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Packers Blog

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Damarious Randall took unusual path to Green Bay's secondary

By Tyler Dunne of the Journal Sentinel

May 1, 2015 2:47 p.m.

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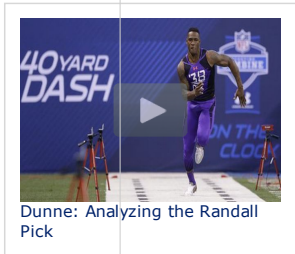
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Green Bay — He was a baseball player from a baseball family. **Damarious Randall** himself isn't sure where he'd be if not for a shoulder injury suffered at Butler Community College (Kan.)

"If I didn't hurt my shoulder, where am I today?" Randall said. "I really couldn't tell you. I really don't even know."

As it turns out, the shoulder injury allowed Randall to switch back to football.

He transferred to Mesa Community College (Ariz.), starred, and then spent two years at Arizona State. And on Thursday, the Green Bay Packers made the defensive back their first-round draft pick at No. 30 overall. Randall was a free safety in **Todd Graham's** scheme with the Sun Devils, though general manager **Ted Thompson** said he views Randall as a cornerback moving around in **Dom Capers' scheme**.

At Mesa CC, Randall was a cornerback, returner and wide receiver.

This multi-sport, multi-position background is what appealed to the Packers so now they'll be counting on him in a division that just added another weapon in West Virginia's **Kevin White**. The 5-foot-11, 190-pound Randall said that 12 teams spoke to him about playing corner with "seven or eight" discussing safety. Several teams have sought after such hybrid players in the draft, such as San Francisco taking Northern Illinois' **Jimmie Ward** at the same selection in last year's draft.

Whether it's in the slot, out wide or at safety, Randall says he's comfortable.

"I have a background in both of them," Randall said, "so I just feel like I can play whatever they ask me to play, corner or safety. So just whatever the coaching staff feels is best for me to help the team."

"Corner's fun to be out there on an island and then safety kind of being back there controlling the back end is also fun. So either one, just being on the field is just kind of my mind-set."

In his two seasons with the Sun Devils, Randall had 177 tackles (15 for loss), six interceptions and 12 pass break-ups. He admits he didn't envision the Packers a serious possibility on draft day, though noted he did spend time with the team at the NFL scouting combine and spoke one on one with a secondary coach for a while.

With Arizona State blitzing so much, the defense was in a lot of zero coverage across the board meaning that the safety Randall has been in many one-on-one situations with receivers.

Out of high school in Pensacola, Fla., he opted to pursue a baseball career as a centerfielder at Butler CC and then hurt his shoulder.

"I had a brother that was drafted back in '06 to the Royals, a brother back in '99 played for the Cincinnati Reds," Randall said, "and my dad is actually still playing in an adult men's league now. So it was just kind of like a baseball type family."

The experience at centerfield, he said, helps in "judging the ball" and

VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS



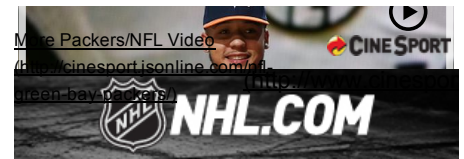
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Chicago for the draft
 Bob McGinn's first-round
 NFL mock draft

The experience at cornerback, he said, helped in judging the team. "The Packers cited this background as a reason the Packers were drawn to him. At Mesa CC, however, resetting his athletic career, he blossomed on the football field with 69 tackles (50 solo), nine interceptions and five total touchdowns (two receiving, two punt returns, one interception return).



Packers, NFL Picks

Packers' picks: Round-by-round selections, bios
Draft: Pick-by-pick coverage

In addition to cornerback, Randall caught eight passes for 152 yards at wide receiver, while averaging 28.2 yards per kick return and 18.4 yards per punt return.

The Packers, under Thompson's scouting staff, have preferred defensive backs capable of playing at multiple spots. Now, they've added another to a secondary that lost **Tramon Williams** and **Davon House** this off-season.

"It was an amazing feeling hearing my name get called," Randall said, "and just Green Bay and the coaching staff believing in me."

Green Bay Packers players

Tweets from a list by Journal Sentinel
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Eddie Lacy @Lil_Eazy_Ana_42 10m

Smh...lmao
 Expand

Ha Ha Clinton-Dix @haha_cd6 19m

Louisiana boys in New York Saucy. Congrats @ALLAMERICAN_2 so proud of the young man you have have become.
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Tramon Williams Sr. @HighRizer22 41m

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Live Draft Blog



Join the discussion all three days of the NFL draft as **Tom Silverstein** and **Tyler Dunne** answer questions and provide live updates and analysis from Lambeau Field.

- [Day 1 live blog](#)
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About Tyler Dunne

Tyler Dunne covers the Green Bay Packers. He has been on the beat since 2011, winning awards with the Pro Football Writers of America and Milwaukee Press Club.

[@TyDunne](#) [✉ tdunne@journalsentinel.com](mailto:tdunne@journalsentinel.com)

2015 Packers' Draft Picks

Here are the Green Bay Packers' picks by round in the 2015 NFL Draft:

Rd.	No.	Pick
1	30	Damarious Randall
2	62	--
3	94	--
4	129	--
5	166	--
6	206	--
6	210	--
6	213	--
7	247	--

PACKERS' PICKS: [Capsules](#), [stats](#), [scouts' comments on all GB's selections](#)

Draft order: [Every round, every pick](#)

Bob McGinn Draft Series

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NFL Draft Basics

Where: Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, Chicago.

Thursday, April 30: First round, 7 p.m.

Friday, May 1: Second and third rounds, 6 p.m.

Saturday, May 2: Fourth through seventh rounds, 11 a.m.

Packers beat writers

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Tyler Dunne @TyDunne 18m

An option for the #Packers in the first round goes to Chicago in the second.
twitter.com/danwiederer/st...
 Expand

Tyler Dunne @TyDunne 27m

A tradition like no other. With the curled lips and aggressive nod of approval.
twitter.com/danwiederer/st...
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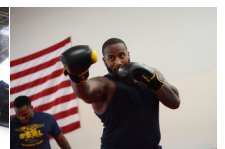
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