THE DRAFT *CONTINUED*

blems and age is beginning to show in their defensive line, that position was a priority.

"Smith can really accelerate," Bears Coach Mike Ditka has said.

Jim Parmer, a Bears scout, added: "He's green and has a lot to learn. But he's not a fat kid; he's big and square."

Derrick Beasley, a 6-2, 210-pound defensive back, runs a 4.55 40. He wasn't that highly touted by many scouts, but the New England Patriots thought differently, taking him in the fourth round.

"He's a good athlete," said Dick Steinberg, the Patriots' director of player personnel. "He runs real well. ... He's bigger than we normally find at his position. He has the physical tools to play in the NFL, but he has to refine (them). If he progresses in camp, he'll be on the roster. There's no question the guy looks like an NFL defensive back."

Beasley at one time turned off some scouts because of a slow 40 time. But, as it turned out, it was just an accident. "The story on this guy is that he dropped a weight on his foot at Winston-Salem just working out," Steinberg said. "So he didn't run very well when we timed him. He ran only, I think, a 4.75, which is not that good. He came back in the spring and his time was much better. We had him at 4.55."

Leon "Dr. Sack" Seals, a 6-4, 265-pound defensive end projected as a situation pass rusher, had 16 sacks his junior season. "He did well in minicamp," said Dennis Lynch, the Bills' public relations director. "We're looking at him as a pass rusher. The coaches were very pleased with him at camp. He's quick for a big man."

Milton Mack, a cornerback taken in the fifth round, was considered to be overrated by some draft analysts, who said he should be taken below the fourth to sixth rounds. But the New Orleans Saints disagreed with that assessment, taking him in the fifth.

"We had him evaluated from the fifth to the sixth rounds," said Billy Kuharich, the Saints' director of player personnel. "We thought he was an excellent pick from where we drafted him. Absolutely, or we wouldn't have taken him."

Mack will compete against incumbents David Waymer and Johnnie Poe and their backups, Van Jakes and Dana McElmore. The Saints also drafted Michael Adams from Arkansas State and Toi Cook from Stanford.

"... His ability to run and cover impressed us," Kuharich said of Mack, who runs a 4.53 in the 40. Mack is 5-11, 188 pounds.

"He's an adequate tackler,"

Winston-Salem State's Derrick Beasley: Another surprise pick (photo by James Parker).

Kuharich added, "but that's not his forte. His forte is being able to run with receivers. He needs to improve on his technique. They have a good tradition of defensive backs coming out of that school. We hope we got another one."

Greg Lloyd, a 6-2, 220-pound linebacker from Fort Valley State, has been timed at 4.7 in the 40. "He's smaller than most linebackers but similar to Mike Merriweather and Jack Ham, the linebackers we've had. They're about the same size," said Tony Duny, defensive coordinator for the Pittsburgh Steelers. "He's a good athlete. From an athletic standpoint, he's great -- with the speed, quickness and strength you're looking for.

"He's a good hitter because of quickness, and we think he's going to be a good one-on-one pass defender. He's a (49er) Keena Turner-type linebacker.

Gene Atkins, a 5-11, 193-pound safety, often is called "Mean Gene."

"He has enough speed to run with a tight end," said the Saints' Kuharich. "... He got really high marks from (Florida A&M Coach) Ken Riley, and Ken should know what it takes to play in the NFL."

Riley was a stellar cornerback for the Cincinnati Bengals. Mean Gene, who runs a 4.52 40-dash, will compete with Antonio Gibson and Frank Wattelett at safety.

William Harris, a 6-4, 243-pound tight end taken in the seventh round, transferred from Texas to Bishop College for the '86 season because of academic problems. "Doug Dawson, a guard on our team, was at Texas when he was there as a sophomore," said Greg Gladysiwiski, the Cardinals' media coordinator. "Dawson spoke very highly of his abilities. He said he was a hard-working individual as well. He said he caught everything."

When at run-oriented Texas, Harris was a *Sporting News* preseason all-America before his junior season, which was marred by injuries. The previous season, Harris, who runs a 4.7 to 4.9 40, caught 34 passes for 637 yards and four touchdowns. His reception total was the third most in Texas history for any receiver.

Charles Buchanan (6-2, 241 pounds) played extensively for the first time last year, and the Steelers are impressed with his athletic ability and 4.7 speed. "I think he's going to be a good pass rusher right off the bat," Pittsburgh's Dungy said.

Buchanan was taken in the eighth round and is sort of an in-between player. "I'm sure some people were wondering if he was a linebacker or a defensive end," Dungy said. "Maybe that's why he lasted so long in the draft."

Anthony Anderson, (6-1, 200) moved from quarterback to defensive back in 1985. Last season he intercepted 10 passes.

Chargers Director of Player Personnel Chet Franklin, who just joined the team and missed the minicamp, said, "I think they've been pleased with him. I know they aren't displeased with him."

Robert Clark, a 5-9, 170-pound wide receiver, was hampered by a poor speed-size ratio. But, said Kuharich, "What excited us most about Robert was his productivity. He had games when he caught 14, 16 passes. The thing he lacks is great speed. He's a 4.63 guy. We thought it was a great pick, for him still to be on the board in the 10th round."

Clark is competing with 16 players, including starters Mike Jones and Eric Martin, for five positions at wide receiver.

James Evans, a 6-0, 213-pound running back, is counted on by the Chiefs to upgrade a running game that ranked last in the league last year. "He looked very good in minicamp," said Les Miller, the Chiefs' director of player personnel. "Even though we didn't draft him very high, we still feel very good about him. He looked good."

Patrick Scott, a 5-10, 169-pound wide receiver from Grambling, ran about a 4.65 40 in the Packers' minicamp. "We're very happy to have him. We've been impressed with him," said Dick Corrick, the Packers' director of player personnel. "He came to minicamp, caught the ball and performed pretty well."

Corrick added, "We have to see how he hangs on to the ball when he's hit and if he can read coverages and make the correct adjustments."

Arthur Wells (6-4, 248) was rated by many as one of the top five tight ends in the draft. But he was taken in the 11th round.

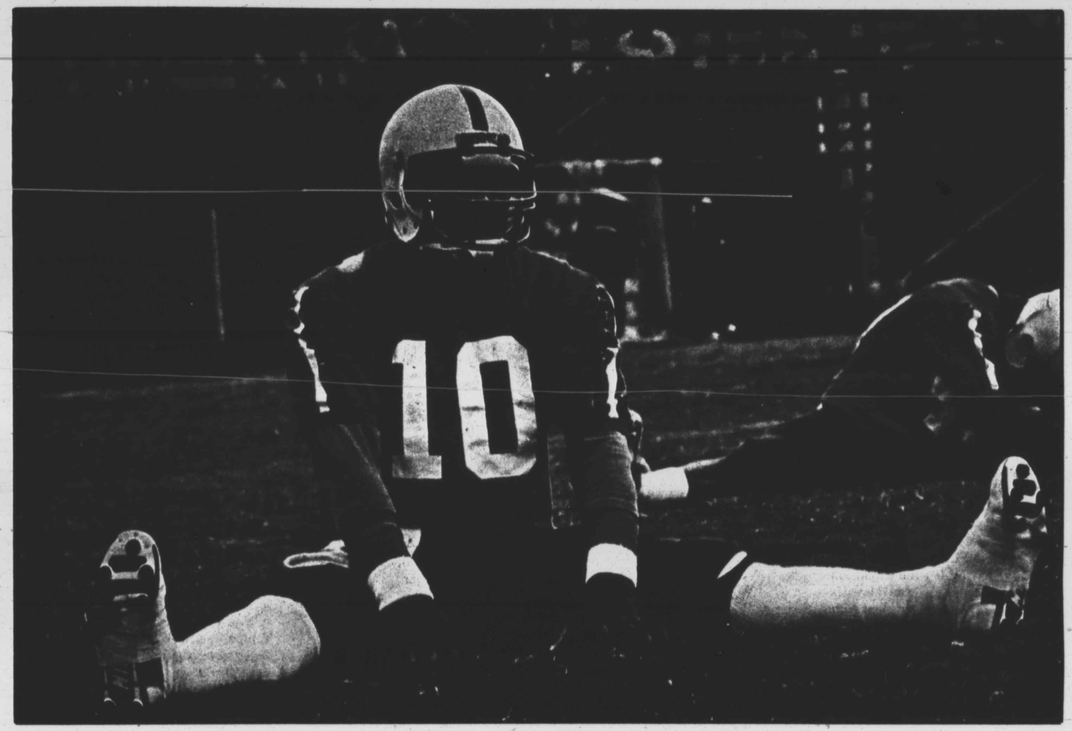
"He was on the board a lot longer than we would have thought," said the Saints' Kuharich, who believes Wells lasted so long because of suspect blocking ability. "When we looked on the board, he was still there. So it was a natural to take him."

Calvin Nicholas, the last player from a predominantly black school selected, was injury-riddled throughout his career at Grambling. Nicholas (6-3, 200) runs a 4.55 40. "The only thing is, you didn't see him play much," said Tony Razzano, the 49ers' director of college scouting. "That's the one factor that bothered people. ... (But) he's a good football player when he's healthy. He has good hands, has good quickness. It's just a matter of what he's going to do when the ball is snapped for real."

G.D. Clay is a sports copy editor for New York Newsday.

ALUMNI

Totten: Sitting, waiting, hoping for a break ...



Willie Totten warms up during his glory days at Mississippi Valley State, where he set more than 50 records. Today, he coaches at a junior high school in Memphis and works part time for Federal Express (photo by J.D. Schwalm).

By ROSCOE NANCE
Review Staff Writer

WILLIE Totten is still waiting and hoping and wishing and praying for a professional football career.

Totten was one of the most prolific quarterbacks in collegiate history during his four-year career at Mississippi Valley, setting more than 50 NCAA records before graduating in 1986. But all 28 teams snubbed him in the NFL draft and none signed him as a free agent. That's a set of circumstances that still has him puzzled.

"Everybody I ask, they don't know why," he said. "They don't give me anything definite. Everybody says they're surprised."

In the meantime, Totten has spent the past year teaching and coaching at a junior high school in Memphis, Tenn., and working part time at Federal Express. He still thinks about what might have ... what should have been ... what he hopes still will be.

"Of course I was disappointed," said Totten. "I had been projected to go in the first three rounds of the draft. The closer the draft came, I was projected in the first five rounds. Then the draft came and I didn't hear Willie Totten's name. That was breathtaking.

"I knew what I was going into. I know the ratio of black quarterbacks. I've pretty much regrouped."

Totten may have regrouped, but he still has relapses, days when the anguish of being snubbed gets to him.

"What hurt me so much was the past NFL season," he said. "Ten or 12 quarterbacks were hurt. I felt if I had the chance to be there, I could have played."

Afters getting the cold shoulder from the NFL, Totten signed with the British Columbia Lions of the Canadian Football League as a backup to Roy DeWalt. He played half the season and was released.

"They said they were getting what they wanted from their quarterback and needed some more experience," said Totten.

"They said they were impressed with me and I could come back."

Totten's future remains up in the air. He has contacted several NFL teams. But the messages have all been the same: Don't call us, we'll call you. None has called.

He's also put out some feelers in the CFL without any positive responses.

Time is fast running out on Totten for the 1987 season, both in the CFL and NFL. The CFL season starts the middle of June and most teams have set their rosters. NFL clubs don't go to camp until July, but they are, for the most part, done with signing free agents.

Totten is contemplating attending a free agent tryout camp in Shippensburg, Pa., in June. If nothing comes from that and nothing comes through for him in the CFL, he says, he will return to Memphis. But he won't give up on his dream of playing pro football.

"I feel right now I still have a lot of football left in me," he said.

In the long run, the CFL appears to be where Totten's future lies. The NFL has for years demonstrated that black quarterbacks are not warmly embraced. The opposite is true in the CFL, where the majority of the quarterbacks are black.

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