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## One last NFL draft look at Colorado and Colorado State prospects

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*The Denver Post*

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Several former Buffaloes will make their cases for NFL scouts and personnel executives Wednesday in Boulder.

It is CU's turn on the pro day circuit, beginning at 9:15 a.m. or so — Colorado State will have its pro day in the early afternoon — with a group that could include two first-round picks in tackle Nate Solder and cornerback Jimmy Smith. Ten players are expected to take part in the exercises.

The last time the school had two first-round picks was in 1997, when the Saints took Chris Naeole at No. 10 overall and the Panthers selected Rae Carruth 27th overall. Broncos director of college scouting Matt Russell was a fourth-round selection by the Detroit Lions that

year as well.

Given their top-tier performances at the scouting combine in Indianapolis about a week ago, Solder and Smith may not do much beyond position drills, if even that.

Neither could improve their already lofty draft stock by running an additional 40-yard dash or two. Solder, especially, could be the first tackle off the board, given the athleticism he has shown, as well as the belief he will add weight and strength without losing flexibility.

There is a chance Solder could be a top-10 pick — that's where some teams are eyeing him at the moment.

Wednesday will be another chance for any offensive line coaches in attendance to talk to him a little more and ask additional questions. Teams can also set up or confirm on-site visits as well, where they bring in prospects to their team facilities to meet with coaches and trainers.

Teams don't question Smith's ability and potential on the field, but they want to continue to discuss off-field questions they might have before the draft. His ability to be a first-round pick will be directly related to how comfortable he can make teams about his work ethic and ability to avoid trouble as a pro.

Cornerback Jalil Brown, who has continued to help himself with his work at the

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Colorado defensive back Jimmy Smith runs a drill during the scouting combine in Indianapolis on March 1. (Darron Cummings, The Associated Press)

For most prospects, who have been training since the end of their collegiate seasons, it means the first break in the workout schedule before they report to their respective NFL teams.

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Senior Bowl and the scouting combine, will have another chance to get in front of teams.

At just over 6 feet tall and 204 pounds, Brown has the size that pushes cornerbacks up the board during draft weekend. He could potentially be a second-day pick — the second and third rounds take place on the draft's second day — if he continues to climb in the coming weeks.

For CSU, most scouts believe long snapper Scott Albritton is the best prospect this year. Albritton suffered a season-ending knee injury against TCU in early October.

Pro days, beyond the top-tier quarterback who shows his arm strength with NFL routes, are usually a last-check glance at a prospect working on the field.

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