

## Brown likely next Buff to go in draft

### Defensive back rated 15th best cornerback in NFL draft

**By Kyle Ringo** Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 04/29/2011 11:47:40 PM MDT

The phone never rang for former Colorado football players Jalil Brown and Scotty McKnight during the second and third rounds of the NFL draft, but it would have been a surprise for either player to be selected Friday evening.

Brown is expected to be drafted at some point today during the final four rounds beginning this morning.

He was part of the elite group of players invited to the Senior Bowl in January and the NFL combine in Indianapolis in February. NFLDraftScout ranks Brown as the 15th best cornerback in the draft. Some project Brown as a safety in the NFL.

McKnight is considered a late-round selection by some and others believe he will be signed as a free agent after the draft ends. McKnight is the Buffs' all-time leader in receptions and receiving touchdowns.

Both players would like to be drafted but really just want to have a chance to prove themselves in an NFL training camp in July and August.

"They think for me, the best way I show is when I'm on the field," McKnight said in a predraft interview when asked what his agents told him about his draft prospects. "Obviously, you played in a big conference, you were a captain and you put up good numbers. So they think that's what's best for me. ... They think the best thing for me is making the most of the opportunity once you get invited to a camp."

It's safe to say every NFL team has seen a lot of film of both players, particularly Brown, who played on the opposite side of the field throughout his career from Baltimore Ravens' first-round pick Jimmy Smith.

Brown finished his career having made 167 tackles, six interceptions and 21 passes defended, 12th best in CU history. But another aspect of Brown's game might be what attracts a team to select him today.

Brown was a regular contributor on several special teams units throughout his career and left the program having earned the sixth most special teams points in CU history.

CU coach Jon Embree, who spent four of the past five football seasons in the NFL with the Kansas City and Washington, said a player's ability to contribute on special teams is often the difference between making the team and having an NFL dream cut short.

"If you want to play in the NFL, you better learn to play special teams," Embree said earlier this year relating a conversation he had with CU running back Rodney Stewart. "If you're not the number one guy and you don't play special teams, you're out of the league."

Meanwhile, as Brown and McKnight continued to wait Friday to see where they will get their start in the NFL, former Buffs Nate Solder and Jimmy Smith spent the day traveling to visit the organizations that selected them in the first round Thursday.

Smith, who was taken 27th overall by Baltimore, met with All-Pro linebacker Ray Lewis when he arrived at team headquarters and told reporters he hopes to help the Ravens win a Super Bowl.

Solder also was introduced to media in the Boston area after taking a 6 a.m., flight from Colorado to the East Coast. Solder was drafted No. 17 overall Thursday, the earliest a CU player has been taken in the draft since Daniel Graham was selected with the 21st overall pick in 2002.

"I've always held this place in really high regard," Solder said. "I have a ton of respect for the players and for Mr. Kraft and what he's built here and this is an amazing place. I would not rather be any other place in the world, actually."

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nfl draft

## NFL teams ignore Coloradans in draft's Day 2

**By Tom Kensler**  
*The Denver Post*

Posted: 04/30/2011 01:00:00 AM MDT

Updated: 04/30/2011 01:25:32 AM MDT

Today could be a bigger day than expected for area players in the NFL draft — primarily because Friday night became a dud.

No players with local ties were selected in rounds two and three, leaving former Colorado cornerback Jalil Brown and ex-Nebraska defensive end Pierre Allen (Thomas Jefferson High School) perhaps facing the prospect of a restless night.

Brown was overshadowed by fellow cornerback Jimmy Smith at CU, but like the Baltimore Ravens' first-round draft choice, Brown is a relatively big cornerback (6 feet, 202 pounds) who can run.

Although Brown got beat on deep balls more than pro scouts would like, his gambling nature and quick feet allowed him to make plays. Brown recorded a total of five

interceptions as a junior and senior, his two seasons as a full-time starter for the Buffaloes.

Brown ought to have good ball skills. He was a 1,900-yard rusher as a senior high school player in the Phoenix area.

"I thought I was pretty good with the ball in my hands," Brown told The Denver Post recently.

Allen possesses long arms and plus athleticism. According to draft analysts, NFL scouts have cited his lack of big-time production as a concern.

Allen, 6-4 and 273 pounds, averaged 4 1/2 sacks per season in his three years as a starter, including only 3 1/2 sacks last fall as a senior. And some may wonder what position he will play at the next level. He's not a conventional pass rusher or run stopper.

"Wherever they want to line me up, I'll do it," Allen told The Post previously.

Other area prospects with the best chance to be taken today in the final four rounds include wide receiver Scotty McKnight, Colorado's all-time leader in receptions, and linebacker Marc Schiechl, a sack specialist at Colorado School of Mines.

A half-dozen or so other players with Colorado ties could get free-agent invitations after the draft.

Meanwhile, in the Boston area, former Colorado standout and first-round draft choice Nate Solder told media members that cover the New England Patriots that, yes, he grew up a Broncos fan but, no, it won't be difficult to change his



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allegiance.

"Oh, it's very easy to switch," the towering left tackle said Friday, no doubt bleary-eyed after taking a 6 a.m. flight from Denver. "I'm very happy to be here. I've always been rooting for the Patriots because they have had a lot of great years. It hasn't been hard to be a fan of the Patriots."

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Friday, April 29, 2011

## J. Kraft on Solder: 'Unbelievable kid'

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By Mike Rodak

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. -- Patriots president Jonathan Kraft was a guest on WEEI sports radio this afternoon, touching on Patriots first round draft choice Nate Solder and the team's plans during tonight's second and third rounds of the 2011 NFL Draft.

"Unbelievable kid," Kraft said of Solder. "Now we're going to have Matt Light - don't want to exclude Matt, I know he's not under contract. [But] when you look at Sebastian [Vollmer] and Nate, they don't look like what I used to think of as a tackle. They're tall, they look lean and athletic. You used to think of the big butt, big thighs, you could plant and not get moved. These guys [though] are just specimens."

"People know offensive line is an area where we need to stock up with younger players," Kraft said.

Kraft also defended the team's trade that sent the second of their first-round selections last night (28th overall) to New Orleans for a second-round choice this year (56th overall) and a first-round pick next year.

"Savvy people understand [you make that trade] when you have the 28th pick in the first round and you have a chance to trade the 28th for the 56th and a first next year," Kraft said. "When you have a roster that is more set than rest of league ... we had six picks in first three rounds. We were 14-2 last year."

"If you can trade back [28] picks, pick up a first rounder next year and you know you have the 33rd pick and there's still a bunch of guys on the board you'd be happy with, I think our fans understand that," Kraft continued. "That doesn't mean Mark Ingram is bad player. It just means that's what in the long-term best interests in our team, to keep it competitive."

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**ESPN**

Friday, April 29, 2011

## Solder gets winning feel at Gillette

By Mike Reiss & Mike Rodak

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. -- When Patriots first-round draft choice Nate Solder walked around Gillette Stadium for the first time Friday, flanked by owner Robert Kraft, he was reminded of some special memories that have taken place here.

"Mr. Kraft was the one who pointed out the impressive record they

have here at the stadium," Solder said after the traditional photo shoot with the team's top draft choice. "So that was the first thought that came to mind, they win a lot of games here. They do things right here."

The Patriots are 67-15 at Gillette (including playoffs) since the stadium opened in 2002, a mark that Solder hopes to improve upon in the coming years.

It has been a long day for Solder, who boarded a 6 a.m. flight out of Colorado, yet his energy level remained high when he posed for pictures with Robert Kraft and president Jonathan Kraft at the 50-yard line around 4:45 p.m.

Wearing a suit, vest and tie, along with a red Patriots cap, Solder held the standard No. 1 jersey in front of him as cameras snapped away. He then answered questions from reporters, looking comfortable in the spotlight, laughing at times and explaining details of his day that included meetings with the Krafts, Bill Belichick and offensive line coach Dante Scarnecchia.

"I've always held this place in really high regard," said Solder, who has only briefly visited New England in the past, for the Walter Camp All-American banquet. "I have a ton of respect for the players, Mr. Kraft, and what he's built here. This is an amazing place and I would not rather be anywhere else in the world, actually."

In a light moment at the start of the photo shoot, Robert Kraft joked that Scarnecchia, now in his 27th Patriots season, had been with the team for more years than Solder had been alive (23).

Kraft also relayed that he asked Solder for a story he could relay to the media about his connection to the Patriots. Solder explained that his name doesn't have an "i" in it, which reflects he's a "team guy all the way."

"That just says it all," Kraft said.



The Patriots introduced first-round pick Nate Solder at Gillette Stadium on Friday.

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## Solder eager to join competition

By Monique Walker

Globe Staff / April 30, 2011

FOXBOROUGH — In the hours after offensive tackle Nate Solder became a New England Patriot, he stopped planning.

At 6 a.m. yesterday, he was on a flight east and the Colorado native didn't know what to expect.

So the Patriots' first-round pick said he took a reactionary approach.

"They tell me to go here, I go there," Solder said. "They tell me go there, you know. So, five minutes at a time. I'm not even sure what the schedule is at this point."

Life may not be much different for Solder when his rookie season officially begins.

Solder arrived at Gillette Stadium yesterday and was given quick introductions to Bill Belichick and the coaching staff. Patriots owner Robert Kraft and team president Jonathan Kraft walked Solder around the stadium and introduced him to the media.

As Solder walked the field, his 6-foot-8-inch, 319-pound frame was difficult to miss. In his first time visiting New England, Solder said the history of Gillette Stadium made an impact on him.

"I think Mr. Kraft was the one who pointed out the impressive record that they have here at this stadium, so that was the first thought to come to mind is they win a lot of games here. They do things right here," Solder said.

Being part of that tradition is a goal for Solder. After redshirting his freshman season at Colorado, Solder spent one season as a tight end. He then took his coach's advice and moved to left tackle, becoming the starter in his sophomore season.

He's only played on the left side as a tackle. He was an All-American in his final season and was one of four captains.

"I've always been a guy who is about competition," Solder said. "I think competition makes everyone better. I came here to compete for a position and that's what I plan on doing."

Some questions were raised after Solder had only 21 reps of 225 pounds at the NFL scouting combine. The performance may have fallen below expectations, but Solder said he was not swayed by criticism.

"I've never really paid too much attention to analysts," Solder said. "I've always felt that I'm a strong, powerful player, but I always have things to develop and get better at."

One thing that attracted the Patriots was his athleticism, Belichick said. Solder was a multisport athlete at Buena Vista High School in Colorado and almost played college basketball at Dartmouth.

"There are certainly a number of tackles who started off at tight end and kind of grew into the position," Belichick said. "But you know, Nate was a three-sport athlete in high school, so you get some idea of his athletic ability there. And certainly when you watch him play, you watch him pull, you watch him run, you watch his athleticism, for a big guy, he moves well. He's pretty light on his feet, and I think you see that all the way through."

"You saw it in high school, you saw it earlier in his career, but even though he's put on the weight and gone from 280 or whatever it is three years ago to 315 or whatever the exact numbers are.

"It's been a solid progression, but athletically he still handles himself pretty well for that weight."

Solder knows he has much to improve on, and he is most excited about getting the chance to prove himself.

"Kind of like coming out of high school, there are a lot of things that you are going to develop and get better at," Solder said. "And I think I have a lot of things to get better at."

"The great thing about being here is there are such great coaches with Coach [Dante] Scarnecchia and Coach Belichick. And I look forward to the opportunity to get better."

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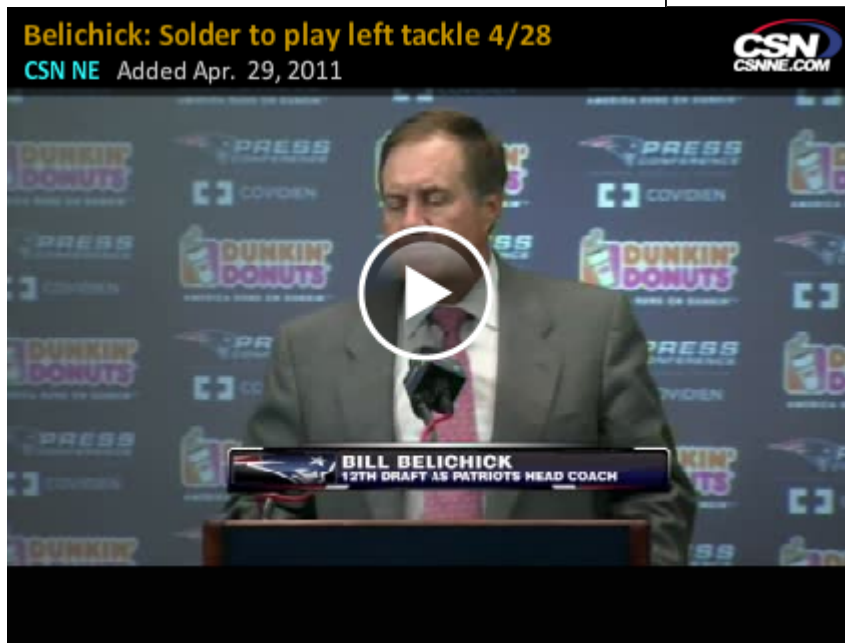
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## Nate Solder adds beef up front

By Ian R. Rapoport | Friday, April 29, 2011 | <http://www.bostonherald.com> | **N.E. Patriots**



Photo by John Wilcox



NEW YORK — To no one's surprise, the **Patriots** [[team stats](#)] pulled off another NFL draft surprise.

With the 17th overall selection, they didn't trade down (yet) or pick a coveted pass-rusher. Instead, they selected a player at a position most pundits ignored.

The Pats nabbed Colorado offensive tackle Nate Solder with their first pick in the first round, grabbing a player with a high ceiling who they hope will protect quarterback **Tom Brady** [[stats](#)] for years.



"I think Tom Brady is a great quarterback," Solder said, "and I'm looking forward to the privilege of playing for the Patriots."

In doing so, the Patriots eschewed several talented defensive players still on the board at Radio City Music Hall, while allowing Alabama running back Mark Ingram to fall past them.

At that point, the Patriots traded out of the first round, handing Ingram to the Saints with the 28th pick and taking New Orleans' 56th pick this year and first rounder for 2012. It was a classic **Bill Belichick** move, giving the Pats three second-round picks and two third-rounders tonight.

"I didn't know what was going to happen, you hear a lot of different things," Ingram said, "just waiting around, trying to enjoy the moment with my family."

The 6-foot-8 Solder, who draws comparison to Patriots right tackle Sebastian Vollmer, had a visit with New England canceled right before he was set to report. He did eventually meet with offensive line coach Dante Scarnecchia on Monday.

Asked why it took so long to set up a visit, Belichick quipped, "Colorado's not on the way to too much." The Patriots did do their work on the former high school tight end, gaining intelligence from new assistant strength coach Moses Cabrera, formerly a Buffalo.

But did they just end the **Matt Light [stats]** era in New England? The player rep, who held a Lockout Breakfast on Tuesday, is a free agent who'd like to return.

"(Solder) has played left tackle," Belichick said of the three-year starter. "That will be his position in the National Football League. Nate was a player that we've been on for a long time."

Early on, things fell the Patriots way. Three quarterbacks were picked in the top 10. That allowed defensive players to fall to the Pats, if they wanted them.

Clemson's Da'Quan Bowers, Iowa's Adrian Clayborn, California's Cameron Jordan, and Illinois' Corey Liuget were all on the board.

Meanwhile, fan favorite North Carolina defensive end Robert Quinn went to the Rams at No. 14, while Florida's center Mike Pouncey went to the Dolphins at No. 15.

The Pats wound up with Solder.

"I was sitting there hoping and praying they picked me because it's such a great organization," Solder said from his parents' bed-and-breakfast in Colorado. "I have a lot to work on. The great thing about that is I'm a coachable player."

No one could quite figure out what Belichick and the Pats brain trust would do.

All week, rumors swirled about the Patriots' intentions. Would they trade up to select an elite defender or receiver? Trade down to accommodate a team searching for a late-first round quarterback? In the end, they stayed put at 17 and traded 28.

"I don't think it got to the point it was too tense in there," Belichick said of trade talks. "We felt pretty good about what was on the board, having Nate there."

Yesterday, Belichick traded down in the first round for the second consecutive year. They wound up with more ammunition for the future, while potentially solidifying their offensive line for the next decade.

In the athletic, talented zone-blocking Solder, they got a smart player who only missed two snaps in three years.

"When they told me I missed two snaps," Solder said, "I had to think about what the heck happened because I couldn't remember missing those two snaps."

As for competing with Light and Vollmer, Solder was diplomatic.

"I have all the respect in the world for those guys," he said. "I know this: competition makes everyone better."

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## Nate Solder Impressed With First Look at Gillette Stadium

by [Jeff Howe](#) on Fri, Apr 29, 2011 at 8:10PM

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FOXBORO, Mass. -- Patriots first-round pick **Nate Solder** got his first chance to tour Gillette Stadium on Friday afternoon, and the wide-eyed left tackle was impressed with what he saw.

Solder, the 17th pick Thursday night, had a 6 a.m. flight from Colorado on Friday morning. He met with head coach **Bill Belichick** and owner **Robert Kraft**, among others, during his tour through his new facility.

"I've always held this place in really high regard," Solder said. "I have a ton of respect for the players and for Mr. Kraft and what he's built here and this is an amazing place. I would not rather be any other place in the world, actually."

Solder wore No. 78 at Colorado, so he'll be looking for a different jersey number in New England, though he wouldn't offer a preference. Solder also grew up as a Broncos fan, so he laughed about yet another conversion of allegiance.

It's all part of the 24-hour whirlwind for a first-round pick, but despite the chaos, he was happy with his first impression.

"They win a lot of games here," Solder said. "They do things right here."

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### About the Author

Jeff Howe has been NESN.com's Patriots beat reporter since 2009, and he has covered the pro sports scene in Boston since 2006. Howe grew up in Lowell and is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts. [Follow Jeff on Twitter](#). Have a question for Jeff? Send it to [his mailbag](#).

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# Nate Solder's Country Background Will Make Him a Hit With Patriots' Offensive Linemen

by [Jeff Howe](#) on Fri, Apr 29, 2011 at 1:14AM

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FOXBORO, Mass. -- **Nate Solder** was kicking back at his parents' bed and breakfast on Thursday night in Colorado, just relaxing while watching the draft. He's a country boy who will fit in just fine with the rest of the Patriots' offensive linemen.

Solder, a hunter who has killed -- and eaten -- an elk and a deer, won't have much trouble finding conversation with his new linemates.



"Game meat is the best," Solder said about his trips to the grocery store in the wilderness. "It's funny when you go hunting. You kind of get hungry. I enjoyed both of them, actually."

The pick was certainly surprising, but the Patriots might have wanted it that way. They were scheduled to host him at Gillette Stadium earlier this month before canceling his trip a day before. Then, offensive line coach **Dante Scarnecchia** made an under-the-radar visit to Solder's headquarters on Monday. Other than that, Solder said he had "fairly limited" contact with New England.

"I was sitting there hoping and praying that they would pick me because it's such a great organization," Solder said.

Solder might be best developing for a season before jumping into starting duty, so his addition might not mean the end of the line for left tackle **Matt Light**, who has been the Patriots' starter for 10 seasons and three Super Bowl victories.

If Light returns, he'll likely be the starter at left tackle with **Sebastian Vollmer** on the right side. But without Light, Solder would most likely be the left tackle, both of the present and future, because he's never played on the right side. At the very least, it should spark an interesting competition once training camp opens.

"I have all the respect in the world for those guys," Solder said. "I know competition makes everyone better, so that's going to be a great opportunity."

Head coach **Bill Belichick** has scouted Solder for awhile and got good reviews from Scarnecchia and newly hired assistant strength and conditioning coach **Moses Cabrera**, who was hired from Colorado.

"Nate was a player that we've been on for a long time," Belichick said. "We hired Moses, who was at Colorado last year. He certainly gave us a little insight. Nate's been a solid player for Colorado at left tackle. Certainly, there's a lot of things he'll need to do to improve, but I feel like he's a good talented guy, a hardworking kid. If he can keep doing that, I think he'll be able to contribute for us."

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## About the Author


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Posted on Sat, Apr. 30, 2011

## New Raven Smith more than a character issue

By KEVIN VAN VALKENBURG  
The Baltimore Sun

When ESPN and NFL Network announced Thursday night that the Ravens were about to select Jimmy Smith, a talented cornerback from Colorado, their cameras cut to a shot of him surrounded by friends, family and his agent, Drew Rosenhaus.

Ravens fans saw Smith holding a phone to his ear and scowling. Instead of a suit, he was wearing a black T-shirt with an image from the movie "Scarface" on the front. He looked about the way you would expect a frustrated young man to look after he had just spent several hours listening to critics question his character on live television without getting a chance to offer a rebuttal: mad.

But suddenly, it was obvious that the broadcast was being shown on a seven-second delay, and when Smith got word from the Ravens that he was going to be their first-round pick, the 22-year-old broke into one of the warmest smiles of the night. Suddenly, he looked anything but menacing. He looked all at once exhilarated and relieved and eager to join the Ravens.

So who is Jimmy Smith, exactly? Is he the serious character risk he was often portrayed as before the draft? A young man with a laundry list of mistakes, including issues with alcohol and drugs, to the point where his bad decisions nearly overshadowed his talent?

Or is he a good kid who was labeled a "punk" and a "thug" somewhat unfairly simply because he is from a very rough part of Los Angeles and got into some minor trouble his first two years at Colorado before maturing and earning his degree?

Smith would contend the main reason people have been so quick to question his character is he has made no effort to hide his mistakes. When Smith was asked how he convinced the Ravens that his mistakes shouldn't prevent them from selecting him in the first round, he said it came down to telling the truth.

"It was just basically going in and being honest, putting everything on the table and letting them know that I was about business," Smith said. "The things that I did are old mistakes and bad decisions that I made when I was younger and immature. It's in the past now, and I'm just trying to be the best player and person off the field for the Ravens that I can possibly be."

Smith's high school coach, Harold Strauss, said it was a little discouraging to watch someone he believes is a good kid criticized so heavily before the draft. But every NFL team that called Strauss - and he said there were close to 15, including the Ravens - heard stories about a smart, coachable player who didn't get into trouble and was always willing to participate in the Colton High football team's community service projects.

"I think my wife took it lot harder than I did," Strauss said of the criticism of Smith. "She kept saying to me: 'Why are they saying that about him? He's a good kid.' I just told her that it's all a business. I think it's kind of neat to see the way he's matured. He had some growing pains when he went off to college, but I think some of that was because we kept him under such a tight leash when he was in high school. Once he got a little bit of freedom, he made some mistakes, but after the first two years, I don't think he ever got in trouble."

Smith had to overcome plenty just to get to the point where a coach like Strauss - who won 228 games during his career - could help shape his life for the better. In a series written by The Denver Post, Smith explained how he grew up in one of the poorest parts of Colton, a town of 50,000 people that butts up against Interstate 10 about 60 miles east of Los Angeles.

"It's a rough neighborhood," Smith told the Post. "A lot of gangs. A lot of gang violence. A lot of people get shot and killed all the time."

Smith's father left his family when he was 9 years old, and he and his mother and brothers spent time living in shelters when money was particularly tight. Athletics, as well as the singular focus of Smith's mother, Terry Webster, helped keep the family together. Smith has four older brothers; all of them played college football.

"I had them play football because it gave them structure," Webster told the Post. "I believe with kids, you've got to give them something to do because if you don't give them something to do, the devil's going to give them something to do."

Smith transferred from San Bernadino High to Colton after his freshman year, the same year Strauss became Colton's coach. Strauss was immediately impressed with Smith's innate feel for the game.

"He was naturally big, and he had great hands," Strauss said. "He was always polite and respectful, too, and very easy to coach. He was very charismatic. He has that million-dollar smile, which is probably a good thing and a bad thing at times."

Smith helped Colton evolve from a doormat into a contender, and soon the big college programs came calling. His mother, however, insisted he attend school out of state. She wanted him to experience new people and places and stay away from the trouble she suspected he would find closer to home. That's how he ended up at Colorado, where he blossomed into an elite NFL prospect. Whatever issues NFL teams have with Smith's character, no one questions his abilities.

"I think I bring passion to the game and competitiveness," Smith said. "I'm a very smart player. As far as cornerback, I have size, I can tackle and I can cover well. I think I bring a lot to a defense. If they scheme around me and try to lock me up on a man, I feel like I'm that guy who can lock up."

Smith's stock began slipping when he declined an invitation to play in the Senior Bowl, and at the combine. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel published a story that included a survey of 24 team executives asking whether they would draft Smith. Thirteen said yes, but 11 said they wouldn't touch him. The story also said Smith told one team at the combine that one of his failed drug tests was for abusing codeine. But within the same story, one executive said without character questions, Smith would easily have been rated a top-10 player in the draft.

The Ravens felt after they researched Smith's background that he was no more of a gamble than any first-round pick and that the structure of their organization would help him transition to the NFL.

"Every pick, there is some bit of a gamble in it," Ravens general manager Ozzie Newsome said. "But we trust our process. We trust the people that got the opportunity to spend time with him. We trust the people that are in this building that are going to be interacting with him on a day-to-day basis, and we also got to know Jimmy - what his aspirations (are) and what he wants to do and what he wants to be."

Smith said he wasn't disappointed that he slipped in the draft, even if it might have cost him several million dollars. In the end, he said, he gets to play with players like Ray Lewis, Ed Reed and Haloti Ngata.

"I'm more excited about that than everything else, just to know that I have basically three Hall of Famers playing defense and they are going to be the guys to teach me how to be a better player," Smith said. "Who else would you want to learn from than an Ed Reed, Ray Lewis and Haloti Ngata? It's truly a blessing to have players like that to be on the team with."

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APRIL 30, 2011

## Torrey Smith defends Jimmy Smith during news conference

It didn't take long during Saturday's introductory news conference to see that the Ravens' top two draft picks in 2011 share more of a connection than both having the birth name James Smith.

After Colorado cornerback Jimmy Smith answered another question about character issues, Maryland wide receiver Torrey Smith stepped in unprompted to defend the Ravens' first-round pick.

"I've had the opportunity to get know Jimmy myself over the process," said Torrey Smith, a second-round pick who shares the same agent (Drew Rosenhaus) as Jimmy Smith and shared the same room during their pre-draft visit to the Ravens. "He's a great guy. The way the media tries to portray him, that's not him. He's a great guy. He's down to earth. The things are in the past. I feel like people should focus more so on what he's about to do from this day forward."

Jimmy Smith's red flags failed drug tests and two arrests for possession of alcohol as a minor, which is a major reason why the cornerback fell to the Ravens near the bottom of the first round.

"I want people to know that I don't have any character issues; I made bad decisions when I was a young kid just like most Americans," Jimmy Smith said. "I'm not going to come in here and try to make this organization look bad. These two gentlemen are putting their necks on the line for me, so im going to make sure I do whatever I can to make sure they look good at all times as well as me and my whole family."

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