



# ARIZONA CARDINALS FOOTBALL CLUB

NFL DRAFT — DAY 1

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2009

## CARDS SELECT OHIO STATE RB CHRIS “BEANIE” WELLS WITH THE 31<sup>ST</sup> PICK:

- By selecting Ohio State running back Chris “Beanie” Wells with 31<sup>st</sup> overall, Arizona had their lowest draft position since the NFL Draft began. Their previous low pick was in 1976 when they picked 22<sup>nd</sup> in the first round (Mike Dawson, DT).
- Wells becomes the first running back taken by the Cardinals in the first round since they selected Thomas Jones seventh overall in 2000 out of Virginia. Wells is just the fourth running back taken by the Cardinals in the first round in the last 30 years. The others were Garrison Hearst, taken third overall in 1993 out of Georgia, and Ottis Anderson, who was selected eighth overall in 1979 out of Miami (FL).
- Comes from a large family that consisted of 11 children—six boys and five girls. It was his older brother Ray who gave Wells the nickname “Beanie,” a reference to his smaller frame as a child that his brother said reminded him of a string bean.
- Before Wells, the last player the Cardinals selected from Ohio State in the first round was David Boston, taken with the eighth overall pick in 1999. Wells becomes the 18<sup>th</sup> player from Ohio State taken by the Cardinals in the NFL Draft, but joins Boston as the only Buckeye players taken in the first round by the Cards.
- After taking Wells in the first round, the Cardinals have now selected a player on the offensive side of the ball with their first pick in eight of the last 11 drafts dating back to 1999.
- He becomes the 39<sup>th</sup> running back from Ohio State selected in the NFL Draft and the 383<sup>rd</sup> Ohio State player to be drafted. Only Notre Dame (461) and Southern California (450) have had more players selected than the Buckeyes.
- Wells joined Malcolm Jenkins, taken by the Saints with the 14<sup>th</sup> overall pick, as the two Ohio State products drafted in the first round. 2009 marks the third time in the last four drafts that Ohio State has had at least two players selected in the first round and the sixth time since 1999.
- Wells joins a storied list of Ohio State running backs drafted in the first round, one that includes three Heisman trophy winners and the only two-time winner of the award recognizing college football’s best player. Below is a list of the 10 Ohio State running backs taken in the first round of the NFL Draft:

<u>Player</u>	<u>Pick</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Team</u>
<b>Chris “Beanie” Wells</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Cardinals</b>
Eddie George*	14 <sup>th</sup>	1996	Oilers/Texans
Robert Smith	21 <sup>st</sup>	1993	Vikings
Keith Byars	10 <sup>th</sup>	1986	Eagles
Archie Griffin**	24 <sup>th</sup>	1976	Bengals
John Brockington	9 <sup>th</sup>	1971	Packers
Leo Hayden	24 <sup>th</sup>	1971	Vikings
Tom Matte	7 <sup>th</sup>	1961	Colts
Don Clark	7 <sup>th</sup>	1959	Bears
Howard “Hopalong” Cassady*	3 <sup>rd</sup>	1956	Lions

\*Heisman Trophy Winner

\*\*Two-time Heisman Trophy Winner

- Wells entered the NFL Draft following his junior season, becoming the first underclassman drafted by the Cardinals in the first round since three-time Pro Bowl wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald. Fitzgerald was selected by the Cardinals with the third overall pick in 2004 after spending two years at the University

of Pittsburgh, where he attended following one season at Valley Forge (PA) Military Academy after his senior season of high school.

- Wells is no stranger to his new home field—University of Phoenix Stadium—having played in the 2007 BCS National Championship against the University of Florida and the 2009 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl when the Buckeyes took on the Texas Longhorns. Although the Buckeyes fell short in both games, Wells performed well, rushing for 115 yards on 18 carries (6.4 avg.). The majority of those yards came in the 2009 Fiesta Bowl when he rushed for 106 yards on 16 carries against the Longhorns.
- During his three seasons at Ohio State, Wells started 21-of-36 games for the Buckeyes and rushed for 3,382 yards and 30 touchdowns on 585 carries (5.8 avg.) adding 84 yards on fifteen receptions.
- In his collegiate career, Wells accomplished the following:
  - ✓ Averaged 93.9 rushing yards per game for his career, third-best in OSU history. Totaled 123.8 yards per game in 2007 and 119.7 yards per game in 2008.
  - ✓ Tied Keith Byars for third on OSU's all-time record list with 17 100-yard games.
  - ✓ His 1,609 rushing yards in 2007 rank as the fourth-highest total in team history and earned him second-team All-American recognition.
- A big-game performer for the Buckeyes, Wells rose to the occasion in Ohio State's two Bowl games in which he was the starting back. In the 2008 National Championship Game vs. LSU, rushed for 146 yards and a touchdown on 20 carries (7.7 avg.) as well as his 106-yard performance against Texas in the 2009 Fiesta Bowl.
- One of the most highly recruited prep athletes in the country coming out of Garfield (Akron, OH) High School where he earned Parade All-American honors. Wells was named the National Player of the Year and best prospect in the country by several publications as a senior after rushing for 2,134 yards and 27 touchdowns on 223 carries (9.6 avg.) in 2005. He was also named the Most Valuable Player of the U.S. Army All-America Bowl after scoring three touchdowns during the game.
- Garfield High School in Akron is a cross-town rival of St. Vincent-St. Mary High School, the prep alma mater of NBA superstar and Cleveland Cavalier LeBron James.

#### **CARDS SELECT OLB CODY BROWN IN ROUND TWO (63<sup>rd</sup> OVERALL):**

- With their second selection of the day, the Cardinals chose Connecticut outside linebacker Cody Brown with the 63<sup>rd</sup> overall selection. Marks the third consecutive season that the Cardinals have selected a defender in the second round and the fourth time in the last six drafts.
- Brown is the 21<sup>st</sup> player ever drafted from the University of Connecticut and the first UConn player ever taken by the Cardinals in the draft. Before 2009, the highest a UConn player had ever been drafted was the third round, when New Orleans drafted LB Alfred Fincher with the 82<sup>nd</sup> overall pick in 2005. In 2009, two UConn players went higher—RB Donald Brown was drafted by the Colts with the 27<sup>th</sup> overall pick in the first round and Cody Brown was drafted by Arizona in the second. Donald Brown is the first UConn player ever taken in the first round while Cody Brown represents the first Huskie ever taken in the second round.
- The selection of Cody and Donald Brown marks just the fifth time in school history that two UConn players have been selected in the same draft.
- A defensive end in college, Brown is expected to make the transition to outside linebacker with the Cardinals. In four seasons with the Huskies, Brown started 33-of-42 games and recorded 150 tackles, 24 sacks, and 45.5 stops for losses. He also added six forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries.

- Named UConn's Defensive Most Valuable Player in 2008 and was a third-team All-America selection by the NFL Draft report after starting all 13 games and recording a career-high 56 tackles and 11 sacks. He tied the school single-season record with five forced fumbles during his senior campaign.
- Attended Coral Spring (FL) High School where he was named first-team All-Broward County, adding All-State honorable mention and Miami Herald Sweet Sixteen recognition as a senior when he led the team to the district playoffs, recording 88 tackles and nine sacks.

**CARDS GET HELP ON OFFENSE AND DEFENSE ON DAY ONE:**

- After using their first two picks on the defensive side of the ball in 2008, the Cardinals selected one player on offense and one player on defense in 2009, the seventh time in the last 10 drafts that Arizona has selected one player on each side of the ball with their first two picks.

**NFL DRAFT—DAY ONE TIDBITS:**

- In the second year under the new draft format, in which each team gets 10 minutes for first round selections and seven minutes between second round selections, the first round clocked in at three hours and 23 minutes. In 2007, the final season under the previous format, the first round had a running time of six hours and eight minutes.
- Below is a breakdown of the players taken at each position on the first day of the 2009 NFL Draft:

<u>Position</u>	<u># Selected</u>
Center	3
Guard	1
Tackle	8
Defensive End	9
Defensive Tackle	5
Linebacker	8
Wide Receiver	8
Tight End	2
Defensive Back	12
Quarterback	4
Running Back	4
<b>Total:</b>	<b>64</b>

**LOOKING TOWARDS DAY TWO:**

- The Cardinals will enter day two of the 2009 NFL Draft with six selections over the final five rounds. The Cardinals have two selections in the seventh round after being awarded a compensatory draft pick. Arizona will have the following selections on day two:

<u>Round</u>	<u>Round #</u>	<u>Overall #</u>
3	31 <sup>st</sup>	95 <sup>th</sup>
4	31 <sup>st</sup>	131 <sup>st</sup>
5	31 <sup>st</sup>	167 <sup>th</sup>
6	31 <sup>st</sup>	204 <sup>th</sup>
7a	31 <sup>st</sup>	240 <sup>th</sup>
7b	45 <sup>th</sup>	254 <sup>th</sup>