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Under Armour Senior Bowl Enjoys Successful Year in NFL Draft

86 total draftees, including 11 first round selections, highlight class of 2009

Mobile, AL. (April 27)---In the game of football, success is often measured in wins and losses. For the Under Armour Senior Bowl however, success is measured on the final weekend in April. Senior Bowl officials announcing Monday the results of yet another prolific year for the premier pre-draft event. After two days, seven rounds and 256 picks, 86 Senior Bowl players were selected in the 2009 National Football League Draft. Included in that total were 11 first round picks and a top ten selection.

The first Senior Bowl player to hear his name called Saturday was Boston College defensive tackle B.J. Raji. Raji was the ninth overall pick by the Green Bay Packers. This marks the 12th straight year a Senior Bowl player has been selected in the top 10 of the draft.

"It was a great experience to come down there and meet some of the guys I watched on TV," Raji said. "I wanted to come to compete and showcase my talents in front of the scouts. I think it did help me because it showed people how dominant I can be."

Six picks after Raji was selected, Southern Cal linebacker Brian Cushing was picked by the Houston Texans at number 15 overall. Cushing was one of six Trojans to play in the 2009 Senior Bowl, all of whom were drafted.

"We are taught at USC to never shy away from competition and that's what we try to do. I think I did well in Mobile and showcased my stuff and proved to everyone that I am not scared of competition," Cushing said.

With 11 more first round selections this year, the Senior Bowl has now had 122 first round picks since 1999. That's an average of 11 first round picks a year. During that same time period a total of 963 Senior Bowl players have been selected in the NFL draft.

Twenty Senior Bowl players were selected in the second round, the most of any round, including seven of the first nine picks. With 12 more players going in the third round, a total of 43 picks of a possible 100 were Senior Bowl players in the first three rounds. This number is especially impressive when you consider that 27 underclassmen were also selected during the same period.

The 2009 Under Armour Senior Bowl also produced the first senior player selected at nine different positions (OG, C, WR, QB, RB, FB, TE, DT, S) and the first overall player selected at six different positions (OG, C, FB, TE, DT, S).

The Senior Bowl's firm relationship with the National Football league was also evident in the fact that 29 of the 32 NFL teams drafted at least one Senior Bowl player. Leading the way were the Cleveland Browns with six Senior Bowl selections followed by Arizona, Buffalo, Dallas, New England and the New York Giants who each drafted five Senior Bowl players. A total of 12 teams selected four or more Senior Bowl players.

The two coaching staffs of the 2009 Under Armour Senior Bowl selected a combined six Senior Bowl players with the Cincinnati Bengals (North squad) choosing four and the Jacksonville Jaguars (South squad) choosing two.

The future stars of the 2010 NFL Draft class will take the field for the 61st annual Under Armour Senior Bowl on Saturday January 30, 2010. For more information contact the Senior Bowl office at 251-438-2276 or visit www.seniorbowl.com.

2009 Under Armour Senior Bowl First Round Selections

Player	Position	School	Pick	NFL Team
B.J. Raji	DT	Boston College	9	Green Bay
Brian Cushing	LB	USC	15	Houston
Larry English	DE	Northern Illinois	16	San Diego
Robert Ayers	DE	Tennessee	18	Denver
Brandon Pettigrew	TE	Oklahoma State	20	Detroit
Alex Mack	OL	California	21	Cleveland
Michael Oher	OL	Ole Miss	23	Baltimore

Peria Jerry	DT	Ole Miss	24	Atlanta
Clay Matthews	LB	USC	26	Green Bay
Eric Wood	OL	Louisville	28	Buffalo
Ziggy Hood	DT	Missouri	32	Pittsburgh

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The Under Armour Senior Bowl is college football's premier pre-draft event, annually featuring the nation's best senior collegiate football stars and top NFL draft prospects on teams coached by NFL coaching staffs. Senior Bowl practices and game week festivities are attended by more than 800 general managers, head coaches, assistant coaches, scouts and other front office personnel from all 32 National Football League teams, making Mobile and the Under Armour Senior Bowl the week-long host to a one-of-a-kind NFL Coaches Convention. For more information on the 2009 Under Armour Senior Bowl please visit the bowl's website at www.seniorbowl.com.

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