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Volume 1 Issue 1

NCAA Today

Pac 12 Regional Issue

Draft profiles, team
outlooks and much more
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the greatest setting in
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Will Purple Reign in 2018? We say yes!



Above: Myles Gaskin breaks off a big run against Cal in 2016

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Vita Vea is 6'5, 350 pounds. Where should the Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Year be drafted?

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This week, we take a look at UW defensive tackle Vita Vea, University of Colorado cornerback Isaiah Oliver, and Washington State quarterback Luke Falk.

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University of Colorado cornerback Isaiah Oliver

The BIGGEST Deal in the Draft



Vita Vea is an animal like the NFL has never seen before. Measuring in at 6-5, 340, he is already a behemoth. Now let's factor in the fact that he can run a 4.8 40 yard dash, I'm already shaking in my cleats if I'm an opposing quarterback.

Athleticism

We talked about Vea's 40, which is unheard of from an interior lineman. Vea can run, eat up double teams and still make the tackle on a ball carrier who thinks the lane is clear. Go back to the tape of any game this season, and if you see a quarterback trying to scramble, you'll see big number 50 running after him and every now and again actually makes the tackle before the linebackers can get over. One great example that I can that truly shows how much opposing offenses fear Vita Vea comes from this year's Colorado game. On a 4th and 1 play towards the end of the game, the Buffs decided to go for it, and came out in a jumbo set with three tight ends. As soon as the ball was snapped, there were FOUR offensive linemen who had one job, block Vita Vea. I've watched a lot of football in my life, and I can say with 100% certainty that I've never seen that before. That's how much of a scary, freak athlete is Vea is for opposing defenses.

Fit

I've seen scouts like Bleacher Report's Matt Miller question Vea's ability to fit scheme, but I believe that he is a plug and play type player in any kind of defensive front. Towards the end of the year, we got to see some of Vea's true pass rushing talent when defensive coordinator Pete Kwiatkowski decided to line him up on the edge to try and get him in some one on one scenarios. When that happened, we saw Vea use his hands very well and wreak havoc in the backfield like he usually does. We've seen him line up on the interior in a four man front next to a true nose tackle in Greg Gaines and have a great deal of success as well. Personally, I think his best fit would be in a 4-3 scheme where he would have the opportunity to get more one on one opportunities when rushing the passer, although I do believe Vea is athletic enough to play as a nose tackle in a 3-4 scheme. My dream scenario for a team that is in the top 10 right now would be the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Just imagine a defensive interior of Vita Vea and Gerald McCoy, that's almost unblockable.

Projections

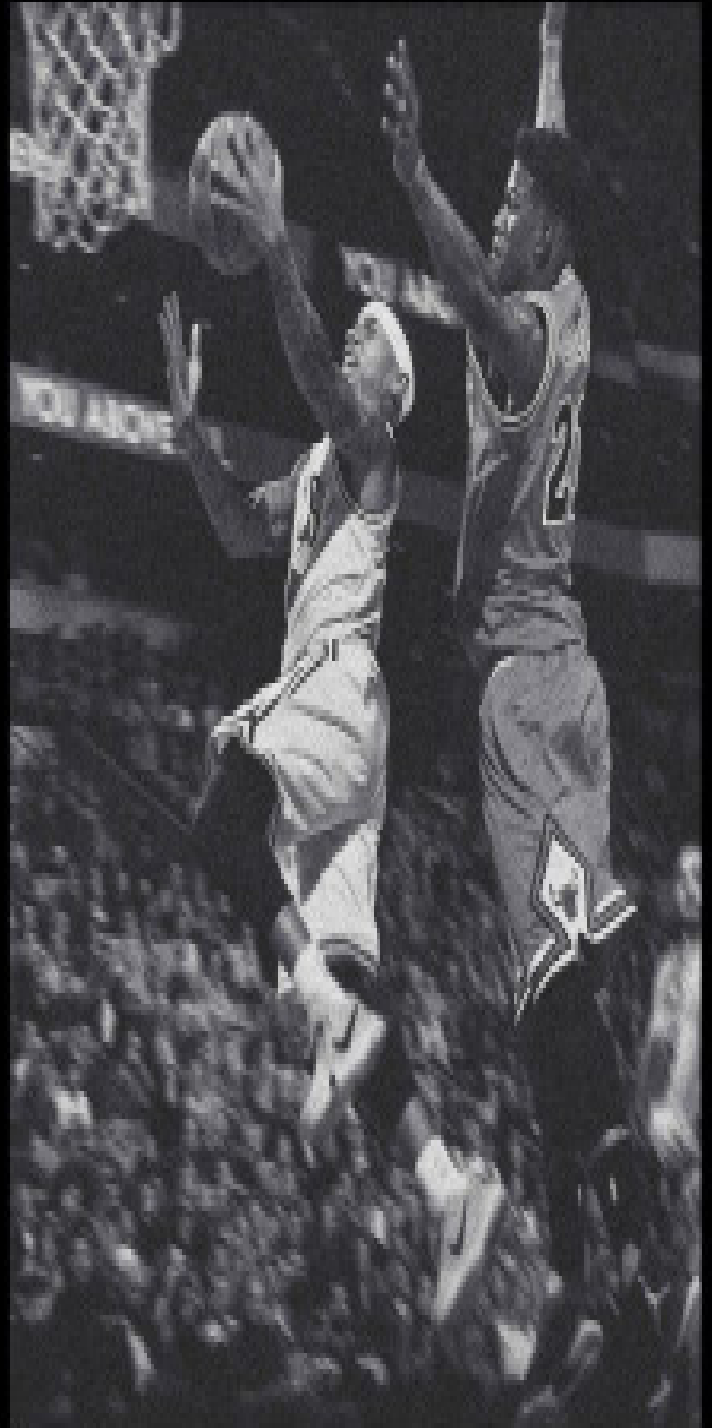
I see a few teams inside of the top 10 that could really use Vea's talents.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers- As I just stated, wouldn't it be nice to pair Vea with Gerald McCoy? Also, we will definitely see improvement in run defense, which is currently ranked 23rd, and Vea would also be a help to the 31st ranked pass defense which is also last in sacks with only 17 this season.

Cleveland Browns- The Browns could definitely utilize Vea's talents up front, and it would be very cool to have him learn from the same guy he worked with during his redshirt season at Washington, Danny Shelton. The two of them would create a very quick and powerful defensive line, and pairing that with Myles Garrett and Emmanuel Ogbah would make their pass rush a force to be reckoned with.

Arizona Cardinals- The Cardinals need to rebuild their defensive line, and Vea is a great piece to start with. The Cardinals lost Calais Campbell in free agency to the Jaguars, Frostee Rucker is 34 years old, and the Cardinals have gotten next to nothing from former first round pick Robert Nkemdiche in his first two seasons, so why not go with Vea to take some stress off of last year's first round pick, Hasson Reddick?

PICK
ME
LAST
AGAIN



COME
OUT OF
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NFL Draft Spotlight Series: Sponsored by Sports Al Dente Vita Ve

There is one word to truly describe Vita Ve and his size and athleticism along the defensive line: FREAK. Arguably the best defensive tackle in this class, his power and speed at almost 350 pounds is unmatched.



The numbers speak for themselves for the Pac-12 defensive player of the year, who racked up 43 total tackles with 5.5 for loss and 3.5 sacks this season. Ve also had 4 passes defended this past year, and wreaked havoc for anyone in the opposing backfield. His numbers this year also garnered him Pac 12 Defensive Player of the Year. Ve is a moldable defensive tackle prospect that could potentially fit well in any system, as Washington, who usually runs a 3-4 defense, found a way for Ve to produce at every position. Ve took snaps at least 100 snaps at every position along the D-line, and found a way to make an impact at all of them.

Now, let's take a look at what makes Vita Ve a top tier prospect in this year's draft.

Upside

Pure Athleticism

FREAK. At 6'4 and 344 pounds, anyone you talk to inside Washington football will tell you the same thing. Vita Ve was projected to run a 4.8 40 yard dash at the NFL Combine. Combining that speed with the power that he can drive from behind it makes his bull rush a force to be reckoned with from the second he steps on the field. One thing that is consistently seen in Ve's tape, especially in the Fiesta Bowl against Penn State, is his ability to shift the defensive line. Penn State consistently slid their protection to Ve, which creates opportunities for other defenders. Teams also consistently double and even triple teamed Ve. I even found a 4th down play when Washington visited Colorado this season where Ve was quadruple teamed.

Three Down Availability

Ve is the ideal DT prospect, who can make an impact in the passing game and against the run. According to Pro Football Focus, Ve garnered 42 total pressures this season. From a defensive tackle spot, that's incredible production. Having a guy like Ve, who can create that pressure can make a bad defense good and a good defense great. He's still scratching the surface of his potential as a pass rusher too, as he's still sort of developing his signature move. It's a sort of slap and rip type of move, it's slow when it happens, but Ve is so big and strong that it can still overpower defenders when they see it coming.

Downside

Developmental Project

While Ve had a tremendous impact at the college level, he is still a diamond in the rough. He plays with a high pad level sometimes, and still doesn't completely know what to do with his feet. Ve was a running back in high school, and is still learning the position. Sitting behind Danny Shelton really helped his development early in his career, and he's still growing as a player. We see him lose his feet too often and a lot of his QB hurries could have turned into sacks. This comes partly from him being slow off the ball, and partly from him not being flexible enough to complete the play.

Scheme Fit

Will he fit best in a 3-4 or a 4-3? His mobility seems to fit best in a 4-3, since he is somewhat stiff. But at the same time, he's big enough to fit as a nose tackle in a 3-4 front. He proved in college he can play with an odd or an even front, but the question will be what works better?

NFL Player Comparison

Danny Shelton

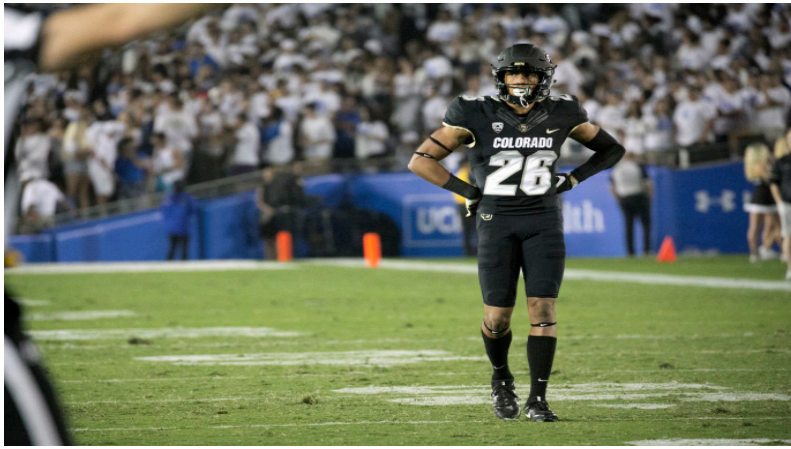
Teams With Need At Defensive Tackle

Arizona Cardinals, New England Patriots, Los Angeles Chargers, Washington Redskins, Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Projection

Los Angeles Chargers (Pick 17)

Isaiah Oliver



NFL Player Comparison

Stephon Gilmore

Teams with Need at Cornerback

New England Patriots, Seattle Seahawks, Kansas City Chiefs, Oakland Raiders, Houston Texans

Projection

New England Patriots (Pick 31)

Isaiah Oliver is a prototypel NFL corner with the potential to turn into a star. A three-year starter at Colorado, he made first-team All Pac-12 during his junior year. He had 27 tackles, two interceptions and 13 passes defended. He did this while nursing a leg injury through most of the season. Oliver comes from a super athletic family, and those genes definitely rubbed off on him. His father, Muhammad was an All-American track and field athlete in the decathlon at Oregon, while he also played cornerback. Muhammad went on to play in the NFL. Oliver's uncle, Damon Mays, also played in the NFL as a wide receiver.

Oliver is a super athlete, as he ran on the Colorado track and field team during his freshman year. He competed in the heptathlon as a sophomore, and the decathlon as a freshman.

Upside

Mr. Fantastic Arms

Oliver's arms "go on and on for days" and allow him to have more room for error. His arms allow him to cover guys much bigger than him with ease. They are also what leads many scouts to calling him the "best press corner in the draft." A QB has to have pinpoint accuracy to beat Oliver on a deep ball, because of his long arms and big frame. His arms aren't just long, they're trained. His 13 PBU's and two interceptions had him tied for seventh in the nation in 2017 for total passes defended.

Strength and Athleticism

Oliver's arms aren't the only reason he's considered the best press corner in the class. He has great strength that he throws into receiver's chests on every play. Oliver is incredible when it comes to fighting through screens and making tackles in open space. One of his best attributes is his deep and makeup speed. Oliver has a margin for error that is much higher than most corners because of not only his arm length, but his pure athleticism. His speed allows him to give up an extra step or two and he still has the ability to get back and make a play on the ball.

Downside

Full Tilt, Full Time

Yes, this is an awesome thing for most players, but for a cornerback, running in a sprint for an entire route leads to getting beat. NFL offenses and QBs will pick up on that very quickly, because Oliver is incredibly vulnerable on comeback routes. He doesn't drop low enough in his back pedal, since he relies on his track speed. This could leave him prone to being thrown off balance by some of the better route runners ath the next level. He takes too many steps when trying to mirror a receiver, especially playing off coverage.

Still Developing

There is a lot to love in Oliver's game, but he is still developing it. While he is great at the bottom of the route, he allows a ton of separation from the top. His off coverage was mentioned due to his footwork, but he has trouble in off coverage compared to press. Sharp routes are a big point of weakness for Oliver, as he has trouble planting a foot in the ground and changing direction. He needs to improve in the run support game, and he needs to play with more downhill aggressiveness. In the right system, with the right coaches, Oliver could develop into one of the best corners in the league.

Luke Falk



A productive college QB in an air raid system, Falk is a raw prospect. Mike Leach's system has him throw the ball 60 times a game and he barely took snaps from under center. Falk is a two time member of the All-Pac 12 team, and is the conference's all time leader in passing yards, 14,481, and touchdowns, 119.

Falk is a highly intelligent quarterback who has had experience at the college level and is able to make all the throws. His interception numbers are a little inflated because of the air raid system, but he needs to improve at identifying and throwing against zone coverage.

Arm strength isn't Falk's strongpoint, but in the right system with the right coaching staff, he could be a serviceable NFL starter for a while. His production should be enough to push him into the conversation to be picked on Day 2, with the potential to sit for a year or two before being handed the reins.

With that being said, let's take a look Falk's biggest strengths and weaknesses as a prospect.

Weaknesses

Arm Strength

While incredibly accurate, Falk doesn't have the strongest of arms. 74% of his passing attempts came from inside of 10 yards. While this isn't something that's going to be able to be fixed by an NFL team, it could rule out teams who don't run a true West Coast type system. When he does throw it down the field, he has a tendency to do it when he's pressured and off balance. This, combined with his arm strength leads to a bad result more often than a good one.

Field Vision

Falk was sacked 125 times during his college career, and a good bunch of those can be chalked up to him. He is very slow at identifying blitzers, and he has trouble completing his progressions. He can lead receivers into heavy traffic, and he threw most of his interceptions against zone coverage.

Strengths

Intelligence

Falk has the ability to thrive in an NFL offense because he is a highly intelligent QB. He should be able to learn anyone's system without many problems. He proved to be an excellent decision maker when given time in the pocket. He is excellent at knowing looking off the high safety.

Arm Talent

Falk is an incredibly accurate quarterback, as he also holds the Pac-12's all time completion percentage record, 68.31%. He is able to throw the ball everywhere, hits receivers in stride and attacks man coverage with excellent ball placement. He excels at throwing fade routes and deep outs. He can still throw accurate passes while off balance, and is always able to maintain an excellent spiral. He always maintains his quick release that rivals some of the NFL's best.

Production/Experience

Yes, anyone could be productive throwing as many times a game as Falk did. But, it's another thing to rewrite the conference's passing record book in every category. That shouldn't be overlooked come draft day, and teams should understand that QBs as experienced as Falk come around once in a blue moon. He can use that experience to help an NFL offense as he learns more about the pro game.

NFL Player Comparison

Chad Pennington

Teams With Need at Quarterback

Cleveland Browns, Arizona Cardinals, Buffalo Bills, Denver Broncos, New York Jets

Projection

New England Patriots (Pick 63)

Top: Falk during a home game against Oregon State in 2017

Where is the Greatest Setting in College Football?



Anywhere you go in the world of College Football, the fans are probably going to tell you their team plays in the best venue in the country. Every school has something unique that makes its stadium and tradition awesome. Everyone has a fight song, Wisconsin has “Jump Around” before every game, Virginia Tech has the “Hoakie Walk” to Enter Sandman by Metallica. After taking in as much college football as humanly possible, we decided to put this to the ultimate test, and find out where the best stadium really is.



Alabama, Clemson, Ohio State, Washington, North Dakota State, these are all names college football fans know when it comes to stadiums and atmospheres, but can they really come out on top?

First up is the juggernaut, Alabama. The reigning national champions, winners of two of the last three titles, and the school that secured the number one recruiting class in the nation for seven straight years. Bryant-Denney is a red and white bowl of rabid Alabama fans waving school colored pom-poms in unison. The team on the field is good enough, but the fans increase the atmosphere by 100 fold. Athletes feed off of their fans, the more energy they put in, the faster and harder the players play. I was able to sit down with Carter Henderson, associate athletic director at the University of Washington and graduate of another SEC school, the University of Florida, who talked about watching one of Florida’s biggest rivals. “When you look at everyone waving those red and white poms around, it’s intimidating. When I was at Florida, we were the better team, but watching them play at home, you felt it. We knew that team was coming in the SEC Championship, and that made it even more terrifying.” The biggest thing that makes Alabama stand out, is that to the state, college football is bigger than the NFL. Saturday is their Sunday, the whole state stops to watch college football. The passion of Alabama fans is unmatched.

Clemson. If this was an investigation into who had the best facilities, the conversation would be open and shut. The entrance from “The Hill” and touching Howard’s Rock is sacred at Death Valley. The orange balloons that get released, everyone dressing in orange, it’s a special atmosphere. Brett Musberger, a college football commentator with ESPN, along with many other broadcasters call “The most exciting 25 seconds in college football.” It’s hard not getting excited about the hill run, but the fans are rabid enough themselves. 81,500 fans

Top: Clemson’s Memorial Stadium, also known as Death Valley, in Clemson, South Carolina

Left: The Fargo Dome, home of the North Dakota State Bison in Fargo, North Dakota

that are still riding the wave of two straight national championship appearances in 2015 and 2016, and their first national title since 1981. Clemson is a football town if there ever was one, and their fans, combined with the incredible environment that Death Valley provides, make it one of the greatest settings in college football.

North Dakota State? Really? Yeah! For a lot of NCAA fans, this is the hidden gem of college football. The Fargodome in Fargo, North Dakota only holds 19,000 fans, but they're the wildest football fans you'll ever meet. Just ask Super Bowl winning quarterback and second overall pick in the 2016 NFL Draft Carson Wentz, "Playing football in Fargo has a total big-time feel. Everyone says it's FCS and it's a smaller school, but in Fargo, North Dakota, and in the state of North Dakota, NDSU football is the real deal." Calling it the real deal doesn't even begin to do it justice, as the Bison have won six of the last seven Division I-AA championships, so whenever you talk about the best venue in college football, don't forget the Bison of North Dakota State.

Playing football in Fargo has a total big-time feel. Everyone says it's FCS and it's a smaller school, but in Fargo, North Dakota, and in the state of North Dakota, NDSU football is the real deal."

The Big House. Never leave out Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan. The capacity is listed at 107,601 but if you ask any U of M fan, they'll tell you that the Big House holds closer to 115,000. I was able to talk to current University of Michigan student Jerry Goosenberg, who immediately threw his hat in the ring for the Big House. "Oh man, there's nothing like the Big House anywhere in the Big 10 or around the country. Alabama? Please. North Dakota State? They aren't even in the FBS! Michigan is where it's at, and when we win the 2019 [National Championship], the whole country will respect Michigan again." As Goosenberg made clear, the passion never wavers from the fans in maize and blue. Michigan is definitely one of the best places to play and watch a game in the country, but is it truly the best?

◇ A little bit south of Michigan is the most polarizing program in the country. You either hate them with every bone in your body, or you love them with every fathom of your existence. O-H...I-O. Ohio Stadium, known to most as the Horseshoe. A den of success and taking in high end recruits and churning out NFL players. Their fans know it. They fill up that 102,000 seat stadium every week and scream their hearts out for the Buckeyes. Not only have they been treated to tons of on field success, but their \$110 million athletics budget helps keep the fans rowdy with all the new uniforms and gear that they crave. Love them or hate them, this venue should be on your bucket list if you're a college football fan. It's rocking, it has a long history of tradition, and the on field product will probably be pretty good too. Just ask current Lasell College senior, and Ohio State football super fan Tyler Chrisman. "Oh there's no better place to watch a game. Not much has changed when it comes to the OSU traditions since my dad went there. The only difference is that the Horseshoe has become much more modern. I love the new, modern feel but I still feel the long standing tradition of OSU football."



Above: Ohio Stadium, also known as The Horseshoe, in Columbus



Enter Sandman. Most sports fans will think of the greatest closer in baseball history, Mariano Rivera. But in college football, think Virginia Tech. When the Hoakie Walk starts, and Enter Sandman starts to play, Virginia Tech turns into arguably the most rocking sports venue in the world. International soccer fans have nothing on Virginia Tech. When the whole stadium full of 65,000 maroon and orange clad Virginia Tech fans starts jumping around, you can't help but get hyped up. All the jumping can cause an earthquake, just like Seahawks fans did during Marshawn Lynch's famous rumble in the playoffs back in 2010. The tradition of Enter Sandman embodies what college football is all about, and this should also be on the bucket list of any college football fan. College football is and always has been a celebration, and Enter Sandman is one of the ultimate embodiments of that celebration, and single handedly puts Virginia Tech in contention. Lane Stadium is a great venue itself, but Enter Sandman puts it among the best in the country

Say your prayers, little one
Don't forget, my son
To include everyone
I tuck you in, warm within
Keep you free from sin
Till the sandman he comes

Exit: light
Enter: night
Take my hand
We're off to never never
land



UNDER ARMOUR

YOU ARE THE SUM OF
ALL YOUR TRAINING.

RULE YOURSELF.
I WILL.

Last but not least, Husky Stadium. The crown jewel of our writing staff in 2018 (I know, we talk about them a lot!). Most of the 21st century has been pretty tough for Husky football, but some upgrades on the field (literally, on the field) and on the coaching staff, has brought Washington back to the national prominence the program showed in the 80's and 90's. UW was one of the few stadiums in the country that still had its track in the football stadium. A project headed up by new athletic director Jennifer Cohen took care of that, moving the seats closer to the field and adding more seats. I had an opportunity to ask Cohen about the main reason she spearheaded this funding project, and she said, "This is truly the greatest setting in the country. Everyone around us is upgrading their facilities, and we wanted to show that the Huskies are still relevant."

As the program thrust itself back into the national spotlight, so did Husky Stadium, a stadium dubbed "The Greatest Setting in College Football" by Husky fans, students and employees. All you have to do is Google Husky Stadium, and you'll see that it's hard to disagree with them. Husky Stadium is one of two college football stadiums accessible by water. "Sailgating" as it's called in the Seattle area, is the art of driving your boat up to the stadium and tailgating on the boat. There's no other tailgating experience in college football that even comes close.

As I wrap this up, if you're reading this and thinking to yourself, "He didn't feature my school, what kind of article is this?" I do apologize. Choosing one venue out of so many is just too difficult, every venue is unique and has something different that makes it special. As I said earlier, college football is a celebration and every stadium does such a great job doing that. With that being said, making a decision on what stadium to pick was one of the hardest decisions I've ever had to make. Even after hours of research and deliberation amongst myself, I couldn't pick just one. But the one man jury ended up with a two stadium verdict. Visiting Husky Stadium is something every football fan should do, the second you walk step into the bleachers, your jaw will drop from the natural beauty in the background and the incredible facilities in the foreground. I also decided to choose Virginia Tech. The Enter Sandman tradition is something that everyone can be a part of without ever having attended the university. That one event is the true embodiment of sports, as it brings everyone together in a single, incredible celebration.

Travel to any of these stadiums and I promise you won't regret it, take in the celebration.



Above: Husky Stadium in Seattle, Washington

5 Questions for Washington Football in 2018

The Huskies have some high expectations going into 2018 and a lot of questions to answer. This team has lost a lot of pieces to graduation and the NFL Draft, yet some say they still have the talent to make the College Football Playoff.

Which Jake Browning will we see in 2018?

Will we see the Browning that holds the Pac-12 single season passing touchdown record? Or 2017 Browning who threw 19 touchdowns to 5 interceptions with 2,719 yards? Browning did lose top 10 pick John Ross coming into 2017, but now he won't have his top target from last season Dante Pettis. That's 22 touchdowns over the last two years to replace. Maybe spring ball will give us a good hint to his future production. Seattle Times beat writer Adam Jude said Browning was "the sharpest I've ever seen him." All of this about Browning's play and replacing production at receiver leads us into question two.



Who will replace Dante Pettis and become the number 1 target?

Dante Pettis is one of the biggest impact players in Pac-12 football history, and he will be missed. His punt return and receiving production will be hard to replace. Currently, Aaron Fuller is slotted in the depth chart to replace Pettis in the punt return game. While Fuller is an excellent athlete, in all likelihood he won't be able to match Pettis's production. On offense, expect a huge year out of Hunter Bryant if he's healthy. The freshman All-American proved he can be one of the country's best tight ends before suffering a knee injury against UCLA. Bryant is strong, fast and has great hands, everything any quarterback needs in a go to target. Aaron Fuller could be a candidate for a strong breakout season. According to Adam Jude, Browning and Fuller have meshed very well in spring camp, and Fuller should see a lot more time on the field this season. Look for Marquis Spiker and Ty Jones to work their way into the offense this season. Having both of these guys on the field at the same time will wreak havoc on opposing defenses.

Covering a guy like Jones who is 6'4 is tough enough, but then adding in 6'3 Spiker and 6'2 Hunter Bryant makes the UW receiving corps a group of skyscrapers. Having guys like that makes things much easier on the quarterback.



Top: Hunter Bryant at home against Cal Berkeley in 2017

Bottom: Jake Browning during the 2016 Apple Cup against Washington State

Who fills the biggest defensive hole in the country?

Literally and figuratively. Because literally, there are very few men bigger than Vita Vea. Vea was the 2017 Pac-12 defensive player of the year, (and in case you started reading from this article, our staff loves his NFL potential). Greg Gaines returning to Montlake is a good start, but not enough.

Outside linebacker Ryan Bowman should have a bigger impact in the pass rush this year, but he isn't enough either. Look for Jaylen Johnson and Levi Onwuzurike to work together to try to fill the hole left by Vea. Both have their own skill sets, and combining them might get back some of the production Vea takes with him to the NFL. Look for sophomore transfer Josiah Bronson to get some playing time late in some early games to try and prove himself. Don't forget the freshmen either, but more on them later.



What about the linebacker hole?

Keishawn Bierria is moving on to the NFL, and his role as both an on and off field leader will be hard to fill. Ben Burr-Kirven proved himself as an on field leader, and played exceptionally well at middle linebacker last year. There are lots of options at the other linebacker spot in the middle of the 3-4 defense, including 5 star recruit Ale (Brandon) Kaho, Brandon Wellington and DJ Beavers. Beavers proved that he can hang with the big boys during his freshman year after Azeem Victor broke his leg. Wellington has potential and a lot to prove during spring camp and into the fall. Ale Kaho, the highest rated recruit Chris Petersen has ever signed, will make an impact the second he steps on the field. Camilo Eifler also has a high ceiling and is taking reps at outside linebacker during spring camp. Chris Petersen has to try to find a way to get him on the field, he has so much potential athletically, and after two years on the bench, he should be ready to play. Don't forget Ariel Ngata, a 4 star linebacker recruit from last season who redshirted in 2017.



What's the Deal with the Recruits?

Who's going to play? Who's going to redshirt? This is a problem that Chris Petersen has never really had to deal with. He has always been able to get his OKG's (Our Kind of Guy), but now he can get them in a top 10 class. He has an abundance of riches, and position battles will be very interesting to watch this spring and into the summer. Most notably will be the quarterback position, where 4 stars Jacob Sirmon and Colson Yankoff will be dueling for the backup quarterback position. There will no doubt be a lot of stiff competition on defense too, especially on the defensive line. 4 stars Sam Taimani and Tuli Letuligasenoa will have their work cut out for them against the veterans. Seniors Jaylen Johnson and Greg Gaines will have an edge as seniors, but they shouldn't take these guys lightly. There will be a lot of great competition in camp this spring and summer, and if there's one thing Chris Petersen loves, it's competition.

Top: Jaylen Johnson warming up before Washington's matchup with Cal Berkley in 2016

Middle: 5 star recruit Ale Kaho



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SERIES PERFORM BETTER.™

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Letter From the Editor

To me, college football is one of the best sporting events in America. There's so much tradition, so many unique stadiums, uniforms and stories. Yes, you see this at every level of sport, but it is emphasized on the college football level. Some places around the country don't have their own professional teams, so to them, watching their school play is everything. Look at places like Alabama, North Dakota State, Ole Miss and Mississippi State, college football is their life. Singing their team's fight song, wearing school colors everywhere they go, it's a cult in its own right.

Roman Tomashoff is one of our senior editors and the founder of NCAA Today



Through the Years

On the left is a picture of me on the field at Husky Stadium in 2011 before it was remodeled. On the top is a picture of me and my dad after the 2017 Fiesta Bowl when Washington played Penn State.

My dad is an alumni of the University of Washington (before you say anything, the picks in this magazine were made by our whole staff, I was just incredibly excited to help make the pick for UW to be back on top in the Pac-12) and I was introduced to the cult at a very young age. When I was younger, my dad and I would set aside a weekend for whenever the Huskies would come down to us in Los Angeles and play UCLA or USC. Although they were some dark times for Husky Football (I've only seen the team win once in person, and I've been to eight games) my passion has never wavered. Now, the team is doing well and it's a great experience that I can share with my dad. I obsess over UW Football, write about them, even as I'm writing this I have a UW sweatshirt on. They've become engrained in my life whether I like it or not, and I know that this is how many other college football fans around the country feel. It's my passion, even though I didn't even go to Washington. I chose to go to school on the other side of the country, but doing that, especially going to a school without a football team, in New England, where the college football tradition isn't as rich, made my love for college football stronger.