



Packers draft ex-Buff LB Jones; Jags sign Hypolite

By Ryan Thorburn
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BOULDER, Colo. — Brad Jones remained calm and patient as the seventh round of the NFL draft began on Sunday.

"I wouldn't care if I didn't get a call until two days from now," Jones said during a telephone interview with the Camera. "No matter where I was picked or if I was an undrafted free agent, I'm going to work the same."

The former Colorado linebacker was selected by Green Bay in the seventh and final round with the 218th overall pick. The Packers are switching to a 3-4 defense this year and believe there is a place for Jones in the team's new scheme.

"Brad Jones is a very interesting player," Green Bay general manager Ted Thompson said during his post-draft press conference. "We started watching a lot of tape on him over the course of the last month. The more you watch, the more you like. And he lines up everywhere. He'll line up as a pass rusher with his hand down. He'll rush from the inside linebacker spot. I've seen him detach from the formation and play over the slot, not unlike what USC did with Clay (Matthews), they moved him all around as well."

"I think he gives us a guy that can really run, has coverage ability, and is a pretty productive pass rusher, so we thought he was a nice get there in the seventh round."

The versatile Jones -- the only CU player drafted this year -- started all 12 games at outside linebacker for the Buffs last season, earning honorable mention All-Big 12 honors from both the Associated Press and the league coaches.

The 6-foot-3, 235-pound Jones played the third most snaps on defense (707), racking up 78 tackles, of which 48 were solo and 14 for losses, including seven sacks (the latter two both team highs).

Jones was not invited to the scouting combine in Indianapolis -- none of the draft-eligible Buffs were -- but he impressed the scouts who showed up at CU's pro timing day last month and had "about six teams" calling his cell phone on Sunday telling him they were considering him in rounds 5-7.

"The Packers were one of those teams," Jones said. "But I was surprised they took me in the seventh round."

Even if Jones doesn't crack the linebacker rotation as a rookie there is a strong chance he will be running around Lambeau Field on special teams.

Jones will be heading to Green Bay on Thursday to participate in his first NFL minicamp this weekend.

He will be reunited with former CU teammate Mason Crosby, who has established himself as one of the best place-kickers in the league.

"It's definitely part of a dream realized," Brown said of hearing his name called in the NFL draft. "But the real work starts when I arrive there."

Meanwhile, two former Buffs signed as undrafted free agents late Sunday.

Defensive lineman George Hypolite signed with the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Offensive lineman Daniel Sanders signed with the St. Louis Rams.

Hansen has surgery

Colorado quarterback Tyler Hansen underwent surgery on Sunday to repair a broken thumb.

CU trainer Miguel Rueda said Hansen's surgery was a success and Hansen should be healthy in early-to-mid June.

Hansen broke his thumb in Saturday's spring game.



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