

Reiff Introduced As Lions' Top Pick Fischer

From Page 7

Parkston Native Opted For South Dakota Over NYC On Draft Day

BY LARRY LAGE
 AP Sports Writer

ALLEN PARK, Mich. (AP) — Detroit Lions offensive tackle Riley Reiff turned down an offer to be in New York for the NFL draft.

“They tried getting me to go pretty hard,” Reiff said Friday. “But I love South Dakota, I love Parkston. I wanted to spend it with my family.”

Especially, his 92-year-old grandfather, Lloyd Reiff.

Reiff was in his parents’ pole barn, which was recently constructed to replace a 100-year-old barn, in Parkston, S.D., when Detroit general manager Martin Mayhew called to say the team was taking him No. 23

overall Thursday night. About five minutes later, he joined the rest of his family, when the pick was announced on TV.

“It means a lot that Riley decided he’d rather be home with family and friends,” Jo Reiff said while her son was surrounded by Detroit-area reporters. “He’s pretty close with his grandpa and grandma Reiff. His grandpa has been in and out of the hospital the past two years. Every time, he told the doctors that he had to get out in time to see where his grandson was going to be drafted. A couple times last night he nodded off, but he was wide awake when Riley was drafted.”

The former Iowa standout acknowledged being nervous

on the day of the draft and while serving as the center of attention the next day during a news conference at Lions headquarters.

Reiff, though, is comfortable playing multiple positions on the offensive line.

“We see him as a guy that has a possibility of playing pretty soon for us,” Detroit coach Jim Schwartz said.

Reiff briefly talked with 34-year-old left tackle Jeff Backus, whom he might eventually replace.

“He was a great guy, very welcoming,” he said. “I’m looking forward to learning under him.”

The Lions may also give Reiff a shot to push right tackle

Gosder Cherilus, perhaps as soon as this year.

The athletic Reiff was a three-time state wrestling champion and played tight end in high school. He was a defensive lineman when he went to Iowa.

Hawkeyes coach Kirk Ferentz asked Reiff if he wanted to move to the other side of the ball and he jumped at the opportunity, moving to the offensive line early in his freshman season. He did enough to be able to skip his senior season as a 6-foot-5, 313-pound highly touted offensive tackle.

“This is a guy that’s been highly productive in a major level of competition in a program that’s produced a lot of

really good offensive linemen,” Schwartz said. “He has the skill set to fit not only the left tackle position, but be a multidimensional player.”

Reiff’s decision to stay home for his big night allowed his mother to buy new furniture for the first time in 14 years. It also gave him, his two younger brothers and some high school friends something to sit on while telling old stories and listening to music in the pole barn.

“I had been saving money to buy plane tickets for New York,” Jo Reiff said. “When he decided not to go, I got new furniture and the old couches had to go somewhere. It worked out good.”

consuming hobby.

After running his inaugural 26.2 mile race while attending South Dakota State University in December 1975, Fischer resumed the distance after completing his Jackrabbit running career (and gaining All-American status in the steeplechase at the NCAA Division II national meet) in 1978.

He found immediate success, winning the first of five Longest Day Marathon titles in 1979, while setting a course record that still stands.

Later in 1979, Fischer registered his proudest running moment, a 2:21:09 effort in the Grandma’s Marathon (Duluth) that qualified him for the 1980 Olympic Trials.

“After qualifying for the trials, I went from my usual 100 miles per week at that time to running over 130 miles a week for about six months leading up to that race,” Fischer said.

Fischer ran his best time ever in those 1980 trials, held in May in Buffalo, New York, a blistering 2:19:48. That would be one of two sub-two hour marathon efforts for the Salem-native, a time considered borderline elite by any standard.

As if competing in the Olympic Trials (placing 54th of 180 runners) was not enough, Fischer followed that up with the annual Jack 15-mile race in Brookings two weeks later and then finished a career-best third at Grandma’s two weeks after that.

His seven runs at Grandma’s remain Fischer’s favorite races.

“I really enjoyed the rolling hills and cool breeze of the point to point course,” Fischer said of the annual Duluth event.

While in his prime around 1980, Fischer even had shoe and apparel contract with Nike, including a dozen free pairs of shoes and numerous pieces of apparel each year for a three year period.

Another highlight for Fischer was an 84th placing at the Boston Marathon (2:24:30) in 1984 at the height of the running boom.

“That was a hot day and just not a fun day to race,” Fischer said of the famous race that formerly had a noon start time.

Although the 55-year old Fischer has not run a marathon in 15 years and has no plans of doing one again, he still loves the sport of distance running and now uses his passion in the coaching capacity.

After winning a state cross country title in Salem a decade ago, Fischer earned his master’s degree at Dakota State before coming to Mount Marty in 2007.

Inheriting a cross country team with zero men and only four women, Fischer has spent the past five years building the Lancers into a competitive GPAC team.

He even coached his youngest daughter Brooke through her first marathon, a 3:33 effort in the 2010 NAIA Outdoor Championships, the second-best time ever by a female Lancer.

Even if he never runs another race, coach Fischer will always have the countless medals, awards, newspaper clippings and most importantly, the memories and friendships earned at over 20 years of marathon running.

“I was very lucky to be able to run at a high level for many years.”

You can follow Chris Riley on twitter at [twitter.com/ChrisCRiley](#)

NFL Draft Day 2: Colts Reunite Stanford TE Fleener With QB Luck

NEW YORK (AP) — Coby Fleener heard his name, grabbed his phone and immediately contacted his new teammate in Indianapolis — and old teammate from Stanford.

The overnight wait paid off for the Stanford tight end. He’s reuniting with his college quarterback, a guy named Andrew Luck.

Fleener wasn’t chosen in the first round of the NFL draft, in which Luck was the top selection. He got a nice consolation prize Friday night when the Indianapolis Colts grabbed him with the second pick of the second round.

Among the other notable selections on the second day of the draft were: Oregon running back LaMichael James by San Francisco, Wisconsin quarterback Russell Wilson by Seattle and Alabama linebacker Courtney Upshaw by Baltimore.

Chances are very good Fleener will become a starter — and a main target — for Luck in Indianapolis.

“I just sent him a text message that had a lot of exclamation points in it,” said Fleener, who had 10 touchdown catches last season and 18 for his career in Stanford’s prodigious offense. “I expected to be on a team where I wasn’t familiar with the offense or the quarterback. I can’t wait to get started, to be honest with you.”

Indy not only parted with four-time MVP quarterback Peyton Manning this year, but also lost tight end Jacob Tamme to free agency and isn’t expected to bring back injury-ravaged veteran Dallas Clark.

“For me, getting to play with him the past couple of years, it is speed, he is dy-

namic,” Luck said. “Anytime we crossed the 50-yard line it seemed like we just said, ‘Coby, go run. Go run past the safeties.’ Hopefully it continues to work out.”

The Rams actually used their own pick to begin the second round, selecting Appalachian State wide receiver Brian Quick. St. Louis traded down twice in the first round the previous night, accumulating several extra picks and also taking LSU defensive tackle Michael Brockers 14th overall. In the second-round spot they earned for going 2-14 in 2011, the Rams took a wideout from an FCS powerhouse. The 6-foot-4 Quick had a strong Senior Bowl, showing he could play at the highest college level and helping his stock in the draft.

Upshaw of the national champion Crimson Tide was chosen by Baltimore, the Ravens’ first pick of this draft. Baltimore was projected by many to take Upshaw in the first round, but dealt away its pick. Four of Upshaw’s teammates went in the first round.

Janoris Jenkins, a cornerback at North Alabama who was kicked off the team at Florida, went to the Rams six picks after they took Quick. Jenkins, holding an infant in his arms, had tears in his eyes as he spoke by phone with the Rams.

“I just be honest,” Jenkins said about talking about his past transgressions. “I don’t have nothing to hide. That was my past, that was a year ago. I took my second route to go to UNA for a reason, to show people I wasn’t a bad kid and I wasn’t running from my problems.”

Division II guard Amini Silatolu, a mem-

ber of the Little All-America team, was the eighth overall selection in the second round by Carolina.

It took 11 picks before Friday’s first trade, with the Jets moving up four slots and surrendering a fifth- and seventh-rounder to Seattle to take Georgia Tech wide receiver Stephen Hill. New York needs a deep threat wideout, and Hill was the fastest player at the NFL combine. But he also comes from a running offense.

“I feel great, especially now that I’m in an offense where I can catch the ball a little bit more,” Hill said. “Catching the ball from Mark Sanchez will be great.”

Hill pumped his arms to the fans in the balcony at Radio City Music Hall after having his name announced by Wesley Walker, one of the best deep receivers the team has had.

After New York and Seattle took the lead on trading Friday, the Rams — no surprise considering their earlier wheeling and dealing in coach Jeff Fisher’s first draft in charge — pulled off another. The Bears swapped with St. Louis to move up five spots and get South Carolina receiver Alshon Jeffrey.

A smaller flurry of trades occurred Friday, five involving nine teams. Not surprisingly, New England, Philadelphia and Tampa Bay were involved in deals, just as they were in the opening round.

Two All-Americans defensive linemen were chosen in the second round: Devon Still of Penn State by Cincinnati and Jerel Worthy of Michigan State by Green Bay. Also chosen, by Detroit, was Oklahoma standout receiver Ryan Broyles, who

wrecked his left knee in November after setting some NCAA career records.

“We have the luxury of being able to rehab this guy very carefully and let him get healthy,” Lions general manager Martin Mayhew said. “If the guy was healthy now, he would’ve been gone.”

Coach Jim Schwartz said Broyles wouldn’t have to “redshirt” this season.

“I’m glad the Detroit Lions felt I was a guy that was capable of coming back from an injury,” Broyles said.

James, the nation’s leading rusher in 2010, went to San Francisco 61st overall. He joins a crowded backfield with Frank Gore and Brandon Jacobs.

The Giants finished the second round by selecting LSU receiver Rueben Randle, the last of 26 players invited to the draft to be chosen.

“I was just waiting. There was nothing else I could do,” Randle said.

“This is going to be a great opportunity for me. Coming in with a great quarterback and a great receiving corps with Victor Cruz and Hakeem Nicks, this will be an opportunity for me to help these guys out it.”

Wilson, a standout at North Carolina State who transferred to Wisconsin and led the Badgers to the Rose Bowl, went to Seattle in the third round.

Ohio State wide receiver DeVier Posey, who was suspended for five games in 2011 as part of the Buckeyes’ NCAA troubles, was taken by Houston. Punter Bryan Anger of California, the first kicker chosen this year, joined Jacksonville.

Minnesota Committee Passes Stadium Bill To Full Senate

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — The Senate Taxes Committee has narrowly sent the \$1 billion Vikings stadium bill to the floor of the Minnesota Senate.

It was the toughest test yet for the proposed stadium subsidy. It’s now primed for floor votes in the House and Senate, with lawmakers hoping to adjourn their session for the year by Monday at midnight.

Stadium critics on the Senate panel zeroed in on the financing

scheme to cover the state’s proposed \$400 million subsidy to the project. The current proposal calls for an expansion of gambling in bars and clubs, with the newly generated tax revenue going to the stadium.

Foes of that funding source narrowly failed to replace the gambling revenue with sales taxes on stadium purchases. That proposal is likely to resurface on the Senate floor.

Des Lauriers Leads MMC In GPAC Tourn.

SIOUX CITY, Iowa — Mount Marty’s Tara Des Lauriers tied for 11th to lead the Lancers in the final round of the Great Plains Athletic Conference women’s golf Championships, held Friday.

Des Lauriers shot a 93 in the event. Also for the Lancers, Caitlyn Roth shot 96 and Emily Jo Bronemann finished at 118. Because MMC did not have four golfers complete their round Friday, it was disqualified from the team race.

Northwestern edged Dakota Wesleyan 358-359 Friday, but it was not enough to keep the Tigers from winning a fourth consecutive GPAC team title. Northwestern’s Taylor Kline shot 81 for Friday’s medalist honors.



Des Lauriers

round of the event moved her into 30th. They were the only two Lancer golfers to play in all four tournaments.

DWU’s Danielle Bellet struggled to an 88 Friday, but still finished with a 10-stroke victory over Kline for her fourth GPAC title. DWU’s Jenna Winckler (Lake Andes) finished third in the four-round event with a 334, 16 strokes behind Bellet.

For MMC, Roth finished in 17th for the four rounds, scoring a 375. Des Lauriers’ best round of the event moved her into 30th. They were the only two Lancer golfers to play in all four tournaments.

“He has come back to help the high school kids; to share some of his expertise,” Mutchelknaus said.

In the case of Livingston, also a football and basketball stand-out for Irene-Wakonda, he didn’t pick up a pole until his eighth grade year. Three years later, he admits to being “hooked.”

“I just thought it looked cool, and a few of my friends were doing it,” Livingston said. “Plus, my parents kind of talked me into it.”

With four meets remaining before the state meet in late May, the three IW vaulters have a chance to improve their marks and further their chance for all three to reach the awards stand on the biggest stage.

Helping them to reach that point? Competition.

“None of us want to lose, but we’re pretty supportive,” Livingston said.

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at [twitter.com/jhoeck](#)

Vaulters

From Page 7

“That’s the biggest key; that dedication.”

At Thursday’s meet, which featured six Class AA schools, the Eagles’ trio showed why they are a forced to be reckoned with. Anderson won the event with a personal best of 12-9, a full foot in front of Yankton’s James Hofer. Schroeder was third and Livingston rounded out the top five.

Results like that are not new for them, even in a larger meet like Thursday.

“We all enjoy getting out there and jumping against each other,” Anderson said. “When we go to small meets, we’re usually just competing against each other, not other schools.

“That’s what makes it fun.”

Sure, it may be fun, but

there’s also a natural rivalry between the three, because at the end of the day, they’re competitors, Mutchelknaus said.

“They all work well together, but there’s definitely a friendly competition,” he said, watching the action Thursday. “It’s one of those things where they support each other, but nobody wants to be beaten.”

And not many others have beaten them.

At last year’s state track meet, Livingston finished second at 12-6, six inches behind champion Andrew Gross of Hanson. Anderson took eighth place and Schroeder was 10th — setting the stage for an even better 2012, with all three returning.

Each Eagles’ vaulter has qualified for this year’s state meet. Cole Geditz of Gettysburg has the top mark in Class B at 13 feet, but Mutchelknaus said he believes his trio will all make the award stand.

Until that season-ending

point, and again next year for the two returners, the three will continue to turn to their coach for guidance, Livingston said.

“Our coach does a great job working with us,” said Livingston, who has also qualified for state in the 110-meter hurdles. “After every jump, he comes over and talks to us. We’re not totally alone out there, trying to figure it all out.”

To that end, the Eagles have indeed not been alone.

The school has a tradition of

pole vaulting success. Not only did sophomore girls’ vaulter Rainy Brewer-Nysven finish ninth at last year’s state meet, but Irene-Wakonda has had Tate Schroeder, Mackenzie Huber (now at Vermillion) and Pearl Gaidelis excel in recent years.

Beyond that, the Eagles have learned from Schroeder’s older brother, Clint — who tied for second place in the Class A pole vault at the 2006 state track meet and went on to vault at South Dakota State.

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