

The Student Body

SPORTS • HEALTH • FITNESS

Early Birds

Athletes who opt to enter draft face big risks

By MARK BRUBAKER

Daily Bruin, U. of California, Los Angeles

Any way you look at it, it's a gamble.

More and more college athletes are leaving school early these days to strut their stuff in professional leagues. Many may strike it rich, but others live to regret it.

Some of the biggest names in pro sports left college before earning their degrees. Michael Jordan, Isiah Thomas and Magic Johnson all declared themselves NBA bound, going "hardship," as it used to be called.

But while basketball players have been coming out early for years, the proliferation of underclassmen in the NFL draft is a recent phenomenon. The league had a policy of excluding anyone but college seniors, but after Craig Heyward from the U. of Pittsburgh threatened to sue the NFL if he wasn't allowed into the 1988 draft, the league gates opened. The last four Heisman Trophy winners have been juniors and only one of those, Brigham Young U.'s Ty Detmer, stayed for his senior year.

Many other top juniors have come out of school in the last few years, and now sophomores are doing it too. Todd Marinovich parted ways with the U. of Southern California after his sophomore year and found himself the starting quarterback for the Los Angeles Raiders in an NFL playoff game the next season.

Hoping that he can find the same success, U. of California, Los Angeles' Tommy Maddox filed for the NFL draft recently after playing only two years for the Bruins. By

doing so, Maddox gave up his remaining two years of eligibility — but it was a decision he felt was right for him.

"While I fully understand that another year or two at UCLA would be enjoyable and beneficial to my development, I feel that it is time for me to stand on the NFL," he said. "And take on the opportunities offered by the NFL," he said.

Maddox took advantage of Proposition 47, a new NCAA rule that allows college athletes to "request information about professional market value without affecting his or her amateur status." The ruling should lessen the number of student-athletes who turn pro early, said NCAA spokesman Jim Marchiony.

"I think maybe less people will be turning pro in the future because they will have a more realistic view of what they're worth," he said.

Athletes in sports such as baseball and hockey can be drafted and still retain amateur status, as players are drafted without having to declare that they now wish to be considered. But as soon as a football or basketball player enters the draft, he loses amateur standing.

Could the NCAA ever change its rules for these athletes?

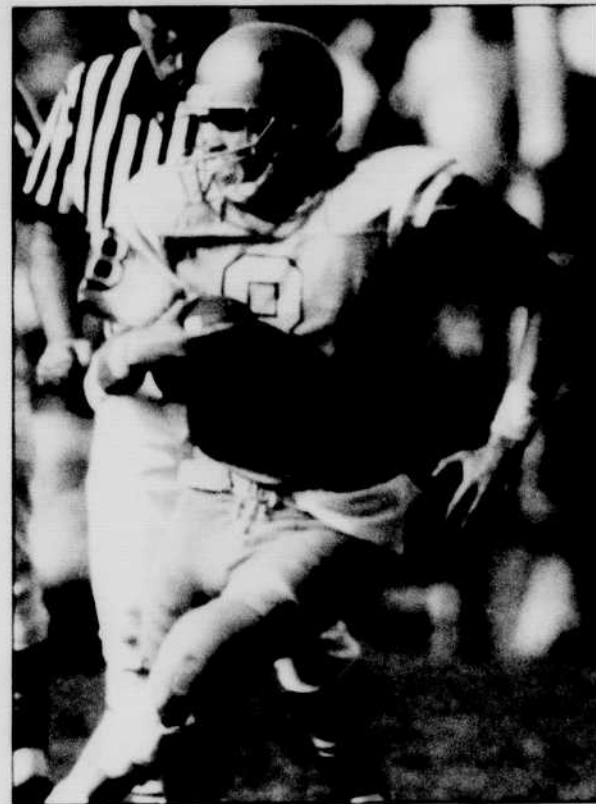
"I can see the day when it might happen," Marchiony said. "Right now there is considerable support for it."

Until that time comes, leaving early will continue to be a big risk, and according to M.J. Duberstein of the NFL Players' Association, the risk isn't worth it.

"They're all good athletes on this level," Duberstein said. "But it's the ones with degrees that have the mental discipline that it takes to stay in the league. NFL players spend more

"It's the ones with degrees that have the mental discipline that it takes."

— M.J. Duberstein



CHARLES COOLEY, DAILY BRUIN, U. OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

UCLA's Tommy Maddox dashes for the goal line — and then made a break from school for a shot at the big leagues.

time in classrooms than they ever did in college."

That's why the NFLPA advises any player who will listen to stay in school. "We're pretty adamant about it," Duberstein said. "We don't advise any college players to come out early. It's too big a risk unless you are in the top 10 players in the draft and you know you will be successful."

Cosmetic surgery changes more than face value

By KELLEY TUTHILL

The Observer, U. of Notre Dame

Bernadette Farrell's decision to get a nose job wasn't a rash one. She elected to have cosmetic surgery because her appearance had been driving her crazy for years.

"The first two weeks after the surgery were really uncomfortable," said Farrell, a 20-year-old junior at Florida State U. who had the procedure done after her freshman year. "But now I think it was worth it."

Before the surgery, Farrell said she was self-conscious about her appearance. "I didn't expect (the surgery) to change everything," she said. "But it did change a lot of my feelings about myself."

Dr. N. David Saddawi, a plastic surgeon in South Bend, Ind., considers people like Farrell to be ideal candidates for surgery because they want to change a specific part of their appearance. He discourages those who see surgery as a quick fix to all their problems.

About 15 or 20 percent of Saddawi's patients are college-age, and the most common procedures for this age group are rhinoplasty, or nose job, liposuction and breast surgery. In addition to enlargement — which recently came under fire amid reports



K. A. BURKE, THE INDEX, U. OF MASSACHUSETTS

Face facts: Image can be tied to appearance

that silicone-gel implants can rupture — breast surgery also includes reduction, which is more common among college women.

According to the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons, procedures range from about \$1,480 for liposuction to \$2,590 for a nose job. Insurance

might cover the cost, depending on whether it is for cosmetic or medical reasons.

But many college-age individuals opt for the operation regardless of the expense.

"For young people, the timing of the surgery is important," Saddawi said. "They usually come in before they go from high school to college."

A patient should have realistic expectations, he warned. A cosmetic surgeon can change an individual's look but can't necessarily solve emotional problems, he said.

David Certo, a 19-year-old junior at the U. of Notre Dame, had cosmetic surgery in conjunction with corrective surgery for an underbite. During the operation, Certo's surgeon also put implants in his cheeks and chin to improve his overall appearance.

Certo's doctor showed him computer-generated drawings of what he would look like both with and without the implants. After weighing the surgery's pros and cons, Certo said he "decided to do it all at once."

Afterward, Certo said his face was "enormously swollen" and didn't go down until three months later. He had the surgery during spring break of his sophomore year and returned immediately back to school.

"People would say, 'You look taller,' or 'Did you change your hair?'" Certo said.

Gimme an 'O'...
Gimme a 'D'...
Gimme a 'D'...

Rooting for the home team takes on a whole different approach when you're cheering for the... Banana Slugs?

That's the mascot at the U. of California, Santa Cruz, where the slimy gastropod mollusk is represented at basketball games by a person dressed head to foot in yellow slithering across the court.

Other schools also are represented by not-so-traditional animals, minerals and vegetables.

At Whitman College in Washington, the school mascot is the Missionaries, named for the state's first pioneers. The cheer is the ironic, "We're on top!"

And at U.C., Davis, students cheer on their Anteaters with the chant, "Give 'em the tongue. Zot, zot!"

Go team.

Lisa Caudill, *The Daily*,
U. of Washington