

SPORTS



Complete coverage in Sports Extra

Find scores, photos and more in Sports Extra, our subscriber-exclusive, eNewspaper section.



South Carolina quarterback LaNorris Sellers is entering his third season as starter with the Gamecocks.
JEFF BLAKE-IMAGN IMAGES

Recrod year for drafting Clemson players?

Derrian Carter
Greenville News
USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

CLEMSON — Clemson football has a chance to shatter its record for most players selected in the NFL draft this year.

The Tigers have over 10 players who could be taken in the 2026 NFL Draft, including quarterback Cade Klubnik, defensive tackle Peter Woods, edge rusher T.J. Parker, cornerback Avieon Terrell and offensive tackle Blake Miller.

The draft runs from April 23-25, and Clemson's draft record is nine, which happened in 2016.

Here's a breakdown of where the latest mock drafts have notable Clemson players getting selected with the draft less than two weeks away.

Blake Miller NFL draft projection

Miller has become popular among draft projections as multiple NFL teams need offensive linemen.

He fits the bill at 6-foot-6 and 318 pounds. Miller started in every game of his Clemson career, setting the school record for career snaps at 3,778. He worked primarily at tackle in college.

- Rob Rang of FOX Sports: First round to the Detroit Lions (No. 16 overall)
- Chad Reuter of NFL.com: First round to the Pittsburgh Steelers (No. 21)
- Peter Schrager of ESPN: First round to the Los Angeles Chargers (No. 22)
- Michael Middlehurst-Schwartz of USA TODAY: First round to the Jacksonville Jaguars (No. 24)
- Mike Renner of CBS Sports and Matt Miller of ESPN: First round to the Houston Texans (No. 28)

TJ Parker NFL draft projection

Parker recorded 37 tackles, including five sacks, three fumble recoveries and one pass breakup in 2025. His production dipped compared to 2024 when he had 11 sacks and had a Clemson record six forced fumbles.

Still, he had an impressive performance at the Senior Bowl, showcasing his speed and power that helped him improve his pre-draft standing.

- Rob Rang of FOX Sports: First round to the New York Jets (No. 16)
- Peter Schrager of ESPN: First round to the Pittsburgh Steelers (No. 21)
- Michael Middlehurst-Schwartz of USA TODAY: First round to the Chicago Bears (No. 25)
- Chad Reuter of NFL.com: Second round to the Cleveland Browns (No. 39)
- Matt Miller of ESPN: Second round to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (No. 46)
- Mike Renner of CBS Sports: Second round to the Atlanta Falcons (No. 48)

See PLAYERS, Page 3B

What Beamer asked Sellers to improve

Lulu Kesin
Greenville News
USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

COLUMBIA — In the transfer portal era, it's rare to see a quarterback spend three full seasons with the same coach. But LaNorris Sellers just finished his fourth spring practice with South Carolina football coach Shane Beamer.

Sellers had the option to declare for the 2026 NFL Draft, stay with the Gamecocks, who went 4-8 last year, or try to find a new college team. He stayed put and there's no denying this year is critical for both Sellers, now a third-year starter, and Beamer.

Beamer said Sellers' lack of vocal leadership became a point of emphasis

during the offseason.

"There's a step that LaNorris has to take as a leader on this football team and I've seen that, seen him grow," Beamer said before spring practice started.

So now with the spring practice done, how would Beamer evaluate that part of Sellers' game?

"I thought LaNorris had a great spring learning a new offense, getting adjusted," Beamer said. "... I think he's in a good place. He's playing with a lot of confidence right now. Leadership, I think he's been really good there. (He's) communicating with the offense, organizing throwing sessions, talking when he needs to talk, I like where he is right now."

Sellers played behind Spencer Rattler as a true freshman then had a breakout year in 2024, helping Beamer to a career-best 9-3 record in his first year as starting quarterback. Sellers threw for 2,534 yards and rushed for 674 then spent last summer hearing his name in Heisman Trophy conversations.

His NFL trajectory took a turn over the course of the 2025 season. South Carolina won just one SEC game and Sellers' stats declined in both passing (2,437) and rushing (270) but increased in sacks, going from 33 to 42.

That all resulted in an overhaul of the offensive staff, with the main hiring

See SELLERS, Page 3B

Swinney: 'I screwed it all up. I did a horrible job'

Derrian Carter
Greenville News
USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

CLEMSON — Clemson football coach Dabo Swinney believes the Tigers should have a program-record four players taken in the first round of the 2026 NFL Draft.

He also sees nine Clemson players being selected in the draft, which runs April 23-25, to tie the school's record for the most picks in a single seven-round draft.

Swinney thinks this despite the Tigers going 7-6 in 2025, which was the second-worst season in his full 17 seasons as Clemson's coach.

"We stunk last year. I screwed it all up. I did a horrible job," Swinney said on "The Jim Rome Show" on April 14. "We had way better players than what our record ended up being."

The Tigers missed the College Football Playoff for the fourth time in five seasons and failed to make the ACC championship game despite being pre-season favorites to make both.

Swinney blamed himself for not winning close games. Three of Clemson's losses came in one-possession games: seven points to LSU, three points to Georgia Tech and one point to Duke.

He called the Georgia Tech and Duke losses "gut wrenching" because they came in the final seconds. The Yellow

Jackets made a walk-off field goal at home to win 24-21, and the Blue Devils scored a touchdown and converted a two-point attempt with 40 seconds left on the road to win 46-45.

Swinney added Clemson is 151-7 when the Tigers have a lead entering the fourth quarter, but two of those seven losses came in 2025 to Georgia Tech and Duke.

"The head coach should make the difference in close games, and I didn't do that," Swinney said.

Swinney made changes this offseason in hopes of having a better 2026. He re-hired Chad Morris to be Clemson's offensive coordinator to replace Garrett Riley, brought in new assistants and

support staffers and landed a single-season program record of 10 transfers.

With Clemson disappointing last year and top players going to the NFL, Swinney says the Tigers won't be pre-season darlings like they were entering 2025.

"It's a great opportunity for us to see if we can get back in the mix this season, and I look forward to the challenge."

Clemson opens its season vs. LSU and new coach Lane Kiffin on Sept. 5 at Tiger Stadium in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Derrian Carter covers Clemson athletics for The Greenville News and the USA TODAY Network. Email him at DCarter@usatoday.com.

SPORTS ON TV SUNDAY, APRIL 19 (ALL TIMES EASTERN)

AUTO RACING

2 p.m.
FOX — NASCAR Cup Series, AdventHealth 400, Kansas City, Kan.
5:30 p.m.
FOX — NTT IndyCar Series, Acura Grand Prix of Long Beach, Long Beach, Calif.
BOWLING
4 p.m.
CW — PBA, Roth/Holman Doubles Championship, Portland, Maine
COLLEGE BASEBALL
11 a.m.
BTN — Northwestern at Michigan
1 p.m.
ACCN — Georgia Tech at North Carolina
2 p.m.
ESPN — Texas A&M at LSU
4 p.m.
ESPN2 — UC Santa Barbara at UC Irvine
COLLEGE SOFTBALL
12 p.m.
ESPN — Texas at Georgia
4 p.m.
ACCN — Pittsburgh at Louisville
BTN — Penn State at Ohio State
6 p.m.
BTN — Washington at Oregon
8 p.m.
ACCN — Georgia Tech at Virginia Tech
COLLEGE TENNIS (MEN'S)

1 p.m.
SECN — SEC Championships, College Station, Texas
COLLEGE TENNIS (MEN'S)
4 p.m.
SECN — SEC Championships, Norman, Okla.
COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL (WOMEN'S)
2 p.m.
BTN — Indiana at Purdue
FISHING
8 a.m.
FS1 — Bassmaster Elite Series, Arkansas River
GOLF
1 p.m.
GOLF — PGA Tour, RBC Heritage, Final Round, Hilton Head Island, S.C.
2 p.m.
FS1 — LIV Golf, Mexico City, Final Round, Mexico City
3 p.m.
CBS — PGA Tour, RBC Heritage, Final Round, Hilton Head Island, S.C.
GOLF — PGA Tour Champions, Senior PGA Championship, Final Round, Bradenton, Fla.
6 p.m.
GOLF — LPGA Tour, JM Eagle LA Championship, Final Round, Tarzana, Calif.
HORSE RACING
1 p.m.

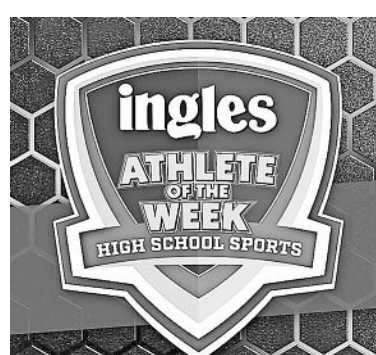
FS2 — America's Day at the Races
MLB BASEBALL
1:35 p.m.
MLBN — Detroit at Boston
2:10 p.m.
PEACOCK — Cincinnati at Minnesota
4:07 p.m.
ESPN UNLIMITED — San Diego at L.A. Angels
4:30 p.m.
MLBN — Toronto at Arizona (JIP)
7:20 p.m.
NBC — Atlanta at Philadelphia
NBA BASKETBALL
1 p.m.
ABC — Playoffs, Eastern Conference, First Round, Philadelphia at Boston, Game 1
3:30 p.m.
ABC — Playoffs, Western Conference, First Round, Golden State or Phoenix at Oklahoma City, Game 1
6:30 p.m.
NBC/PEACOCK — Playoffs, Eastern Conference, First Round, Charlotte or Orlando at Detroit, Game 1
9 p.m.
NBC/PEACOCK — Playoffs, Western Conference, First Round, Portland at San Antonio, Game 1
NHL HOCKEY
3 p.m.

TNT/TRU TV — Playoffs, Western Conference, First Round, Los Angeles at Colorado, Game 1
5:45 p.m.
TNT/TRU TV — Playoffs, Eastern Conference, First Round, Montreal at Tampa Bay, Game 1
7:30 p.m.
ESPN — Playoffs, Eastern Conference, First Round, Boston at Buffalo, Game 1
10 p.m.
ESPN — Playoffs, Western Conference, First Round, Utah at Vegas, Game 1
SOCCER (MEN'S)
9 a.m.
USA — Premier League, Liverpool FC at Everton
11:30 a.m.
ESPN2 — German Bundesliga, VfB Stuttgart at Bayern München
NBC — Premier League, Arsenal FC at Manchester City
TENNIS
7 a.m.
TENNIS — Barcelona-ATP, Munich-ATP, Stuttgart-WTA & Rouen-WTA Finals
VOLLEYBALL (WOMEN'S)
3 p.m.
CBSSN — MLV, San Diego at Orlando
6 p.m.
VICE — MLV, Dallas at Indy

Tiller, Cremmins are Athletes of the Week

Kamryn Jackson

Greenville News
USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA



Hudson Cremmins, of J.L. Mann boys lacrosse, and Kate Tiller, of Greenville girls soccer, were named Upstate Ingles Athletes of the Week for April 6-12. Cremmins had 278 votes out of 386 votes cast. Chase Hendrix of Riverside baseball was the runner-up with 67 votes. Cremmins had eight goals and two assists in a 12-1 lacrosse win against Hillcrest. Tiller has 971 votes out of 1,594 votes cast. Paytlen Horne

of J.L. Mann soccer was the runner-up with 506 votes. Tiller scored a goal in a 2-1 win over Hillcrest.

KEJackson@gannett.com

Sellers

Continued from Page 1B

at offensive coordinator. Mike Shula was fired in November after less than a year in the position, then Kendal Briles was hired out of TCU in December.

Beamer pointed out that it's nice to have a starting quarterback for three years, the first time he's had that in what will be six seasons in Columbia. But Sellers hasn't had the same play-caller for more than one of his starting seasons.

What LaNorris Sellers said about South Carolina spring practice

This spring was a mix of learning and guiding his teammates through a new system while also stepping up in ways Beamer requested.

"Picking up on new systems gets easier the more you do it, not that it's necessarily a good thing that you have to learn multiple systems, but it's easier to pick up and understand differ-

ent concepts and what they're looking for when they call it," Sellers said.

Since Sellers took over the starting job, Beamer said it's not about forcing him to be someone he isn't. The offense on and off the field runs through Sellers, a role he has no choice but to embrace in likely his final college season.

"I like where he is right now," Beamer said. "He's playing well and LaNorris is a football junkie, and loves the game and loves working at it, studying it and watching it. The way that he's performing on the field this summer will be big for him, as he continues to master the details of everything that we're doing, but he's doing a good job with a lot of new faces around him at all positions ...

"So it's nice to see a guy now be able to take that next step, even though it's a different system. It's his third year starting, and fourth year in the program, which is a big deal."

Lulu Kesin covers South Carolina athletics for The Greenville News and the USA TODAY Network. Email her at LKesin@usatoday.com. Follow her on X at [Lulukesin](https://twitter.com/Lulukesin) and Bluesky at [bylulukesin.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/bylulukesin.bsky.social)

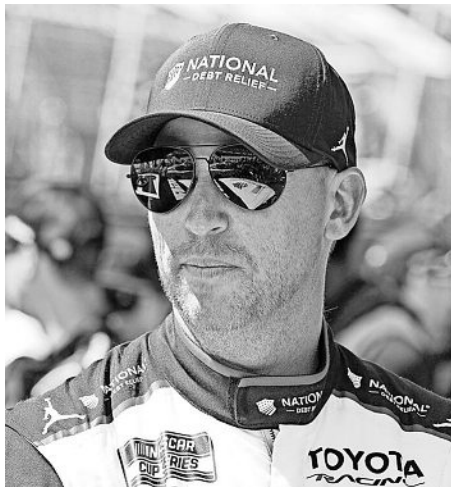
AUTO RACING LEADERS

NASCAR Cup Series Points Leaders

- Through April 16*
Tyler Reddick, 4 wins, 386 points.
Ryan Blaney, 1, 324.
Denny Hamlin, 1, 300.
Ty Gibbs, 1, 281.
Chase Elliott, 1, 264.
Kyle Larson, 0, 260.
William Byron, 0, 245.
Bubba Wallace, 0, 236.
Christopher Bell, 0, 231.
Chris Buescher, 0, 230.
Brad Keselowski, 0, 229.
Joey Logano, 0, 218.
Carson Hocevar, 0, 209.
Ryan Preece, 0, 209.
Daniel Suárez, 0, 192.
Shane Van Gisbergen, 0, 177.
Chase Briscoe, 0, 176.
Austin Cindric, 0, 172.
Michael McDowell, 0, 171.
AJ Allmendinger, 0, 156.
Ross Chastain, 0, 153.
Zane Smith, 0, 144.
Erik Jones, 0, 133.
Kyle Busch, 0, 131.
Josh Berry, 0, 128.
Todd Gilliland, 0, 127.
Austin Dillon, 0, 124.
John H. Nemechek, 0, 111.
Riley Herbst, 0, 109.
Ricky Stenhouse Jr., 0, 107.
Noah Gragson, 0, 104.
Ty Dillon, 0, 95.
Connor Zilisch, 0, 84.
Cole Custer, 0, 76.
Cody Ware, 0, 64.
Alex Bowman, 0, 24.
Casey Mears, 0, 9.
BJ McLeod, 0, 3.

IndyCar Series Points Leaders

- Through April 1*
1. Kyle Kirkwood, 156.
2. Alex Palou, 154.
3. Christian Lundgaard, 121.
4. David Malukas, 116.
5. Josef Newgarden, 113.
6. Patricio O'Ward, 106.
7. Scott McLaughlin, 99.
8. Marcus Ericsson, 99.
9. Marcus Armstrong, 98.
10. Scott Dixon, 85.
11. Alexander Rossi, 83.
12. Graham Rahal, 82.
13. Will Power, 77.
14. Felix Rosenqvist, 65.
15. Santino Ferrucci, 62.



Denny Hamlin waits on the grid prior to the NASCAR Cup Series Food City 500 at Bristol Motor Speedway on April 12 in Bristol, Tennessee.

MATT KELLEY/GETTY IMAGES

- Rinus Veekey, 62.
- Dennis Hauger, 57.
- Kyffin Simpson, 55.
- Romain Grosjean, 51.
- Caio Jotta Collet, 51.
- Louis Foster, 46.
- Christian Rasmussen, 44.
- Nolan Siegel, 38.
- Sting Ray Robb, 35.
- Mick Schumacher, 31.

FIA Formula 1 World Drivers' Championship Points Leaders

- Through March 29*
1. Andrea Kimi Antonelli, 72.
2. George Russell, 63.
3. Charles Leclerc, 49.
4. Lewis Hamilton, 41.
5. Lando Norris, 25.
6. Oscar Piastri, 21.
7. Oliver Bearman, 17.
8. Pierre Gasly, 15.
9. Max Verstappen, 12.
10. Liam Lawson, 10.
11. Arvid Lindblad, 4.
12. Isack Hadjar, 4.
13. Gabriel Bortoleto, 2.
14. Carlos Sainz Jr., 2.
15. Esteban Ocon, 1.
16. Franco Colapinto, 1.
17. Nico Hülkenberg, 0.
18. Alexander Albon, 0.
19. Valtteri Bottas, 0.
20. Sergio Pérez, 0.
21. Fernando Alonso, 0.
22. Lance Stroll, 0.

Players

Continued from Page 1B

Avieon Terrell NFL draft projection

Terrell, the younger brother of former Clemson cornerback AJ Terrell, recorded 48 tackles, including three sacks, five forced fumbles and nine pass deflections in 2025. He was first-team All-ACC and a Jim Thorpe award semifinalist, which is given to the nation's top defensive back.

The 5-11 cornerback's size is a concern, and he has been limited with a hamstring injury in the pre-draft process, which cut his private workout with teams short on March 30. Still, his speed and coverage versatility makes him an early round selection.

- Michael Middlehurst-Schwartz of USA TODAY: First round to the Dallas Cowboys (No. 20 overall)
- Matt Miller of ESPN: First round to the Kansas City Chiefs (No. 29)
- Mike Renner of CBS Sports: Second round to the Cleveland Browns (No. 39)
- Chad Reuter of NFL.com: Second round to the Kansas City Chiefs (No. 40)

Peter Woods NFL draft projection

Woods logged a career-high 30 tackles, including two sacks, and one pass deflection in 2025 to earn first-team All-ACC honors. Entering the season, he was a projected top-10 selection because of his power and awareness, but consistency issues caused him to drop in projections.

- Mike Renner of CBS Sports: First round to the Los Angeles Chargers (No. 22)
- Matt Miller of ESPN: First round to the Chicago Bears (No. 25)
- Chad Reuter of NFL.com: Second round to the New York Jets (No. 33)

Cade Klubnik NFL draft projection

Klubnik was a Heisman Trophy candidate entering the 2025 season and projected first-round pick in the 2026 NFL Draft because of his sensa-

tional junior season. He threw for 3,639 yards (10th in the nation) with 36 touchdowns (third) and six interceptions and rushed for 463 yards and seven scores.

Yet, he regressed in 2025, throwing for 2,943 yards, 16 touchdowns, six interceptions and rushing for 94 yards and four scores. This caused his draft projection to fall drastically.

- Matt Miller of ESPN: Fifth round to the Dallas Cowboys (No. 180)
- Ben Solak of ESPN: Sixth round to the Carolina Panthers (No. 200)

Antonio Williams NFL draft projection

Antonio Williams recorded 55 catches for 604 yards and four touchdowns in 2025 to be a third-team All-ACC selection. His route routing is among the best in this draft class, which has elevated him to be a projected Day 2 pick.

- Chad Reuter of NFL.com: Second round to the New York Jets (No. 42)
- Matt Miller of ESPN: Second round to the Philadelphia Eagles (No. 54)
- Mike Renner of CBS Sports: Third round to the Las Vegas Raiders (No. 67)

DeMonte Capehart NFL draft projection

DeMonte Capehart returned for his sixth season in 2025 to record 21 tackles, including a sack, and two pass deflections. At 23 he is older than other defensive tackles in this draft but could be a rotational impact lineman.

- Chad Reuter of NFL.com: Third round to the Dallas Cowboys (No. 92)
- Matt Miller of ESPN: Fourth round to the Detroit Lions (No. 128)

Adam Randall NFL draft projection

Adam Randall switched from wide receiver to running back in 2025 to rush for 814 yards and 10 scores. He ran his 40-yard dash in 4.50 seconds.

Randall is new to the position but has the versatility to be a pass-catching threat in man coverage against linebackers.

- Matt Miller of ESPN: Fifth round to the Miami Dolphins (No. 151)