

Carr, Harrington leave programs scrambling

David Carr and Joey Harrington followed similar paths through last season and into the NFL

Hank Hager
Sports Reporter

Their lives and careers have paralleled each other.

They both led their schools to national recognition and top-name bowl appearances, and in the process became poster boys for staying in school.

One was the first overall pick in the 2002 NFL Draft. The other went two spots behind that.

Even their schools have mimicked one another in the search for their replacements.

The only difference is that one wears No. 8 while the other sports No. 3.

Joey Harrington and David Carr, saviors of the Oregon and Fresno State football programs, respectively, both played the 2001 season amid national exposure and Heisman expectations.

Harrington has gone on to the Detroit Lions while Carr is the top signal-caller for the NFL's newest team, the Houston Texans.

Both are expected to take a majority of snaps for their respective teams this season, although Harrington won't start immediately. And like many rookies in the NFL, both have had an adjustment period.

"Route concepts are route concepts, no matter what level you're playing on," Harrington told the Detroit Free Press. "Everybody runs the hook, curl flat, everybody runs posts. It's just a matter of learning the new terminology for those routes and then learning the new protections that go with them."

Most agree the two will eventually find success on the professional gridiron. The big question, at least in the collegiate world, surrounds Fresno State and Oregon.

How can each team replace its former franchise players?

For the Bulldogs, that answer came in the shape of junior Jeff Grady — for one game, anyway.

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Above: Justin Case Conder Fresno State Media Services

David Carr (above) and Joey Harrington (below) both had outstanding senior seasons at Fresno State and Oregon, respectively. Carr now starts for the Houston Texans of the NFL, while Harrington is fighting for a starting job with the Detroit Lions.

Below: Adam Amato Emerald



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