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Bucky Brooks 2025 NFL mock draft 4.0: Steelers land Shedeur Sanders; Cowboys, Broncos select RBs

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It's finally the week of the 2025 NFL Draft — and before the event gets underway in Green Bay, Wisconsin, I'm here to take my fourth and final attempt at projecting how the first round will play out on Thursday night.

Any trades that are struck will certainly reshape the Round 1 pecking order, but in this simulation, I'm keeping everything as it stands right now in hopes of providing the most realistic forecast for as many teams as possible.

Let's get to the picks!

1 — Tennessee Titans — Cam Ward, Miami, QB, Senior

As the Titans' new franchise QB1, Ward would add the kind of talent, toughness and tenacity the franchise has lacked since Steve "Air" McNair was under center in Tennessee.

2 — Cleveland Browns — Travis Hunter, Colorado, WR/CB, Senior

The two-way standout is a superstar in the making as a big-play pass catcher and shutdown corner. Hunter's unique skills would give Kevin Stefanski a Shohei Ohtani-esque weapon to utilize on offense and defense.

3 — New York Giants — Abdul Carter, Penn State, Edge, Junior

Bypassing a chance to land a potential franchise quarterback is risky, but the Giants could take a disruptive playmaker to enhance a pass rush that features three quarterback hunters (Brian Burns, Dexter Lawrence and Kayvon Thibodeaux) on the front line.

4 — New England Patriots — Will Campbell, LSU, OT, Junior

Protecting Drake Maye is a top priority for a front office that wants to see the franchise quarterback flourish in Year 2.

5 — Jacksonville Jaguars — Mason Graham, Michigan, DT, Junior

The safest pick in the draft could give the Jaguars a blue-chip defender in the middle of a defensive line that needs more "hard hat and lunch pail" guys.

6 — Las Vegas Raiders — Ashton Jeanty, Boise State, RB, Junior

Pete Carroll's apparent desire to feature a dominant rushing attack makes the Boise State standout the sensible pick to serve as his lead back.

7 — New York Jets — Tyler Warren, Penn State, TE, Junior

Adding a big-bodied pass-catcher between the hashes would help Justin Fields settle in as a passer in an offense rooted in play-action concepts. Warren is a versatile playmaker with the route-running ability and ball skills to move the chains consistently with a ball-control approach.

8 — Carolina Panthers — Jalon Walker, Georgia, LB, Junior

Upgrading the defensive front with a hybrid linebacker who boasts pass-rushing skills could help the Panthers create more chaos at the point of attack.

9 — New Orleans Saints — Will Johnson, Michigan, CB, Junior

The talented technician would give the Saints a blue-chip CB1 to feature in a zone-based system that places a premium on "vision-and-break" playmakers.

10 — Chicago Bears — Kelvin Banks Jr., Texas, OT, Senior

New head coach Ben Johnson's experience with a dominant line while running the offense for division-rival Detroit could prompt him to add more resources to the Bears' front, even after it was a total loss in free agency. Banks is a natural left tackle with the athletic and shadowboxing skills to protect Caleb Williams' blind side.

11 — San Francisco 49ers — Walter Nolen, Mississippi, DT, Junior

Adding more talent and athleticism to the defensive front will enable Nick Bosa and Co. to get back to their disruptive ways at the line of scrimmage under DC Robert Saleh.

12 — Dallas Cowboys — Omarion Hampton, North Carolina, RB, Junior

The team needs a true RB1 to steady an offense that is always better when it operates with a run-first premise.

13 — Miami Dolphins — Jahdae Barron, Texas, CB, Senior

Jalen Ramsey's potential imminent departure could lead Barron to fill two spots as a CB/nickel defender.

14 — Indianapolis Colts — Armand Membou, Missouri, OT, Junior

With 29-year-old Braden Smith entering Year 8 of his career, the Colts could acquire their right tackle of the future here. As a big-bodied edge blocker with twinkle toes and heavy hands, Membou has the star power general manager Chris Ballard tends to covet in a young roster.

15 — Atlanta Falcons — Mike Green, Marshall, Edge, Junior PR

The team's desperation for an elite pass rusher could make Green the pick here. The Marshall standout possesses the first-step quickness and explosiveness to harass quarterbacks off the edge.

16 — Arizona Cardinals — Derrick Harmon, Oregon, DT, Junior

The hard-nosed interior force would be a nice fit in Arizona's D-line as a disruptive defender with heavy hands and a high-revving motor.

17 — Cincinnati Bengals — Shemar Stewart, Texas A&M, Edge, Junior

Stewart still needs some development, but he's athletic and could generate strong sack numbers, especially if Trey Hendrickson skips around, setting the rookie up to feed off the veteran's presence.

18 — Seattle Seahawks — Tetairoa McMillan, Arizona, WR, Junior

After trading away DK Metcalf and releasing Tyler Lockett this offseason, the Seahawks could add a big-bodied pass-catcher to occupy the role of red-zone weapon.

19 — Tampa Bay Buccaneers — Jihaad Campbell, Alabama, LB, Junior

Laronde David is back for Year 14 — but Todd Bowles could pick the 35-year-old linebacker's successor here. Presuming his recovery from a torn tendon goes smoothly, Campbell's versatility would give the Buccaneers a second-level defender with playmaking and pass-rush potential.

20 — Denver Broncos — Tyrique Henderson, Ohio State, RB, Senior

Sean Payton wants a feature back with big-play potential in the rotation. Henderson's speed and explosiveness could give the Super Bowl-winning coach Alvin Kamara vibes when he's contemplating how to utilize the Ohio State standout.

21 — Pittsburgh Steelers — Shedeur Sanders, Colorado, QB, Senior

Mike Tomlin could view Sanders as the perfect quarterback for his squad. With his confidence, moxie and pinpoint passing skills, the Colorado star might ignite a dormant offense that has already added some star power this offseason.

22 — Los Angeles Chargers — Colston Loveland, Michigan, TE, Junior

Surrounding Justin Herbert with more playmakers should be a top priority for the Chargers. As a flex tight end with sticky hands and wide receiver-like route-running skills, Loveland could create mismatches in the passing game.

23 — Green Bay Packers — Maxwell Hairston, Kentucky, CB, Junior PR

The playmaking corner corner is the ideal bullwhack to play in Jeff Hafley's system. Hairston excels as a "tee ball, get ball" defender with superb instincts, awareness and diagnostic skills.

24 — Minnesota Vikings — Nick Emmanwori, South Carolina, S, Junior

Emmanwori can learn from Harrison Smith, who has been in the Vikings' backfield for 13 seasons, before sliding in as the next potential fixture at safety in Minnesota.

25 — Houston Texans — Tyler Booker, Alabama, IOL, Junior

The 300-plus-pound bully is a tone-setter at the point of attack. Booker mauls defenders as a heavy-handed blocker with a violent approach.

26 — Los Angeles Rams — Josh Simmons, Ohio State, OT, Junior PR

The talented edge blocker might be too talented to bypass at this selection. Simmons' athleticism and movement skills could make him a star early in his career.

27 — Baltimore Ravens — Mykel Williams, Georgia, Edge, Junior

GM Eric DeCosta and head coach John Harbaugh have a knack for finding quality players at the end of the first round. With his athleticism and pass-rushing potential, Williams could flourish in the Ravens' aggressive defense.

28 — Detroit Lions — Donovan Jackson, Ohio State, OG, Senior

In terms of temperament and physicality, Jackson is perfectly suited to help the Lions continue to dominate up front from the jump.

29 — Washington Commanders — Matthew Golden, Texas, WR, Junior

What do the Commanders do to help Jayden Daniels take another step forward? Use a first-round pick on Golden, who led Texas in both receiving yards (987) and scoring grabs (nine) last season.

30 — Buffalo Bills — Kenneth Grant, Michigan, DT, Junior

Buffalo's depth chart features plenty of pass-rushing talent; the 6-foot-4, 331-pound Grant's presence up front could help shore up a run defense that ranked 19th in the NFL in yards allowed per rush attempt in 2024.

31 — Kansas City Chiefs — Trey Amos, Mississippi, CB, Junior

Adding an outside corner would enable the Chiefs to move Trent McDuffie back to his natural nickel spot. Amos' length, instincts and bump-and-run skills mesh well with the team's defensive scheme.

32 — Philadelphia Eagles — Donovan Ezeiruaku, Boston College, Edge, Senior

The relentless, energetic Ezeiruaku knows how to harass the passer, based on his 16.5 sacks (second-most in the FBS) last season. He's an ideal match for the Eagles.

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