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2011 NFL Draft Full of Under Armour Senior Bowl Players

83 players off 2011 roster, including 12 first round selections, drafted over seven rounds

Mobile, AL. (May 2)— From the second pick of the first round to the second to last pick of the seventh and final round, the Under Armour Senior Bowl had a strong presence in the 2011 NFL Draft. In all, 83 former Senior Bowl players were selected over the three day event, a number that represents 12 first round picks and 33 percent of all 254 players drafted.

For the seventh consecutive year the nation's premier senior showcase event had at least 10 first round selections, with 12 former Senior Bowl players getting the much anticipated call on Thursday night. When the Denver Broncos chose Texas A&M linebacker Von Miller with the second overall pick, it marked the 15th straight year the game has featured a top ten selection. Miller, the Under Armour Defensive Player of the Game this year, is the first Senior Bowler to be chosen in the top five since 2007 and the highest pick in the game's history in eight years (Carson Palmer, 1st overall in 2003).

Since 1999, the Senior Bowl has produced 144 first round selections and 1,130 draftees overall.

Joining Miller in the first round was fellow top ten pick Jake Locker. Locker, who went eighth to the Tennessee Titans, was one of two Senior Bowl quarterbacks to be chosen in the first round. Minnesota selected Senior Bowl MVP Christian Ponder of Florida State with the twelfth overall pick. It was the first time since 2008 that the Senior Bowl has had two top ten picks and first time since 2004 that two Senior Bowl quarterbacks have been chosen in the first round.

“The whole week was done right and I really enjoyed working with an NFL staff—the Bills—and I had a good time, really took advantage of the opportunity,” Ponder said of the Senior Bowl. “It was really good for me to help rocket, propel myself to continue on to the pre-draft process.”

The Senior Bowl featured the first senior player at 12 different positions (OLB, ILB, QB, DE, DT, OG, OT, WR, TE, S, K, FB) and the first overall player at five different positions (OLB, ILB, OG, K, FB). What makes the first round numbers so impressive is that nearly half (15) of the first round draftees were underclassmen.

“We are once again very pleased with the results of the NFL Draft and excited for the opportunities that lie ahead for our former players,” Senior Bowl President and CEO Steve Hale said. “It’s rewarding for us as an organization to see these players achieve their ultimate goal of playing in the National Football League after maximizing their value here in Mobile at the Senior Bowl.”

Twenty six more Senior Bowl players were drafted on day two of the NFL Draft, which consisted of rounds two and three. The second round saw 11 Senior Bowl players get drafted, highlighted by a pair of quarterbacks going back to back with the fourth and fifth picks of the round. Cincinnati selected TCU signal caller Andy Dalton with the 35th pick overall just before the San Francisco 49ers chose Nevada QB Colin Kaepernick 36th overall. This marked the first year that the Senior Bowl has ever had four quarterbacks taken in the first 36 picks of the NFL draft.

The second round also saw the first Senior Bowl wide receiver's selected in Boise State's Titus Young (44th overall-Detroit) and Austin Pettis (78th overall-St. Louis), Miami's Leonard Hankerson (79th overall-Washington) and San Diego State's Vincent Brown (82nd overall-San Diego).

A total of 15 more Senior Bowl players were drafted in the third round including the first Senior Bowl running back in Oklahoma's DeMarco Murray (71st overall—Dallas). Senior Bowler Sione Fua of Stanford closed out day two going 97th overall to the Carolina Panthers.

Day three of the 2011 NFL Draft got off to a blistering start with 19 former Senior Bowlers making up the fourth round alone. When the seventh and final round was complete a total of 45 former Senior Bowl stars were selected in the final four rounds, including the remaining quarterbacks on this year's roster—Iowa's Ricky Stanzi and Alabama's Greg McElroy.

Stanzi was a fifth round pick by the Kansas City Chiefs while McElroy went in the seventh to the New York Jets. This marks the first time since 2008 that all six Senior Bowl quarterbacks have been drafted.

30 of the NFL's 32 franchises selected at least one Senior Bowl player in this year's draft, with the Washington Redskins leading the league with six Senior Bowl selections. The Buffalo Bills and Cincinnati Bengals, who served as the coaching staffs for the 2011 game, combined to draft five players off of this year's roster. All three of the Bills' Senior Bowl draftees played on defense (Kelvin Sheppard, Da'Norris Searcy and Chris White), while the Bengals picked a pair of South team offensive standouts with their Senior Bowl selections (Dalton, Clint Boling).

The future stars of the 2012 NFL Draft class will take the field for the 63rd annual Under Armour Senior Bowl on Saturday January 28, 2012. For more information contact the Senior Bowl office at 251-438-2276 or visit www.seniorbowl.com.

2011 Under Armour Senior Bowl First Round Selections

Player	Position	School	Pick	NFL Team
Von Miller	OLB	Texas A&M	2	Denver
Jake Locker	QB	Washington	8	Tennessee
Christian Ponder	QB	Florida State	12	Minnesota
Ryan Kerrigan	DE	Purdue	16	Washington
Nate Solder	OT	Colorado	17	New England
Phil Taylor	DT	Baylor	21	Cleveland
Anthony Castonzo	OT	Boston College	22	Indianapolis
Danny Watkins	OG	Baylor	23	Philadelphia
Cameron Jordan	DE	California	24	New Orleans
James Carpenter	OG	Alabama	25	Seattle
Gabe Carimi	OT	Wisconsin	29	Chicago
Derek Sherrod	OT	Mississippi State	32	Green Bay

2011 Under Armour Senior Bowl Selections—Round By Round

Round 1: 12

Round 2: 11

Round 3: 15

Round 4: 19

Round 5: 9

Round 6: 10

Round 7: 7

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About the Senior Bowl

The 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 Senior Bowl the week-long host to a one-of-a-kind NFL Coaches Convention. For more information on the 2012 Under Armour Senior Bowl please visit the bowl's website at www.seniorbowl.com.

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