p> <p>I had 6 players all valued extremely close together and will be equally happy with any. Knowing we have the 3rd pick in the next round made the decision easy.</p> <p>I basically moved up 3 rounds to drop back 1 at what was essentially very little loss of actual value to me. I think many folks undervalue the mid rounds like round 6. You're still drafting starters at that point in the draft. Having 2 picks there should be beneficial.</p> <p>As I said, bottom line--Greg got what he wanted. We got what we wanted. Good trade.</p>
4.03	WR Isaac Bruce		<p>With our well known penchant for WR's, it's tough to pass on the good Reverend much later than the middle 3rd. Do the Ram's have a great offense? No they don't. Will he be double and triple covered? Yes he will.</p> <p>What else is new?...</p> <p>Vermiel called him the best WR he'd ever been around. Period.</p> <p>That's no small praise whether you like the coach or not. I think Banks is due for improvement (can he be much worse?) and the Lambs are certain to be</p>

			<p>trailing in their share of games making the passing game a factor.</p> <p>In 97, Ike posted 5 TD's and 815 yards while missing 5 games. He's got the track record. Those numbers over extrapolated over an entire season will suit us just fine.</p>
4.11	RB Mike Alstott		<p>The Bucs have made it clear that Alstott will play a more prominent role in their offense this season. The acquisition of Lorenzo Neal is part of the plan to get Alstott more turns at tailback this season.</p> <p>We'd be very happy to see the third-year man equal last season's rushing totals if he can get his receiving totals back in line with his rookie numbers (65 catches).</p>
5.10	TE Mark Chmura		<p>.Every once in a while, it works out for you...</p> <p>When we made the deal and gave up our 3rd pick, I had an idea of what Greg was doing. I figured TE was on his mind and he got a good one in Coates.</p> <p>I find that too many leagues with a mandatory starting TE undervalue the position. With some players, it's a great opportunity to really put some distance between you and the competition. People often ask me, "How can a TE that you project to post 75 points be more valuable than a WR who you project to post 115?"</p> <p>In a nutshell, it's not a game of TE vs WR. You get to draft a WR to team with your TE and your opponent MUST draft a TE to go with his WR. In many instances, the WR you draft will be closer to your opponent's WR than his TE he must draft will be to your TE. The total points is what you're after.</p> <p>I suppose part of my thinking stems from my roto baseball upbringing where you can be really hurt by poor players. TE's are similar in that there are some very poor TE's when compared to the top guys your opponents will be starting. You don't want to be left out there.</p> <p>When we made the trade with Greg, I was thinking TE too but with the Elway situation and the Curtis Martin move, there simply wasn't a dominant TE for us. As it worked out, we got our top guy anyway in Chewy.</p> <p>How can you not like a big, quick, soft handed, experienced TE playing in the TE dependent West Coast offense who just happens to be the QB's best friend? Throw in the little tidbit that said QB just happens to be the best TD tosser on the planet who loves his Security Blanket Buddy around the Red Zone...</p> <p>Fughgedaboutit. Chewy's on board and we're happy.</p>
6.03	QB Jake Plummer		<p>How can you not like a guy named "Jake the Snake"?</p> <p>If it was Hollywood, you'd shake your head and say "no way". Scrappy, undersized QB with a "personality" works his way into college folklore for his last second heroics and then comes home to locals who welcome him with</p>

			<p>open arms.</p> <p>Is the fan favorite from day one and eventually steps into the #1 QB role starting the last nine games, leading the Cards to 3 of their 4 wins. Throws for 2200+ yards and 15 TD's in those 9 games while also managing to running for 216 yards and a couple of scores. Those numbers extrapolated to a full season look pretty darn good to us. The 15 INT's were more than acceptable for a rookie.</p> <p>Most folks know I love the prototypical 6'4 / 235 pound QB's and Plummer is certainly not that. Built more like...uh Joe Montana maybe. In fact, has a lot of the young Montana leadership / charismatic will to win qualities. He's the kind of leader the team rallies behind as he makes those around him feel he'll pull one out of the hat.</p> <p>(While I'm thinking of it, was reminded of my favorite Montana story. Clock is ticking down in the Super Bowl game as SF is making the fabled "DRIVE". 3rd and 5 from about midfield with basically the game (and many guys hopes of a Super Bowl ring) on the line. Obviously, it's a tense huddle as the play comes in. Tense except for Montana who's casually scanning the crowd. He starts to call the play and then suddenly bolts upright and says, "Hey guys LOOK, it's John Candy standing over there in the endzone!"</p> <p>No, there'll never be another Joe, and it's not really even fair to talk about a second year guy like Plummer and the Great One in the same sentence. But he does have the intangibles to make for a very productive QB.</p> <p>Our strategy of grabbing more valuable non QB's in the first 5 rounds was handsomely rewarded as we snagged what we feel will be a well above average QB with a great upside with this pick.</p>
TRADE	.		<p>Oklahoma Petros TC 7.11 + 8.10 + 10.04 for Team Kneivel Harris - Bryant 6.11 (current) + 8.03 +15.10</p>
7.10	WR Terrell Owens		<p>Hey, I'm as big a Jerry Rice guy as you'll find, but Terrell Owens available for a #3 WR? Fughedaboutit...</p> <p>The planets are in perfect alignment for the guy: He's too big (6'3" / 213#) and too fast coming into the perfect scenario of my model 24 year old WR with 2 full years of experience under the belt. (3rd year WR's are like 26 year year old baseball players. You roto geeks understand) He plays for a team that's just too good at throwing the ball with a coach that's too smart and he's been the understudy of the Best Football Player in the game (sorry Barry) for just too long for him NOT to break out this year.</p> <p>Obviously, I love Mr. Rice (and that IS "Mister" to you) and this pick isn't a knock on him. There will be plenty of balls to go around in Candlestick this year. Yes, it's still the 'stick to me. I seem to recall a big butted John Taylor posting some awfully nice numbers during Rice's prime. And let's face it, Mr. Rice is likely past the prime. BUT, considering HIS prime, that doesn't mean he won't be a top 3 WR this season.</p> <p>Throw in the fact he's a local Chattanooga fella, and, well, it's a no brainer.</p>

			<p>Even with a healthy Rice, we feel a repeat of last year's 60 catch / 936 yards and 8 TD's is well within reach. The chemistry and timing of Young to Owens was evident last season and we think it'll only get better.</p> <p>Thrilled to have that kind of proven talent with this kind of upside ability as our #3 WR. Can you think of anything more "Ricelike" for the consummate team player to pass the baton to Terrell Owens? Neither can we...</p>
7.11	QB Warren Moon		<p>Ok, so his number #1 WR (who just coincidentally happens to be Team Knievel's #1 WR) was ridin' a big wheel when Moon was lighting up the CFL.</p> <p>I'll give you that. BUT, you gotta like the old Man winging it up in the great Northwest looking like the Moon of old. It's like rooting for George Foreman. Actually, it's a whole lot easier than rooting for George Foreman. It's more like rooting for Cal Ripken. Although I don't recall Cal ever putting Mrs. Ripken in the ol' Sleeper Hold...</p> <p>Seriously, that's not a light issue with me, but given his otherwise stellar track record in addition to what appeared to be a sincere attitude of remorse, he earns a slot.</p> <p>Moon's our #2 guy. The contract talk / posturing is basically just that. When it's all said and done, Mr. Moon will be again filling the airways with Mr. Galloway eying the recipient and Team Knievel the beneficiary.</p> <p>He's a proven QB with a history of excellence. He happens to have the best young WR in the game at his disposal and was blessed with the golden opportunity of following Rick Mirer. How could you not improve on that? Almost Parcels-like in that respect.</p> <p>Will he last 3 more years? I doubt it. Will he last the season? We think so. For us, he's insurance. And we all know, that QB spot deserves some pretty high priced insurance. It's the spot on the roster that is BY FAR the most likely to make use of the backup. We may have waited a long while to take our #1 guy in Plummer, but we didn't tarry in following up with his backup. Just in case. It's a long season, and those Defensive guys are getting bigger / faster / meaner every year.</p> <p>One note on the much ballyhooed "hookup". I'm personally neutral on the idea. I like POINTS. I don't really care if I get them all on one play or all spread through the weekend. Points are what wins the game and points are what I'm after. Yes, it is no doubt fun to hit the home run. Home run hitters strike out a lot too. IMO, the "all or nothing" usually balances itself out in the end. Bottom line, I don't avoid the hookup but I also won't go out of my way to get one.</p> <p>FWIW, we thought a little about Warren here. If for no other reason than the analysis lent itself to a veritable bevy of zingers directed towards my buddy Terry Cannon and his Emmitt selection about 40 picks too soon. In the end, we just couldn't pull the trigger. Gut feel. That and 31 years of age with high mileage showing on the X-rays / odometer.</p> <p>Moon's no spring chicken, but he doesn't have to butt heads with the Tackle</p>

			on every play either...
.8.10	RB Charles Way		<p>Right off the bat... This is not an "Eddie George has Knee Surgery" move. Obviously, surgery of any kind isn't a positive, but we honestly don't think George's situation is cause for one minute of worry. FWIW, nice picture of our man on this morning's Knoxville News Sentinel of him already pumping away on the stationary bike.</p> <p>Way is simply too good and puts too many FanEx points on the board for us to pass (again) on him. We've had our eye on the big guy for several rounds now.</p> <p>One point when I say "FanEx Points". You see, our league (like a lot of leagues) awards RB's points based upon their rushing AND receiving numbers. Way rushed for 698 yards last season. Ho hum. He also had 37 receptions for 304 yards. HmMMM. In effect, that makes him a 1000 yard PRODUCER. The rushing numbers are meaningless. We'd be just as happy if he were to gain 1000 yards through the air and none on the ground.</p> <p>My point is simply to look at the big picture. At this point in the draft, it can pay to grab a RB who can give you that little extra push. A QB who can rush for a few hundred yards can be the same type of benefit.</p> <p>One more note on Way's pass receiving skills: He's got soft hands. He landed in the top 10 among % of passes caught when that player was the target. When Reggie White is "bearing down on ya" (Slingblade) the big man with good hands makes a nice safety blanket.</p> <p>Here's another thing I like about my man Charles Way. He's a bulldozer. He averaged 4.6 yards per carry (Hmmm another top 10 ranking) but my favorite Way stat is one lots of folks, outside of NFL coaching staffs, ignore: RB Way was stuffed 11 times on 151 carries.</p> <p>That means for every 13.72 times he rushed the ball, he was stuffed. Yeah, you guessed it, ANOTHER top 10 ranking. (Fellow Team Knievel starting RB, Mike Alstott was even better with 11 stuffs on 176 carries.)</p> <p>To put it in perspective, All Star Nap Kaufman was stuffed a bone crunching 56 times in 272 carries meaning he was stopped for zero (or less) yards once every 4.86 times he was handed the ball. All time Stuff King Barry Sanders finally dropped from his perennial top slot to #2 this year averaging a stuff "only" once every 6.98 carries. Wayne Fontes may have made a lot of mistakes, but pulling the one guy in the league most likely to gain zero yards when you're trying to punch it in from the goalline was not one of them.</p> <p>Before you think Way's just a big slug, he didn't look too "sluggish" on that 42 yard scamper last season. In fact that run was longer than anything "quicker" RB's like Watters, T. Allen, J. Anderson, C. Garner, and George were able to post last year. One guy he didn't top was our other Team Knievel "slug" Alstott who eeked out a 47 yarder...</p> <p>Now wait just a minute Bryant, you just said a moment ago that all you were looking for were points. Didn't Kaufman and Sanders post more points even with the stuffs last year? Of course they did. When I look at stuffs, it tells me</p>

			<p>a lot about what I think is LIKELY to happen. It tells me the player has earned the coach's confidence and when the game is on the line with the ball at the 2, my guy is likely to get the nod. It's more an indicator of TD success actually which should perk up the ears of you guys in TD only leagues. It's a valuable indicator and one that will be overlooked by a great majority of FF owners.</p> <p>Throw in the fact that Mr. Way is only 25 years old and on the upswing made selecting the 245 pound big guy an even easier call. Welcome Charles.</p>
10.03	TE Troy Drayton		<p>Good lesson here. Sometimes you can wait to take a TE. Sometimes you can't. On our board, Drayton was a top guy. He was still hanging around in the 10th round where several teams had yet to select a starting TE. He could have fallen to one of those teams and their strategy may have worked to perfection.</p> <p>Now I'm not saying their strategy won't work to perfection as there may well be another TE they had ranked highly. What I'm saying is that on OUR board, there's a VERY large drop off in TE talent once Drayton's off the board. If we were a team playing the waiting gamble to grab a TE late, I would not be a happy camper were Drayton to fall.</p> <p>Bottom line, a very good TE came very close to falling a long ways. Instead, he fell right onto our roster where we'll sit with a strong TE corps in Chewy and the big guy. Most folks know I'm a TE value owner, so seeing two top flight players on our roster shouldn't be a surprise.</p> <p>Speaking of big, he did report overweight. He's also said to be shedding the lard quickly (12 pounds thus far) and everyone's expecting him to be ready by July. You may not agree with Jimmy's motivation style, but you'll have a hard time finding folks who say it doesn't work. I'd look for Drayton to be just fine in the scale department.</p> <p>He's got soft hands and catches what's thrown to him. Last year he rated among the top 10 players in % of passes caught when he was the target. Word out of Miami says he'll be an even bigger part of the offense remaining in the lineup even on longer passing situations, something he was rarely involved in last year.</p> <p>Marino's one of the savviest to ever play the game. He also moves nowadays like he's on stilts. We're banking the big man with soft hands will be an oft used target for the aging legend.</p>
10.04	WR Randall Moss		<p>And you thought we didn't like Punks... Regular readers of the newsgroup know I have no problem mounting the Bam / Phillips / Irvin High Horse and spewing indignation on all offending parties.</p> <p>It's true. I don't like to see my players modeling fur in court doing the "Huggy Bear".</p> <p>We're also not stupid. As a College Football Fan, I have as much respect for</p>

		<p>Bobby Bowden as an evaluator of talent as any coach in the country. Bobby called him an XL version of Deion. From what I've seen, that may be modest. Yeah, yeah, Bobby cut him but the college game and the NCAA has another set of rules to play by.</p> <p>Quite simply, his physical tools are cartoonish. His combination of speed, agility, quickness, vertical leap, and overall atheleticism are unlike any player I've ever seen. They are likely unlike any player the opposing corner has ever seen as well.</p> <p>BUT, we all know it takes a LOT more than physical skills. How does skinny little Joe Montana go down as the best ever and near perfect physical specimen Scott Mitchell fight for his job every Summer? Car washes across the country are filled with guys who have the physical tools to play in the NFL. It takes more than that. We all know this.</p> <p>I'm going on three things here. #1. With Galloway, Bruce and Owens, we felt we could roll the dice a little with their backup. The other is that I'd like to see how the kid handles the bigs. Corey Dillon was reputed to be a punk and headcase too. That worked out pretty well for some owners last year. #2. The Vikings obviously like to throw the ball. There are not enough balls to go around with Reed and Carter in front of Moss. But, it's a long season and if he starts to show those physical tools, you can bet they'll find a way to work him in. #3. You can bet a guy with Denny Green's chip on the shoulder would love nothing better than to see a guy like Moss prove some people wrong. Don't think underestimate that one. I heard a lot of folks groan when he went to Minnesota. Not me. I can't think of a better coach in the league for Moss to play for if you're wanting someone who'll give him a chance. If you don't think he'd like to see the young man dispel some stereotypes, you don't listen to Denny very closely (granted, it's not easy to listen to Denny...)</p> <p>We gladly roll the dice on Mr. Moss.</p>
12.03	RB Chris Warren	 <p>Now this was gettin' ridiculous. Guys yet to carry the ball ONE TIME in the NFL being selected while a proven star kept sitting quietly biding his time? I'm all for aggressive play, and it is fun to boast about finding the rookie who pans out. But, I like to win too.</p> <p>I'm not a big Chris Warren fan. I like the guy, but I'm one of those fellas who always kinda scratched their heads during his glory years and wondered how he did it. I've never liked the stand up running style and he sometimes hits the hole waaaay too tentative for me. He never seems to lift the feet more than a few inches off the ground as he shuffles. As anyone who's watched him up close though, he "shuffles" pretty darn quickly. He's deceptive and that probably works to his advantage. May not be pretty, but it works.</p> <p>Here's a little clue though. They don't play this FF game on style. They play it in the boxscores. When it's all said and done, the WAY a guy gets the yards / points makes absolutely no difference at all. The only thing I really care about is IF he gets them. Warren has made a pretty darn nice career out of getting yards and points.</p> <p>I think Dallas will be a good change of scenery for him. I like Gailey and I've always liked Aikman as a real NFL QB. I think the situation will be a</p>

			<p>positive. I think the benefit of low pressure being behind Emmitt will be a plus as well. From what I've seen in Seattle, he doesn't always respond well with a guy breathing down his neck. Now we get to see how he does as the "breather". I'm betting he surprises quite a few folks.</p> <p>Throw in the added benefit of being able to ridicule TC for his way early Emmitt Smith pick and selecting Warren here was an easy call.v</p>
12.10b	WR Mike Pritchard		<p>Anthony Miller made me draft Mike Pritchard. That and the fact that I don't like him. Mr. Bryant...your medication, sir...</p> <p>Ok, long story that I'll make short. 1994: Much heralded former Tennessee wideout Miller escapes SD for the WR dream QB Elway and the mile high City. I can clearly remember reading the sentence that said, "Get used to seeing the Elway to Miller bomb every Sunday night as the intro to ESPN's highlight show". I had the vision. I knew it was coming.</p> <p>I snagged Miller with the last pick of the 1st round in my local draft and begin counting my winnings.</p> <p>Those of you who tapped Miller that year know how it turned out. I remember one game in particular that season early on where I happened to be watching. I was ready to see my boy A.M. put on a display. Instead it's this Colorado Buff Pritchard who Elway locks onto every time. Killed me.</p> <p>Pritchard got hurt that season with internal injuries falling on one of the many footballs Elway was throwing that way and Miller never recovered.</p> <p>I've always hated Pritchard for that but at the same time admired his skills. When he was still available, we pulled the trigger. With Galloway, our stud WR in the fold, I cover my bases a little. I like the guy and he's still got some spring in the legs (29 years old) We see good things ahead.</p>
13.10	WR Eric Metcalf		<p>Eric Metcalf in my opinion does the least with the most talent of any player in the NFL. His skills are cartoonish. You won't find but a handful of players with a better arsenal of stop / start / accelerate / explode skills in the league.</p> <p>YET, he never seems to produce like he should. Many of thought the 95 season was just the beginning of greatness for him with the 9 TD's. I can't think of a better situation than the Atlanta Run' N Shoot he was in. (I think I may be the only living person who'll admit to REALLY liking that offense. It's the Kordell of offensive systems I've always thought but that's another tangent. Besides, just admitting I like the thing oughta be enough to stir it up for a while...)</p> <p>Anyway, Metcalf's an unquestioned talent. Now it's our hope he'll become an unquestioned producer. I like his versatility, I like the new situation in Arizona, and while I'm no geezer like my elders Mr. Cannon or Mr. Kellogg, I can remember a pretty fair Metcalf years ago having more than a little success wearing the redbird on his helmet...</p>
14.03	PK Cary Blanchard		<p>The former journeyman has become a sureshot kicker. The 40+ range is difficult for him, but the coaches understand what they're getting with Blanchard. 100+ points expected.</p>

16.03	PK Cole Ford		Our namesake, Evil, took chances. He gambled, won, and drew a nice paycheck from it. This selection is our gamble, that could payoff very, very well.
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