

# NFL Draft: With Pair Of 1st-Rounders, Will Vikings Take Te'o?

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) — The Minnesota Vikings have two picks in the first round of the NFL draft and one big hole in the middle of their defense.

The Vikings have vowed to find their starting middle linebacker in this year's draft, and the famous-for-more-than-football Manti Te'o could be still on the board when they're on the clock with the 23rd and 25th selections Thursday night.

The Heisman Trophy runner-up from Notre Dame, whose school-record seven interceptions last season made him a national story well before the hoax began about his fake girlfriend, could be a good fit in Minnesota. The Vikings, after all, took three of his former Fighting Irish teammates over the last two drafts and have five guys from Notre Dame on their roster.

"It would be perfect for what they do there," ESPN analyst Mel Kiper Jr. said, comparing Te'o's skill set to that of former NFL middle linebacker Chris Spielman, the brother of Vikings general manager Rick Spielman.

But while many mock drafts have Te'o pegged in purple, Kiper said on a recent conference call with reporters that he doesn't believe Te'o will be available at No. 23. Georgia's Alec Ogletree is another prime linebacker prospect carrying an off-the-field concern; he was arrested for drunken driving earlier this year and also suspended for four games last season.

If the Vikings can't get, or pass on, Te'o and Ogletree, they could find Kevin Minter of LSU or Arthur Brown of Kansas State to their liking in the second round.

"If you want Te'o, you have to probably move up a little bit," Kiper said, adding: "It's really whether they want to roll the dice or not."

Spielman has suggested he's not worried about whatever risk Te'o might bring. It's a unique set of obstacles to navigate.

After becoming one of the most celebrated college players in the country, in part because of the supposed relationship with a woman who was said to have died during the season and inspired him to play

his best, Te'o has had to deal with the ensuing embarrassment from the revelation that this girlfriend did not exist.

Spielman said he didn't see the due diligence required to research Te'o any different than that for other players.

"In the end, you'll sit there and discuss all that," Spielman said recently. "Every team will make their own determination. How do you compare what happened, because he's an extremely talented football player, against a guy who may have a drug issue or may have an arrest record or may have some other off-field issue?"

The Vikings have an extra first-rounder from Seattle for trading wide receiver Percy Harvin. They have 11 selections in the seven-round draft, including six of the first 120 picks, with needs at wide receiver, cornerback and defensive tackle.

After their surprising 10-6 finish and spot in the playoffs last season, the Vikings traded the multi-skilled Percy Harvin to Seattle and also lost cornerback

Antoine Winfield, one of their most respected players, to the Seahawks in free agency. Defensive tackle Kevin Williams, in the final year of his contract, will be 33 before the season starts.

"It will be a very exciting draft, because I think there's going to be a lot of depth and a lot of value throughout the draft that you're going to be able to get some pretty good players that can come in and help your ballclub," Spielman said.

That certainly was the case last year. The Vikings found potential future stars in the first round with left tackle Matt Kalil and safety Harrison Smith, and sixth-round selection Blair Walsh made the Pro Bowl as a kicker. They also picked cornerback Josh Robinson, fullback Rhett Ellison and wide receiver Jarius Wright, who made significant contributions as rookies.

That productivity ramped up the team's timeline to return to competitor status in the stacked NFC North, so much so that Spielman uncharacteristically

splurged in free agency to sign wide receiver Greg Jennings away from rival Green Bay to help withstand the loss of Harvin.

At wide receiver, West Virginia's Tavon Austin is a lot like Harvin, but he will probably require the Vikings to trade up to get him. This draft is considered to be deep at this position, which might be the team's greatest need even after signing Jennings and bringing back Jerome Simpson on another one-year contract.

So the Vikings could wait until the second or third round and likely still find a ready-made prospect. Cordarrelle Patterson of Tennessee, Keenan Allen of Cal and Robert Woods of USC are three options.

"There's a lot of guys that are athletic guys that can stretch the field," Spielman said. "There's some guys that are smaller but very unique. There's some guys that are maybe not as fast but have some unique catching skills that make them good players."

# Weather Stops Area Teams Again

## FROM P&D STAFF REPORTS

Another round of snow and sleet in the region has dealt another blow to area athletic teams.

Several events for today (Tuesday) have already been postponed or canceled. To report a schedule change, coaches and/or athletic directors are reminded to contact the Press & Dakotan at sports@yankton.net, by fax at 1-605-665-1721 or by phone at 1-605-665-7811.

Here are the postponements involving teams from Yankton and Vermillion.

— Monday's Mount Marty at Dakota Wesleyan softball doubleheader has been postponed to Tuesday, April 30. The games will be played at 4 and 6 p.m.

— Today's Yankton-Lincoln-Brandon Valley girls' golf triangular, scheduled for the Brandon Municipal Golf Course, has been postponed. No makeup date has been announced.

— Today's Yankton-Vermillion boys' tennis dual, scheduled for 4 p.m. in Vermillion, was postponed. No makeup date has been announced.

— The Vermillion-Yankton middle school track and field dual, scheduled for Tuesday in Yankton, was postponed. No makeup date has been announced.

— Today's South Dakota at North Dakota softball doubleheader has been canceled.

— Today's Yankton at Sioux Falls Roosevelt baseball game has been postponed. The sophomore doubleheader featuring Sioux Falls Washington at Yankton for today has also been postponed.

— Wednesday's Mount Marty College Twilight track and field meet has been pushed back to Friday, April 26. Start time will be 4:30 p.m. at Williams Field.

— The start time for Thursday's First Dakota Relays track and field meet has been changed to allow for more teams to participate. Field events will begin at 1 p.m., with running events beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Here are postponements involving area schools.

— Today's Niobrara Valley Conference boys' golf tournament has been postponed. No makeup date has been announced.

— Today's Boyd County track and field meet, to be held in O'Neill, Neb., was moved to Thursday. Start time will be 9:30 a.m.

— Today's Ponca Invitational track and field meet has been postponed to Wednesday, April 24.

— Today's Dakota Valley Invitational track and field meet has been canceled.

— Today's Creighton Invitational track and field meet has been canceled.

— The Jesse James Invitational track and field meet, which had been scheduled for Saturday, April 20, will be held on Thursday, April 25.

— Today's Daniels Relays track and field meet, to be held in Salem, has been canceled.

— Today's Miller Invitational track and field meet has been canceled.

— Today's Hartington Invitational golf meet was postponed. No makeup date is set.

Here are other postponements reported to the Press & Dakotan.

— Today's Sioux Falls city track and field meet was postponed to Tuesday, May 7. The sophomore city meet scheduled for that day will be held on Thursday, May 9.

— Today's Kansas State-Nebraska baseball game has been postponed to Wednesday. The game will be played at Hawks Field at 6:35 p.m.

— Today's North Dakota-South Dakota State baseball game was canceled. SDSU is scheduled to play Dakota State in a doubleheader on Wednesday, and the games will be played at Sioux City (Iowa) North High School at 2 p.m.

## Sloppy Spring Benches Twins, Marlins; Teams Will Play Two Today



Minnesota Twins' Trevor Plouffe homers to left center in the fourth inning against the Los Angeles Angels at Target Field in Minneapolis, Minn., Monday, April 15, 2013. The Twins' game with Miami on Monday, April 22, was postponed, the fourth postponement in eight games for Minnesota. Throughout the majors, there have been 14 postponements through the first 23 days of the 2013 season.

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Minnesota Twins pre-emptively postponed their game against the Miami Marlins, due to approaching inclement weather.

The Twins announced almost seven hours before the scheduled start time Monday that they'll play the Marlins instead on Tuesday night as the second half of a split doubleheader. The two teams already were slated to play on Tuesday afternoon. This is only a two-game series.

To give workers more time to prepare the ballpark, the Twins also pushed the first game back an hour to 1:10 p.m. local time. The second game will be at 7:10 p.m.

Monday's game was called while the temperature was 45 degrees, before any rain had even fallen. But the forecast was calling for a wet night, turning to heavy snow that's supposed to taper by Tuesday morning after an estimated accumulation of three to six inches in the Twin Cities area. The expected high for Tuesday was 42 degrees.

Four of Minnesota's last eight scheduled games have been wiped out before they began because of weather problems, including three at home. That matched their previous season high for postponements at Target Field, in 2011. The Twins had only one washout in 2012 and one in 2010, plus a game that was suspended in that inaugural year for the lime-stone-and-glass ballpark.

The Twins moved out of the climate-controlled Metrodome after the 2009 season. The covered stadium sits only a couple of miles away, but in the reconfiguration process for football after the Twins left all the dirt was removed from the base paths. So the diamond is no longer up to major league standard.

Via Twitter, Twins President Dave St. Peter acknowledged the urging by some people for rescheduling of these games indoors. He joked in his tweet that "if this many fans had actually attended games" at the Dome, the Twins would've led MLB in attendance.

In a phone interview later, St. Peter said the Twins "would never say never" to a temporary shift if the weather or other circumstance was dire enough. Such a change, however, remains unrealistic.

"Needless to say, our organization, and certainly our season-ticket holders and our sponsors, doesn't have much interest in moving down to the Metrodome on a short-term basis for a game or two," St. Peter said.

The weather has been a bother throughout

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# USD Men Third After First Day Of Summit Championships

KELLER, Texas — South Dakota men's golf shot an 11-over-par 299 at the Sky Creek Ranch Golf Club course in Keller to finish round one of the Summit League Golf Championships in third place overall. The 'Yotes are four shots behind tournament leader Kansas City and one shot behind Western Illinois.

Three 'Yotes finished in the top-10 at the par-72, 6,953 yard course, led by

Sam Matthew, who took 73 strokes to finish seventh at +1.

Dakota Clark and Alex Kline both shot 75's on day one to finish 3-over-par and tied for 9th. Miles Death finished one stroke behind his two teammates at +4, tied for 14th.

USD grabbed an early lead by shooting +1 on the front 9. The five USD golfers combined to total 14 birdies on the day, and no Coyote fin-

ished lower than 29th at the 45-man competition.

Two Kansas City golfers, Korbin Kuehn and Antoine Rozner, finished the day tied for the individual lead after shooting a 3-under-par 69.

Round two of men's competition will tee off at 10:34 a.m. this morning.

## Boys: Mid-State Conf.

BATTLE CREEK, Neb. — Wayne posted a team score of

332, led by medalist Kaje Maly's 75, to win the Mid-State Conference boys' golf tournament on Saturday in Battle Creek, Neb.

Maly shot an even-par 36 on the front nine, then held on for a two-stroke victory over O'Neill's Cody Belzer. Cedar Catholic's Dalton Lammers finished third at 79.

Wayne finished five strokes ahead of Cedar Catholic in the team standings. O'Neill finished third at 345.

TEAM SCORES: Wayne 332, Hartington Cedar Catholic 337, O'Neill 345, Pierce 358, Norfolk Catholic 361, Battle Creek 364, Guardian Angels Central Catholic 388, Crofton 399, Madison 401, Boone Central 404.

TOP 10: Kaje Maly, Wayne 75; Cody Belzer, O'Neill 77; Dalton Lammers, Cedar Catholic 79; Zach Fehninger, Pierce 81; Ezra Broderon, Wayne 82; Jared Peterson, Wayne 83; Nate Gotschall, O'Neill 84; Grant Howell, Cedar Catholic 84; Brad Kathol, Cedar Catholic 87; Riley Knake, Norfolk Catholic 87.

## Sheldahl Paces USD Women In Round One Of Summit League Final

KELLER, Texas — University of South Dakota junior Hailey Sheldahl sits in a tie for 21st place after round one of the Summit League Championships which began Monday at Sky Creek Ranch Golf Club. Round two of the three-day tournament begins at 8 a.m. Tuesday.

Sheldahl was 11-over-par on the front nine, but made three birdies on the back nine and finished at 12-over-

par. Kansas City's Taylor Fisher leads the field at 3-over-par. Three players are one stroke back.

Sheldahl was the only Coyote to card a birdie during round one and as a result, South Dakota (355) sits in last place and 10 strokes behind South Dakota State (345) and Fort Wayne (345). North Dakota State shot a team score of 307 and holds an eight-stroke lead against Kansas City.

Omaha is in third with a score of 322.

USD freshman Victoria Grasso fired an 87 and is in a tie for 29th place. Sophomore Stephanie Rodgers shot 91 and is 37th place. Senior Nicole Funk (North Sioux City) is in a tie for 38th place with a 93. Sophomore Jordan Rearick, who had the Coyotes' best stroke average heading into the championships, shot a 98 and is in 43rd place.

seasons with the Browns.

"I've been fortunate to play in this league for a long time and for some great organizations, but there is no doubt that my times spent in New Orleans were some of the best years of my life," Fujita said in explaining why he retired as a Saint. "The way the team and the community embraced us when we first arrived, and the way they continue to do so, even today, shows how deep this connection is."

Fujita played in 143 regular-season games, making 917 tackles (617 solo) along with 23 1-2 sacks. He had 11 forced fumbles, seven interception returns for 65 yards, and three fumble recoveries. Fujita played in six postseason games, getting 36 tackles (26 solo) and one fumble recovery.

called a performance pool designed to knock targeted opponents out of games from 2009 to 2011. Fujita later was essentially absolved of blame by former commissioner Paul Tagliabue.

He spent three seasons with Kansas City, one in Dallas, then four seasons with the Saints, winning the 2009 NFL championship. Fujita was the first player signed by New Orleans when Sean Payton became coach in 2006.

"He was a cornerstone of the foundation that we've built, and we won a world championship together," Payton said. "It's been said that when you win a championship together, you walk together for the rest of your lives, and that's certainly appropriate to celebrate on a day like today."

Fujita left for Cleveland as a free agent in 2010 and spent the last three

# Scott Fujita Retires As Saint While In Peru

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — From the mountaintops of Peru, Scott Fujita has retired.

The Super Bowl-winning linebacker later enmeshed in the Saints bounty scandal signed a one-day contract with New Orleans and retired Monday. The Saints provided the document and Fujita signed it while on a trip with former teammate Scott Gleason, who is battling ALS.

"What better place to reach the end of the road than here at 10,000 feet above sea level, in the Peruvian Andes overlooking Machu Picchu with my dear friend Steve Gleason?" Fujita said.

The 33-year-old Fujita finished his career with the Cleveland Browns, but was implicated and even suspended for one game by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell for his role in what the league

## Mogensen Headed To MMC

Former South Sioux City, Neb., standout Alex Mogensen will attend Mount Marty College and play baseball for the Lancers beginning this fall, the institution announced on Monday.

Mogensen, who currently attends Northeast Community College in Norfolk, Neb., is a left-handed pitcher who put together an impressive senior season for South Sioux City in 2012. For his High School team he had an impressive season on the mound with a 5-1 record with 1 save and a 2.84 earned run average. Mogensen struck out 61 batters in 56 innings pitched. As a hitter he had record-setting year, carrying a .383 batting average with 41 hits, 24 runs, 8 doubles, 1 triple and 25 runs batted in. The 41 hits in a season tops South Sioux City High School's single season chart. Mogensen capped off the 2012 spring season guiding the South Sioux City team to a High School Class B third place finish and he was named Honorable Mention All-State for his efforts.

"The commitment of Alex really helps us in several areas," said MMC head baseball coach Andy Bernatow. "The program has a need for left-handed pitching and we are getting older at the first base position. Alex has the potential to be really good at both."

The son of Matt and Vee Mogensen, Alex will major in graphic design at Mount Marty College. In addition to his baseball award, he is also the recipient of an incentive academic scholarship.



Mogensen