

Draft had some waiting by their phones

"I'm going to sit around all day and hope the phone rings."

That was the sentiment some former Oregon football players shared throughout Tuesday's National Football League draft. It must have been nerve-racking to sit by the telephone, waiting for a call that could have meant big bucks as well as the prestige of becoming a professional athlete.

For 6-7, 255-pound Greg Schwab, just the opportunity to play pro football would fulfill a childhood dream.

"Oh yeah, it is something I've dreamed of; it's something everyone dreams of," he said.

From the Sidelines

by Joe Arndt & Dennis Fernandes

Schwab probably has the tools for the pro market. As an offensive tackle, his size and quickness helped keep pursuing defenses away from Duck quarterback Chris Miller during the past two seasons and helped open holes for running backs like Tony Cherry.

Since the Ducks' season-ending Mirage Bowl loss last November, Schwab has been lifting weights four or five times a week and running wind sprints, all in the name of pro football aspirations.

"(The draft) is such an inexact thing," Schwab said. "There's no indication of what team might pick you or when... you just wait."

Schwab said he saw a report from an independent prognosticator that said he could go as high as the fourth or fifth rounds. But he admitted you have to remain realistic and not get caught up in wishful thinking.

But Schwab has gone as far as hiring an agent. Ken Stanning, a Montana attorney, will take care of any official contacts and potential contract discussions with NFL teams.

Previous to Tuesday's draft, four teams had shown interest in The Dalles product. Seattle,

Miami, Green Bay, and the New York Jets had all sent scouts to personally inspect Schwab, who led the Ducks in total offensive plays last season (773). When the scouts came to town, Schwab ran timed sprints and was tested on agility.

"You really can't count on those teams and there's some other clubs that I've talked to or corresponded with," Schwab said.

Schwab, who first received some pro inquiries during his junior year, is anxious for a shot at pro football. He said earlier this week he would call his family and agent as soon as he had heard from the NFL team that picked him.

Then in May, he'll report to a mini-camp where he'll have a physical exam performed and be "basically checked out." After that, it's rookie camp in July and then the rough road to making some NFL team's roster.

"It just gets harder from here," Schwab said about the draft. "I'm just crossing my fingers and hoping for the best."

Receiver Lew Barnes, at 5-9 and 170 pounds, might have trouble cracking pads with the big fellas.

But he certainly held his own last season; despite being double-teamed almost every game, he turned in a great year.

Barnes, a first team, all-American according to the polls of the Football Writers of America and the Football News, also played in the Blue-Gray Classic on Christmas Day and in the East-West Shrine game in Palo Alto, Calif.

Short but sweet, Barnes' credentials at Oregon are certainly pro-caliber. In just three years, he became the all-time career receiving leader in yards with 2,048. His 18 scores tied him for the

career lead in touchdowns. He was first team all-Pacific-10 Conference for three years, one of them as a return specialist.

There isn't much room in the NFL for short wide receivers, but Barnes' speed and athletic ability as a kick returner will be too hard to pass up.

Tailback Tony Cherry, who became only the third Oregon player ever to rush for more than 1,000 yards in a season, is in the same boat as Barnes — his size may undercut his ability.

But someone who is already in the NFL may have helped him out tremendously. New York

Giants running back Joe Morris at 5-9, 212 pounds led the National Football Conference in rushing last season. Cherry is listed at 5-8, 184 pounds. Like Morris, he has a lightning-quick first step, hits the holes fast and is a hard man to tackle because of his low center of gravity.

Cherry received first team Pac-10 honors his last two years, one as a return specialist and the other at tailback. He also played alongside Barnes in the East-West Shrine game.

In addition, Oregon fans might recall his unlimited enthusiasm and drive, matched by no other. A team that needs a hard runner could take Cherry in the middle rounds.

Safety Doug Judge (6-2, 225 pounds) probably has, along with Schwab, a solid chance to make a career for himself in the big leagues.

He has the size, speed, strength and big-hitter potential to make it as a safety or maybe even as a defensive back.

The problem, because of injuries and position changes, is that he turned in better seasons his



Doug Judge



Lew Barnes

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Barnes goes first for Ducks, in fifth round

Compiled from Emerald and wire service reports

Although Auburn's Bo Jackson was the first player taken in the National Football League's draft on Tuesday, Oregon receiver Lew Barnes was the first Oregon football player drafted in this year's NFL draft.

The Super Bowl champion Chicago Bears made Barnes the last pick of the fifth round, the 138th pick overall. He was at home around 3:30 p.m. when they called and told him he had been chosen.

"It feels good," Barnes said later in the day. He said he had hoped to go earlier in the draft,

but the fifth round was "realistic" for him.

"This is a great opportunity," Barnes said of getting the chance to go to a team with the stature of the Bears. "It's the best opportunity I've ever had."

Barnes expects to stay at the receiver position, and the Bears also drafted another receiver, David Williams from Illinois, in the third round. He will go to the Bears mini-camp on May 18-19.

Barnes, a 5-9, 170-pounder from San Diego, Calif., tied the record for career touchdown receptions (18) last season, and finished his career as the all-

time leading receiver with 2,048 yards. Barnes also returned punts for the Ducks.

In the ninth round, tailback Tony Cherry became the second Duck to be drafted when he was selected by the San Francisco 49ers, the 240th pick overall.

The 5-8, 184-pound Cherry, from Victorville, Calif., became only the third Oregon running back to rush for more than 1,000 yards in a season.

Oregon linemen Drew Smetana was drafted in the 11th round by San Diego.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers, who made Jackson the first pick in the draft, made it clear they would outbid baseball for him.

Jackson, Auburn's Heisman Trophy-winning running back, is considered one of the best pro football prospects ever, and a pretty fair outfielder, too. The

Bucs said they would match any baseball team, dollar for dollar, for his services.

Bucs president Hugh Culverhouse vowed to make him "the highest-paid draft choice in NFL history." But Jackson was noncommittal, saying he would make no decision before baseball's June 2-4 draft of college and high school players.

The second pick behind Jackson also was a foregone conclusion — nose tackle Tony Casillas of Oklahoma by the Atlanta Falcons. Then the Houston Oilers took quarterback Jim Everett of Purdue, perhaps with an eye toward trading \$1-million-a-year incumbent Warren Moon.

Then came defensive end Jon Hand, taken by Indianapolis.

The Colts had traded Monday with Dallas for quarterback Gary Hogeboom in anticipation of Everett being gone.

Three Pac-10 players and the first Canadian college player ever taken in the first round were also among first-round picks. Washington, linebacker Joe Kelly, to Cincinnati, was the first Pac-10 pick, followed by USC offensive tackle James Fitzpatrick, picked by San Diego, and Mike Sherrard, a UCLA receiver picked by Dallas.

Offensive lineman Mike Schad of Queen's University in Toronto, to the Los Angeles Rams, was the first Canadian college player ever taken in the first round. Oregon State receiver Reggie Bynum was chosen in the ninth round by the New York Giants.

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