

Former Buff suffered concussion Saturday

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CLEVELAND -- Browns offensive lineman Ryan Miller returned to the team's training facility on Sunday and began the NFL's concussion protocol after being knocked unconscious during practice.

The former University of Colorado standout was rushed to the Cleveland Clinic on Saturday after his frightening injury during a routine blocking drill brought the Browns' indoor workout to a standstill. The 6-foot-7, 320-pounder, who was released from the hospital after a few hours, will be monitored by the medical staff and must pass a series of tests before he can return to the field.

Browns coach Rob Chudzinski said he visited Miller on Saturday night.

Miller was taking part in one-on-one blocking drills inside the team's indoor field house when he dropped after making contact with his helmet. He lay motionless for several minutes, and his teammates huddled around him in prayer as he was immobilized and strapped to a backboard. The Browns initially feared Miller had suffered a devastating injury, and were relieved to learn he was responsive and moving his limbs.

Browns linebacker D'Qwell Jackson said the only other time he experienced anything as scary was when former Browns kick returner Josh Cribbs was knocked out last season in Baltimore.

"I've only witnessed it a few times and anytime that happens you just pray and just hope for the best and hope everything is OK," said Jackson. "I'll tell you what, it made everyone realize that at any moment anything can happen."

The Browns drafted Miller in the fifth round out of Colorado last year. He played in eight games as a rookie and is expected to begin this season in a backup role behind Pro Bowl starter Joe Thomas and Mitchell Schwartz.

Former Browns quarterback Colt McCoy sustained a head injury at Pittsburgh two years ago that prompted the league to change its in-game handling of concussions.

Undrafted free agent defensive linemen Pericak and Larsen continue to draw praise

Matt Zenitz Times Staff Writer | Posted: Sunday, July 28, 2013 11:11 pm

OWINGS MILLS — A month ago, Ravens Pro Bowl defensive linemen Haloti Ngata singled out undrafted free agent linemen Will Pericak and Cody Larsen for their play during Baltimore's mandatory minicamp.

The two apparently have continued to make an impression on teammates and coaches through the first week of training camp.

"I'll tell you what, those guys are something else," Ravens defensive linemen Chris Canty said of Pericak and Larsen. "They are very strong, powerful defensive linemen. They just go to work. They don't get tired. They play technique. They are solid. They are fundamentally sound. That's impressive to see when you are talking about a young defensive lineman.

"Usually it takes two to three years for them to understand that, but those guys get it right off the bat. They are impressive. The scouting department did their homework when they found those guys because they can really play ball."

The 6-foot-4, 285-pound Pericak was a four-year starter at defensive tackle at Colorado and was selected honorable mention All-Big 12 during each of his final three collegiate seasons. He had 62 tackles, six tackles for a loss, two sacks and four forced fumbles as a senior last season.

The 6-foot-4, 300-pound Larsen was a four-year starter at Southern Utah of the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS).

Larsen was a three-time all-conference selection at Southern Utah and an FCS second-team All-American as a senior last season.

At his Pro Day in March, Larsen ran the 40-yard dash in 5.06 seconds, considered a solid time for a player of his size, and he did 40 repetitions of 225 pounds on the bench press, two more than any player did at the NFL Scouting Combine in February.

Both players are considered long shots to make the Ravens' roster because of Baltimore's depth along the defensive line. But if nothing else, the two appeared to make an impression during the spring and seem to be further impressing so far during training camp.

"[It's] just the same that we've seen of them through the spring – tremendous work," Baltimore defensive line coach Clarence Brooks said Friday. "[They are] really, really tough, hardnosed kids. They both work their butts off. They are both very, very smart football players, and they are both physical football players.

“We really, really like what we are seeing in them. ... We are happy to have them.”