

Does the possible addition of Ryan Tannehill really mean the Dolphins are rebuilding?

Contributed by Tony Simmons
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That is what Ben Volin of the Palm Beach Post seems to think and has an article up on their website that was posted on April 13th.

The general perception seems to be that the Dolphins will miss out on one of the premeir pass rushers or wide receivers in the nation, a player that can come in and contribute from Day 1 for a team that has holes to fill. And while it is true that if the Dolphins were to take Tannehill if he drops to them at #8 and you are taking a player that will not contribute in 2012, I am of the opinion that you can indeed get the talent needed to help this team move forward.

But before we move forward on this, let me make my thoughts clear on Ryan Tannehill. I AM NOT IN FAVOR OF THE DOLPHINS TRADING UP TO SECURE RYAN TANNEHILL. This is a Miami team that does need to add pieces, a team that still needs to fill holes. If you trade up into #3 to possibly get ahead of Cleveland, you are looking at a deal similar to what the Redskins gave up to get Robert Griffin III. Griffin is going to start for the Redskins Day 1, Tannehill will not start for any team Day 1.

Do I believe that Tannehill can indeed be the quarterback of the future for Miami, YES. I also know the Dolphins will be reaching for him at #8, which I am fine with, but at least the Dolphins will not be giving away valuable picks to acquire him. Remember, we are talking about a kid that was projected to be a late 1st, early 2nd round draft pick when this process started. And while I know the value of quarterbacks get pushed up dramatically, I do not agree with trading up into the top 5 to draft a kid that will sit in 2012 or longer.

Now, getting back to acquiring talent that can help this team in 2012, there are talented pass rusher that can help the Dolphins that can be acquired after the 1st round. Boise State's Shea McClellin, Chandler Jones of Syracuse, Vinny Curry of Marshall, Bruce Irvin of West Virginia, Jonathan Massaquoi of Troy, Brandon Lindsey of Pittsburgh, Cam Johnson of Virginia, Tyrone Crawford of Boise State, Jake Bequette of Arkansas & Andre Branch of Clemson are all very talented pass rushers that will be available after the 1st round. There is a buzz that Courtney Upshaw, the tweener OLB/DE from Alabama could drop into the 2nd round.

At wide receiver, Alshon Jeffrey of South Carolina, Mohammed Sanu of Rutgers, Chris Givens of Wake Forest, Juron Criner of Arizona, Ryan Broyles of Oklahoma, Marvin McNutt of Iowa, A.J Jenkins of Illinois, Brian Quick of Appalachian State, Marvin Jones of Cal, Nick Toon of Wisconsin, Joe Adams of Arkansas, T.Y Hilton of Florida International make up a very large group of talented wide receivers that will be on the board after the 1st round.

I could keep going, but I think you get the point. The Dolphins WILL be able to address there needs and get starting caliber talent after the 1st round. The Dolphins don't have to be looked at as a team that is rebuilding if they choose to take Ryan Tannehill in the 1st round.

A point I want to make on Matt Moore also. This is a huge, huge year for this young man. He has handled the search for a quarterback UPGRADE with a lot of class. He will be in a battle for the starting quarterback job with David Garrard this off season, so once again he will have to prove himself. The last time Matt had a chance like this, he failed. He was coming off a very solid last stretch of games for the Carolina Panthers and was given the starting job and did not capatalize on that chance.

If Matt wants to be a starter in this league, he will need to take advantage of this opportunity. He has room to improve and will be learning a new offense. He has nice mobility and has talent, but needs to improve his accuracy. He won't get a better chance than this.

Drop in next week as I will be putting out a revised 2012 NFL Mock Draft.