



• FRONT PAGE

- Helena
- Montana
- National/World
- Obituaries
- Opinions
- For the Record
- RSS
- AP Podcasts
- Sign up for e-mail notifications



Text Size: [Small](#) | [Medium](#) | [Large](#)
 Other Options: [View / Post Comments](#) | [Email this story](#) | [Print this story](#)
[View Related Headlines](#)

Carothers signs with 49ers

By TOM STUBER - IR Sports Writer - 4/26/04

Perhaps the best news for local sports fans is what didn't happen in the NFL Draft.

The Detroit Lions didn't take highly touted Kellen Winslow, Jr. of the Miami Hurricanes or any other tight end, which has to serve as a confidence boost to the Lions' current tight end and former Carroll College star Casey Fitzsimmons.

"I think it's fair to say that Detroit has confidence in Casey," Fitzsimmons' agent Chris Gittings of Hometown Sport Management in Helena, said. "He has a wonderful attitude and would've been happy to see the Lions do whatever they needed to make the team better."

Former Capital High standout Greg Carothers, who just completed a stellar career as a safety/linebacker at Washington wasn't chosen in the draft, but did sign as a free agent with the San Francisco 49ers.

"I thought (getting drafted) was possible, but didn't expect it," Carothers said. "But even though I didn't expect it, (the draft) still wears on you. It's an amazing day for me."

Carothers turned down current 49er head coach Dennis Erickson when Erickson was the head coach at Oregon State. Erickson may not have been able to recruit Carothers then, but he had better luck this time.



"I've been good friends with him," Carothers, who wasn't eliminating the chance of moving back to safety, said. "I played safety pretty well in college, so I may move back. You never know."

Carothers received interest from the Minnesota Vikings, but opted for the familiar surroundings of the Bay Area where he will also have a former UW coach now on staff with the Niners on the sidelines.

Mark Gallik, who hails from Stevensville and just finished an All America career with two-time defending NAIA champion Carroll College, didn't receive a free agent offer from a NFL team.

"He has interest from four CFL teams," Gittings said. "He had minor knee surgery and hasn't been cleared to run."

Hometown Sports Management had two other players under its wing for the draft.

Malcom Floyd out of the University of Wyoming and Isaac Mitchell of Idaho State both received free agent contracts. Wide receiver coach James Lofton in San Diego will school Floyd, while Mitchell will pack his bags for Buffalo.

A host of players with ties to the Treasure State were selected in the seven round NFL Draft Saturday and Sunday.

The Baltimore Ravens selected Dwan Edwards of Columbus in the second round. Edwards played for Oregon State of the PAC 10 Conference. Montana State's Joey Thomas was a third round selection of the Green Bay Packers. Thomas was the first NCAA Division I-AA player taken.

The Buffalo Bills took Montana's Dylan McFarland of Kalispell in the seventh round.

The Dallas Cowboys took Patrick Crayton, who went up against Carroll College in last year's NAIA national championship game, in the seventh round.

Three other Big Sky Conference players joined Thomas and McFarland in the draft.

Jared Allen, winner of the Buck Buchanan Award given to the top defensive player in I-AA, went to Kansas City in the fourth round. Wide receiver Clarence Moore of Northern Arizona was the 199th pick of the draft going to Baltimore and Marko Cavka, an offensive tackle from Sacramento State went to the New York Jets in round six.

Several players at Montana and Montana State, including MSU's Adam Cordeiro from Boulder are also considered as possible free agent signees. No information on those players was available at press time.

"There are always surprises," Gittings, who is in his fourth year and what he called his most successful as an agent, said. "If you think you've got a handle on the draft, you don't. I've learned that is the norm."

Last year Gittings had three players in the CFL and one in the NFL. This year he has three bound for the NFL and possibly one going to the CFL.

2nd Round - Dwan Edwards, dt, Oregon State, (51), Baltimore

3rd Round - Joey Thomas, cb, Montana State (70), Green Bay

4th Round - Jared Allen, de, Idaho State (126), Kansas City

6th Round - Marko Cavka, ot, Sacramento State (178), New York Jets

6th Round - Clarence Moore, wr, Northern Arizona, (199), Baltimore

7th Round - Dylan McFarland, ot, Montana (207), Buffalo

7th Round - Patrick Crayton, wr, NW Oklahoma State (216), Dallas

Free agent - Greg Carothers, lb, Washington, San Francisco

Free agent - Isaac Mitchell, rb, Idaho State, Buffalo

Free agent - Malcom Floyd, wr, Wyoming, San Diego

**Related
Headlines:**

- [Carothers signs with Cardinals](#)
- [Sports Briefs](#)
- [Local briefs](#)
- [Carothers signs with Buffalo](#)
- [Carothers ready for NFL camp](#)

Comments Home page

Hide comments

subject:

name:

email:

***Required to confirm comment.**

An email will be sent to this address for confirmation and a response must be sent before comment goes into approval queue.

message:

The IR welcomes comments of all points of view. We post as many comments as possible unless they are defamatory, in poor taste, contain significant inaccuracies, poetry, or are too long. Please limit comments to 200 words. Writers must include their E-Mail address for verification.



[Advertising Info.](#) | [Make us your homepage](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Sitemap](#) | [Archives](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Employment Opportunities](#) | [Discover Helena](#)

Copyright © Helena Independent Record; a division of Lee Enterprises
Copyright © 2006 Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.

[Regional Lee Papers](#) | [Butte](#) | [Billings](#) | [Missoula](#) | [The Adit](#) | [Prairie Star](#) | [MT Magazine](#) | [Ravalli](#) | [Bismarck](#)

