

The Draft: State-by-State by Tony Villiotti

Most football fans could probably name the biggest producers of pro football talent (California, Texas and Florida) without thinking very hard. **DRAFTMETRICS** decided to review the subject, though, to get a sense of the order of magnitude of the players produced by those states and also go further down the food chain. This was done by reviewing the drafts from 1992-2011 and identifying each player's "hometown" and state, as reported by his first NFL team. There were 5079 players drafted between 1992 and 2011. Forty-seven of those players were from Canada or other foreign countries and the remaining 5032 from the United States. The study included only players from the United States.

DRAFTMETRICS looked at the following:

- Total players drafted from each state (including District of Columbia)
- Players drafted from each state on a per capita basis
- Playing positions of draftees from each state

A summary data page is included as Appendix 1.

Total Players Drafted

It certainly makes sense that the states with the largest populations would have the most players drafted and, in fact, the top three states in producing football talent are all in the top four states in population (only New York was high in population but further down the list in producing players). The states fell into six groupings as followings:

- California (656), Texas (558) and Florida (533) accounted for more than one-third of all drafted players
- The next three highest states provided almost 14% of all players drafted, meaning that six states account for about half the players drafted
 - Georgia (263), Ohio (221), Louisiana (205)
- Nine additional states had at least 100 players drafted including Virginia (179), Pennsylvania (162), North Carolina (159), Alabama (149), South Carolina (138), Illinois (134), Michigan (130), New Jersey (124), Mississippi (123)
- Eleven states had between 50 and 99 players drafted including New York (99), Tennessee (92), Washington (82), Arizona (74), Maryland (74), Oklahoma (70), Indiana (66), Missouri (66), Colorado (57), Wisconsin (52), Arkansas (50)
- Eleven states had between 20 and 49 players drafted including Kentucky (47), Oregon (43), Iowa (42), Hawaii (40), Nebraska (39), Minnesota (38), Massachusetts (37), Kansas (34), Utah (32), Connecticut (29), District of Columbia (27)

- Fourteen states had less than 20 players drafted including Nevada (16), Idaho (15), New Mexico (14), Montana (12), Wyoming (10), Alaska (9), Delaware (8), West Virginia (8), South Dakota (7), North Dakota (4), Rhode Island (4), New Hampshire (1), Maine (0), Vermont (0)

Players Drafted on a Per Capita Basis

DRAFTMETRICS then calculated per capita information based on each state’s population between the ages of 20 and 24 (based on 2010 data). The following table shows the number of draft selections per 1,000 people and their comparative ranking. The Southern states dominate in terms of turning out drafted football players. The four highest states and six of the top eight are “SEC” states and somewhat explains the success of that conference.

State	Number Drafted	Total Drafted Rank	Draftees per 1000 people	Per Capita Rank
Louisiana	205	6	.607	1
Mississippi	123	15	.583	2
Alabama	149	10	.445	3
Florida	533	3	.434	4
District of Columbia	27	37	.429	5
Hawaii	40	30	.417	6
South Carolina	138	11	.416	7
Georgia	263	4	.387	8
Virginia	179	7	.313	9
Texas	558	2	.307	10
Nebraska	39	31	.302	11
Ohio	221	5	.290	12
Oklahoma	70	21	.260	13
Arkansas	50	26	.250	14
Wyoming	10	42	.250	14
North Carolina	159	9	.240	16
California	656	1	.237	17
New Jersey	124	14	.229	18
Tennessee	92	17	.216	19
Iowa	42	29	.197	20
Michigan	130	13	.194	21
Maryland	74	20	.188	22
Pennsylvania	162	8	.185	23
Montana	12	41	.179	24
Washington	82	18	.177	25
Oregon	43	28	.170	26
Arizona	74	19	.167	27
Alaska	9	43	.167	27
Kansas	34	34	.167	27
Colorado	57	24	.163	30
Kentucky	47	27	.162	31
Missouri	66	23	.160	32
Illinois	134	12	.152	33
Indiana	66	22	.146	34
Utah	32	35	.141	35
Idaho	15	39	.139	36

State	Number Drafted	Total Drafted Rank	Draftees per 1000 people	Per Capita Rank
Wisconsin	52	25	.134	37
Connecticut	29	36	.127	38
Delaware	8	44	.125	39
South Dakota	7	46	.121	40
Minnesota	38	32	.107	41
New Mexico	14	40	.099	42
Nevada	16	38	.090	43
Massachusetts	37	33	.078	44
New York	99	16	.070	45
West Virginia	8	45	.068	46
North Dakota	4	47	.068	46
Rhode Island	4	47	.049	48
New Hampshire	1	49	.012	49
Maine	0	50	.000	50
Vermont	0	50	.000	50

Differences by Position

When looking at the draftees by State and by playing position a few things stand out. The most significant has to do with offensive and defensive linemen. About an equal number of offensive and defensive linemen were drafted during the 20-year study period. California (96 offensive; 79 defensive) and Texas (92 and 94) were pretty well balanced but a number of other states showed significant differences between the two. Probably not surprisingly, southern states tended to produce more defensive linemen while the midwestern and mid-atlantic states produce more offensive linemen

Selected Southern States			Selected Midwestern/Mid-Atlantic States		
	Offensive Linemen	Defensive Linemen		Offensive Linemen	Defensive Linemen
Florida	54	95	Illinois	35	19
Georgia	36	53	Iowa	14	5
Louisiana	24	36	Ohio	37	17
North Carolina	18	31	Pennsylvania	39	14
South Carolina	13	39	New York	24	16
Total	145	254	Total	149	71

A few other noteworthy items were as follows:

- California produces the most draftees at all positions except the defensive line, where Florida is the leader

- Florida does not produce as many QBs as would be expected
 - Texas produced twice as many and California three times as many
 - Ohio and Pennsylvania, with 150 fewer draft selections combined, had 26 QBs drafted versus 16 for Florida
- Florida also does not produce as many TEs as would be expected, with only eleven drafted
 - Pennsylvania with over 300 fewer draft choices overall had more than Florida
- Virginia produces a lot of running backs, trailing only the “Big 3” states

Appendix 1

**DRAFTMETRICS
State-by-State Data Sheet: 1992-2011**

	1st 3 Rounds	Rounds 4 and After	Total Selections	Positions Selected										Relevant Population (000s)	Draftees per Capital
				QB	RB	WR	TE	OL	DL	LB	DB	ST			
California	233	423	656	49	61	103	37	96	79	88	135	8	2766	0.237	
Texas	198	360	558	31	44	72	22	92	94	68	126	9	1817	0.307	
Florida	229	304	533	16	54	85	11	54	95	79	130	9	1229	0.434	
Georgia	105	158	263	7	21	32	9	36	53	38	61	6	680	0.387	
Ohio	93	128	221	13	22	30	10	37	17	33	53	6	763	0.290	
Louisiana	79	126	205	11	23	33	12	24	36	13	49	4	338	0.607	
Virginia	65	114	179	4	30	22	10	28	22	24	36	3	572	0.313	
Pennsylvania	66	96	162	13	19	16	14	39	14	18	26	3	874	0.185	
North Carolina	56	103	159	4	20	21	10	18	31	29	24	2	662	0.240	
Alabama	68	81	149	9	9	23	8	23	35	21	20	1	335	0.445	
South Carolina	68	70	138	4	12	14	3	13	39	16	35	2	332	0.416	
Illinois	44	90	134	5	10	12	11	35	19	21	19	2	879	0.152	
Michigan	50	80	130	5	18	17	11	21	24	16	17	1	669	0.194	
New Jersey	54	70	124	5	15	12	13	16	24	19	20	0	541	0.229	
Mississippi	40	83	123	4	10	15	5	21	24	14	29	1	211	0.583	
New York	30	69	99	0	10	7	8	24	16	15	17	2	1411	0.070	
Tennessee	35	57	92	7	7	10	4	14	19	13	12	6	426	0.216	
Washington	33	49	82	7	4	8	10	18	10	10	11	4	462	0.177	
Arizona	29	45	74	3	9	6	5	11	8	11	16	5	443	0.167	
Maryland	35	39	74	2	5	7	2	12	15	14	17	0	394	0.188	
Oklahoma	29	41	70	1	12	8	10	8	9	11	10	1	269	0.260	
Indiana	28	38	66	5	5	9	7	14	12	5	7	2	452	0.146	
Missouri	28	38	66	3	8	11	6	10	16	2	9	1	413	0.160	
Colorado	23	34	57	2	4	5	6	12	9	5	14	0	349	0.163	
Wisconsin	20	32	52	3	5	5	5	16	8	5	5	0	387	0.134	
Arkansas	16	34	50	0	8	5	2	13	11	3	8	0	200	0.250	
Kentucky	14	33	47	4	7	7	4	6	5	7	6	1	290	0.162	
Oregon	12	31	43	8	3	3	5	9	4	7	3	1	253	0.170	
Iowa	14	28	42	3	1	7	6	14	5	3	2	1	213	0.197	
Hawaii	18	22	40	0	2	3	2	16	12	2	1	2	96	0.417	
Nebraska	8	31	39	1	5	2	2	8	7	6	5	3	129	0.302	
Minnesota	10	28	38	1	3	5	4	11	4	5	5	0	356	0.107	
Massachusetts	10	27	37	4	6	1	2	11	6	6	1	0	476	0.078	
Kansas	7	27	34	0	3	4	7	2	6	6	6	0	204	0.167	
Utah	12	20	32	1	2	1	5	7	10	5	1	0	227	0.141	
Connecticut	7	22	29	1	3	2	1	10	6	3	3	0	228	0.127	
DC	10	17	27	1	1	6	3	4	8	2	2	0	63	0.429	
Nevada	2	14	16	1	2	0	0	1	1	8	3	0	178	0.090	
Idaho	3	12	15	2	1	1	3	3	1	4	0	0	108	0.139	
New Mexico	4	10	14	0	1	2	2	3	2	2	2	0	142	0.099	
Montana	3	9	12	1	1	1	0	3	3	1	1	1	67	0.179	
Wyoming	1	9	10	1	0	0	0	1	3	2	3	0	40	0.250	
Alaska	3	6	9	0	1	0	1	2	3	0	2	0	54	0.167	
Delaware	3	5	8	0	0	1	1	3	1	1	1	0	64	0.125	
West Virginia	3	5	8	0	1	1	0	3	2	0	1	0	117	0.068	
South Dakota	4	3	7	1	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	1	58	0.121	
North Dakota	1	3	4	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	59	0.068	
Rhode Island	1	3	4	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	82	0.049	
New Hampshire	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	85	0.012	
Maine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	80	0.000	
Vermont	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	0.000	
States Plus DC	1904	3128	5032	244	490	635	302	825	828	665	955	88	21587	0.23	
Canada	5	14	19	1	1	2	2	5	3	1	2	2			
Other Foreign	9	19	28	0	1	2	0	8	12	4	1	0			
All	1918	3161	5079	245	492	639	304	838	843	670	958	90			