



COLLEGE SPREAD LEAVES PLAYERS THIN ON PRO SET EXPERIENCE

New System Hard to Tackle in Transition

(San Diego - June 1, 2015) With the 2015 NFL draft over and training camps on the horizon, one thing NFL scouts and coaches can agree on: The college spread system makes projecting performance at the pro level complex and unpredictable. The United States Football League (USFL) will bridge that gap with a professional football developmental league.

"You'd think with all the advancements in training and technology, predicting a college player's success at the pro level would be easier," said Fred Biletznikoff, Jr., the USFL's Chief Operating Officer of Football Operations. "The fact of the matter is it has become increasingly difficult. The prevalence of the spread offense in the college game means players at that level are taught a completely different football system, which, except for the position of wide receiver, does not translate to the NFL. The transition takes time and we can't expect college coaches to change their systems to accommodate the needs of the pros."

The approximately 250 college players just drafted and 450 rookie free agents signed will have only four to six weeks during training camp to demonstrate to their new teams that they are worthy of one of the 53 final roster spots or one of the eight practice squad spots. Those who don't make the final rosters will have nowhere to go to continue developing their skills and the NFL will lose hidden gems. The USFL will fill that void.

"In addition to the stress of participating in NFL camps for the first time and having to learn a new system, rookies are competing with faster, bigger and stronger players, many of whom they idolized growing up. The pressure begins to impact their game." said USFL President & CEO Jim Bailey, whose tenure with the Cleveland Browns and Baltimore Ravens included witnessing the advantage of additional organized playing time the old USFL provided for players and teams. "All it took was that added experience for teams like ours to revisit a player's potential," he said.

The USFL will capitalize on the memory of the name of its predecessor of thirty years ago, but will not compete with the NFL in any way; it will strive to complement and supplement the established League by developing players who have fallen through the cracks of the NFL system. Players will be free to move to the NFL at any time, even during the USFL spring and summer playing season. The League will be comprised of 8 teams playing a fourteen game schedule using NFL rules.

The current focus of the USFL is to raise the additional funds necessary to operate the League properly and will not kick off until all the required capital has been secured.

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