
Dolphins reach deal with Jake Long

Posted by WACoug - 2008/04/22 11:11

The Dolphins have reached a deal with Jake Long and will take him with first pick in NFL draft.

<http://sports.espn.go.com/nfl/draft08/news/story?id=3358424>

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Re:Dolphins reach deal with Jake Long

Posted by Slugger - 2008/04/22 12:29

The first step, a BIG step, in giving John Beck a legitimate shot to perform in the NFL. That team needs so much right now but Long is a fantastic OL and will have a big impact on that offense. Now, assuming they can build up the skill positions Beck may actually have something to work with (assuming he starts of course). Otherwise, I guess the team can all huddle up and sing "Kumbaya" while they pass the pipe with Ricky. ;)

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Re:Dolphins reach deal with Jake Long

Posted by TimO - 2008/04/22 12:30

i wonder if they could trade up to get another high spot and aquire another big lineman. i'm just glad that they are giving Beck a better chance with lineman.

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Re:Dolphins reach deal with Jake Long

Posted by Cougfan84 - 2008/04/22 12:34

I agree! I love this pick up! This will have the Joe Thomas effect that the browns got last year. When Derek Anderson had time to throw, he looked like a pro bowler which he really isn't. John Beck on the other hand has all the tools, He just needed some protection and a few more targets would be nice too. Outside of Cougar Country i'd get booed im sure for what im about to say. But I think Beck has more upside than Tony Romo. I think Parcels will see that and he will build a team around him the way he built around Romo. Im stoked for the draft...its my second christmas! Get some help for our boy John Beck!

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Re:Dolphins reach deal with Jake Long

Posted by Mars - 2008/04/22 14:05

WACoug wrote:

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No surprise there. Though I think passing up McFadden will prove to be a mistake...

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Re:Dolphins reach deal with Jake Long

Posted by Cougfan84 - 2008/04/22 14:12

McFadden is really good...But they have Ronnie Brown who is atleast the same caliber as D-Mac. What they needed was a star Left Tackle...and thats what they got.

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Re:Dolphins reach deal with Jake Long

Cougfan84 wrote:

McFadden is really good... But they have Ronnie Brown who is atleast the same caliber as D-Mac. What they needed was a star Left Tackle...and thats what they got.

It has been proven in the modern NFL that sharing the load between two great running backs is the most successful way to run an offense. And the Dolphins don't have much depth at RB. Unless you count Rickie Williams that is... :laugh:

There are always solid linemen left in later rounds, but not all-star running backs.

Re:Dolphins reach deal with Jake Long

Posted by snoscythe - 2008/04/22 14:39

I like this pick as it was simply the best player to fit their current needs. Drafting Darren McFadden would have been just as foolish as drafting Matt Ryan. The Dolphins have John Beck and Ronnie Brown in the wings, and both have the potential to be solid, every down guys around whom you can build your franchise. Granted, McFadden is obviously a better RB than Brown and Ryan could be an improvement over Beck, neither pick would make a lick of difference for the Phins given their current O-line. Drafting either would garner the same results as last season. It doesn't matter who you have under center or who you give the rock when your Offensive line is simply offensive. The Long pick has the potential to instantly improve your entire offense. If Long proves to be the solid LT that he could be, he can protect the quarterback's blindside single-handedly, and seal off the corner for the runningbacks. By so doing, Long frees up Vernon Carey to leave the LT position to play his natural position, RT, where he too can play without needing help. That leaves the three interior linemen to share all assignments in the middle without worrying about help at the edges, and the Phins have already bolstered their interior line by picking up FA Justin Smiley from SF. The Long pick simply strengthens the Phins offensive line not only at LT, but at every single point of attack, which will lead to better production from the entire offense. That is what the Long pick brings that made this pick a no-brainer. Yeah, Ryan, Chris Long, Gholston and McFadden could be improvements and pro-bowlers, but would it have mattered if the Miami OL maintained its substandard status-quo?? The Dolphins did not need a "solid lineman". They needed a star left-tackle.

Now, for Long himself, I hope the guy pans out. This is a very shallow draft, and Long does have a number of holes in his game. His is undoubtedly the top Tackle in the draft, but he is not a Joe Thomas or Jammal Brown, who were both locks to the pro-Bowl before they even played. By signing Long early, the Phins can get him in the playbook sooner and speed his progression. I like the coaching staff the Phins have assembled, and I think Long will prove his mettle, but he might have a rough 1st half in 2008.

Re:Dolphins reach deal with Jake Long

Posted by WACoug - 2008/04/22 14:40

Mars wrote:

WACoug wrote:

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No surprise there. Though I think passing up McFadden will prove to be a mistake...

The recent knock I have heard on McFadden is GM's wish he was bigger and they are concerned about him not breaking arm tackles. Of course the same was said about Adrian Peterson last year. It will be interesting to see what happens.

Re:Dolphins reach deal with Jake Long

Posted by mountincougar - 2008/04/22 14:47

Matt Ryan could be an improvement over John Beck? You have been reading too many news clippings and not watched enough of them actually playing. Sorry I think Ryan is vastly overrated. John B has so much more arm to develop and

have on your side. IMO.

Go Cougars out there!!!

Re:Dolphins reach deal with Jake Long

Posted by snoscythe - 2008/04/22 14:54

mountaincougar wrote:

Matt Ryan could be an improvement over John Beck? You have been reading too many news clippings and not watched enough of them actually playing. Sorry I think Ryan is vastly overrated. John B has so much more arm to develop and have on your side.

I absolutely agree. That is why I said Ryan could be an improvement over Beck while I said McFadden was obviously better than Brown. My post was looking a hypothetical scenarios that a GM might play out in his mind in approaching the draft.

Re:Dolphins reach deal with Jake Long

Posted by Cougfan84 - 2008/04/22 15:14

well maybe Ryan, McFadden, and Joe Thomas are better than John Beck, Ronnie Brown, and Jake Long... But its not always about the talent you have in one guy...its the Talent and chemistry of your team. Plus Beck, Brown and Long are all on the same team, the other three will not be.

The dolphins still have a long way to go but I think with the addition of a solid WR, TE, Blocking FB and some more line depth...The dolphins could be a very productive offense! and they need to get younger on defense. But I think in 2 or 3 years, the dolphins will be back in the playoffs.

Im not knockin what you are sayin, but I just think i'd rather have 3 guys that are still very good than one great player... Its like Barry Sanders...he was electrifying and I loved seeing him play, he was great! but he didnt have a team around him... But I think Parcels is old school and knows you need a Team to win it all. I believe they will build the team around Beck for 1 or 2 years...If he doesn't pan out then he will be gone...But i think he will make great strides this year just as he did in his Junior year at the Y (which was his second year of starting).

Re:Dolphins reach deal with Jake Long

Posted by craigocarson - 2008/04/22 15:24

Mars wrote:

WACoug wrote:

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<http://www.nfl.com/draft/history/alltimeno1>

The Dolphins, John Beck, and even Darren Mcfadden are not better players if they reached and took him.

Unless someone like Adrian Peterson falls in your lap (like he did for Minnesota) at 7; it's not common practice to reach for a running back. And when teams do, it usually (not always) bites them in the rear. (these are all top 1st round picks.....Ricky Williams, Reggie Bush, Ronnie Brown, Cadillac Williams, KiJana Carter, George Rogers, Billy Sims, Garrison Hearst, TJ Ducket, Ron Dayne, Tim Biakabataka, Curtis Enis, Rashaan Salaam, Brent Fulwood, Sammie Smith, Blair Thomas, Tim Worley, Alonzo Highsmith)

Emmit Smith went 17, Shaun Alexander 19, Eddie George 14 - Mcfadden is not any of these 3 guys

I'll take an Orlando Pace, Jonathon Ogden, Anthony Munoz, Jack Slater, any day over an Emmitt Smith or Barry Sanders.

Defensive line? Reggie White, Bruce Smith, Deacon Jones, Jack Youngblood, Julius Peppers

In fact, I'd take a sure fire hall of fame corner like a Deion Sanders, Darrell Green, Champ Bailey, Michael Haynes before I'd risk my franchise on a back with a 6-7 year shelf life.

Running back is an awful big gamble for a player with a short shelf life. You don't rebuild a franchise with a back; it just doesn't happen and you certainly don't need an all pro back to win the Super Bowl. You do need Pro Bowl offensive and defensive linemen.

And don't tell me that you can't find running backs late in the draft. Denver has made it a common practice. Green Bay rode Ryan Grant almost to the Super Bowl last year. Priest Holmes went undrafted.

Ex: Dallas with Herschel Walker in his prime - nada

Barry Sanders - no rings

Ladainian Tomlinson - no rings

Eddie George - no rings

Eric Dickerson.....

Reggie Bush.....

Priest Holmes went undrafted, yet never went to a Super Bowl in his record breaking seasons

Indy never won one with Edgerrin James

Bo Jackson in his prime - nada

Ricky Williams? killed 2 franchises

In fact, there hasn't been a running back, super bowl MVP in over 10 years and only 3 in 25 years

Exceptions: (keep in mind, that every team on the list had probowl and hall of fame linemen)

Walter Payton got one arguably in the twilight of his career (less than 3 yards per carry that game for 60 total)

Franco Harris got his share

Emmitt Smith (went late 1st round Btw) with a preexisting Oline - (and as a result of all the picks they got for Herschel Walker)

Marshal Faulk had 17 yards rushing when they won the SB

Terrell Davis (2 super bowls) was a 5th round draft pick and arguably one of the most dominant post season backs for as short as his time was

Marcus Allen

Tony Dorsett

Re:Dolphins reach deal with Jake Long

Posted by Slugger - 2008/04/22 16:06

The Dolphins sorely need wide receivers and linebackers. Adding Long to the O line is a good move. McFadden is a brilliant football player but he doesn't have the cleanest criminal or behavior record so he is a gamble for any team. I haven't seen anything out of Matt Ryan to make me believe he will be a stellar pro, at least not yet. And he certainly isn't heads and tails better than Beck so why waste the pick on him? I think Miami should take a WR or two and add depth at LB and RB. Ronnie Brown isn't a bad RB, but who is behind him? Not really anybody of worth. Hopefully our boy John comes to camp ready and wins back the starting job and gets some tools to work with. You know Parcells will demand better from the entire team and that plays into John's hands because he demands the same.

Re:Dolphins reach deal with Jake Long

Posted by runbyu1 - 2008/04/22 16:43

I was watching Sportscenter last night when they were talking about the Jake Long deal and they made this comment "Bill Parcells has decided that John Beck is going to be the quarterback that they are going to build around."

I doubt it has any merit, but it sure was cool to hear!

=====

Re:Dolphins reach deal with Jake Long

Posted by craigscarson - 2008/04/22 16:43

Slugger wrote:

The Dolphins sorely need wide receivers and linebackers. Adding Long to the O line is a good move. McFadden is a brilliant football player but he doesn't have the cleanest criminal or behavior record so he is a gamble for any team. I haven't seen anything out of Matt Ryan to make me believe he will be a stellar pro, at least not yet. And he certainly isn't heads and tails better than Beck so why waste the pick on him? I think Miami should take a WR or two and add depth at LB and RB. Ronnie Brown isn't a bad RB, but who is behind him? Not really anybody of worth. Hopefully our boy John comes to camp ready and wins back the starting job and gets some tools to work with. You know Parcells will demand better from the entire team and that plays into John's hands because he demands the same.

Miami certainly wasn't ready to offer a guy like Michael Turner the contract he got in Atlanta (they don't have the pieces to win with him and of course they still have to figure out what they're doing with Ronnie Brown etc.) But you can find a servicable running back in free agency.

Honestly, I think Michael Turner will have a better career than Mcfadden, without the potential baggage.

Shaun Alexander is now a free agent ironically

<http://msn.foxsports.com/nfl/story/8062378?MSNHPHMA>

This story just proves that the MVP's in 2005 should have been Steve Hutchinson and Walter Jones, not Alexander.

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Re:Dolphins reach deal with Jake Long

Posted by craigscarson - 2008/04/22 16:45

runbyu1 wrote:

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I believe they picked up Josh McCown (strong armed journeyman but relatively young) so it's not going to be handed to Beck; not that anyone assumed it would be.

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Re:Dolphins reach deal with Jake Long

Posted by Mars - 2008/04/23 02:27

craigscarson wrote:

runbyu1 wrote:

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I believe they picked up Josh McCown (strong armed journeyman but relatively young) so it's not going to be handed to Beck; not that anyone assumed it would be.

The recent quote is that both Beck and McCown are the #2 QB until one of them steps up and takes the starting job.

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Re:Dolphins reach deal with Jake Long

Posted by CavemanCougar - 2008/04/23 07:23

Looks like the Michigan/OSU rivalry just got bigger.

"Take that buckies, #1 pick! Oh, how about those national championship games that last 2 years eh?"

"How many NC's do you have this decade compared to us? That's what I thought. They are far better than a #1 pick."

"41-35 vs. defending national champs! More than you can do."

"Try getting to a NC game punk. 14-3 at OSU North. How'd ya like them apples? Mishipukes are weak!"

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