

Quality is priority

HOW TO BUILD A WINNER

A look at the players the Colts have drafted since team president Bill Polian's arrival in 1998, with analysis by sports editor Rick Morwick:



AP PHOTOS

Indianapolis Colts team president Bill Polian, left, and coach Tony Dungy, right, pose with Anthony Gonzalez after the Ohio State wide receiver was selected by the team in the first round of last year's NFL Draft. The Colts don't have a first-round pick in this year's draft.

1998

Rd.	Player	Pos.	School
1.	Peyton Manning	QB	Tennessee
2.	Jerome Pathon	WR	Washington
3.	E.G. Green	WR	Florida State
4.	Steve McKinney	OG	Texas A&M
5.	Anthony Jordan	LB	Vanderbilt
7.	Aaron Taylor	OL	Nebraska
7.	Cory Gaines	DB	Tennessee

Analysis: The Colts have only one player to show for what was an otherwise forgettable draft: Manning. That fact alone makes 1998 a hallowed year in franchise history.

The Colts took Manning with the overall No. 1 pick, selecting the future Hall of Famer ahead of mega-bust Ryan Leaf. The rest, as the saying goes, is history.



Bill Polian's first draft pick as the Colts' president has worked out well. Quarterback Peyton Manning led the team to a league championship in the 2006 season.

1999

Rd.	Player	Pos.	School
1.	Edgerrin James	RB	Miami (Fla.)
2.	Mike Peterson	LB	Florida
3.	Brandon Burlsworth	OG	Arkansas
4.	Paul Miranda	DB	Central Florida
5.	Brad Scioli	DE	Penn State
7.	Hunter Smith	P	Notre Dame
7.	Corey Terry	LB	Tennessee

Analysis: Colts struck paydirt in the first round with James and again in the second with Peterson.

Although both players eventually were lost to free agency, they played critical roles while they were here.

Smith was taken in the seventh round, and he's been the Colts' punter ever since.

2000

Rd.	Player	Pos.	School
1.	Rob Morris	LB	Brigham Young
2.	Marcus Washington	LB	Auburn
3.	David Macklin	DB	Penn State
4.	Josh Williams	DT	Michigan
5.	Matt Johnson	OG	Brigham Young
7.	Rob Renes	DT	Michigan
7.	Rodregis Brooks	DB	Ala.-Birmingham

Analysis: First-round pick was used on Morris, who recently was released after appearing in only two games in 2007 because of a serious knee injury.

Morris, second-round pick Washington and third-round pick Macklin were the only other meaningful picks in an otherwise comparatively below average Colts draft.

2001

Rd.	Player	Pos.	School
1.	Reggie Wayne	WR	Miami (Fla.)
2.	Idrees Bashir	DB	Memphis
3.	Cory Bird	DB	Virginia Tech
4.	Ryan Diem	OG	Northern Illinois
5.	Raymond Walls	DB	So. Mississippi
6.	Jason Doering	DB	Wisconsin
7.	Rick DeMulling	OG	Idaho

Analysis: Indianapolis didn't cull a lot of depth but did find the perfect bookend for Marvin Harrison when it took wide receiver Wayne with the 30th pick of the first round.

Wayne made his Pro Bowl debut in 2007. Colts drafted guard Diem in the fourth round. He's been a starting fixture for six seasons.

2002

Rd.	Player	Pos.	School
1.	Dwight Freeney	DE	Syracuse
2.	Larry Tripplett	DT	Washington
3.	Joseph Jefferson	DB	W. Kentucky
4.	David Thornton	LB	North Carolina
6.	David Pugh	DT	Virginia Tech
6.	James Lewis	DB	Miami (Fla.)
6.	Brian Allen	RB	Stanford
7.	Josh Mallard	DE	Georgia

Analysis: Colts found the cornerstone of their defense when they took Freeney with the 11th pick of the first round. Tripplett and Thornton are former starters.

2003

Rd.	Player	Pos.	School
1.	Dallas Clark	TE	Iowa
2.	Mike Doss	DB	Ohio State
3.	Donald Strickland	DB	Colorado State
4.	Steve Sciollo	OG	Marshall
5.	Robert Mathis	DE	Alabama A&M
5.	Keyon Whiteside	LB	Tennessee
6.	Cato June	DB	Michigan
6.	Makoa Freitas	OT	Arizona

Analysis: Tabbed Pro Bowl tight end Clark in the first round and starting defensive end Mathis in the fifth.

Doss and June went on to become starters.



CLARK

2004

Rd.	Player	Pos.	School
2.	Bob Sanders	DB	Iowa
3.	Ben Hartsock	TE	Ohio State
3.	Gilbert Gardner	LB	Purdue
4.	Kendyll Pope	LB	Florida State
4.	Jason David	DB	Washington State
5.	Jake Scott	OT	Idaho
6.	Von Hutchins	DB	Mississippi
6.	Jim Sorgi	QB	Wisconsin
7.	David Kimball	K	Penn State

Analysis: In terms of quantity, this was a lean year. In terms of quality, it was off the charts.

Indianapolis didn't have a first-round pick but found arguably the best player in the draft in the second when they tabbed 2007 NFL Defensive Player of the Year Sanders with the 44th overall pick.

2005

Rd.	Player	Pos.	School
1.	Marlin Jackson	DB	Michigan
2.	Kelvin Hayden	DB	Illinois
3.	Vincent Burns	DT	Kentucky
4.	Dylan Gandy	C/G	Texas Tech
4.	Matt Giordano	DB	California
5.	Jonathan Welsh	DE	Wisconsin
5.	Rob Hunt	C/G	N. Dakota St.
5.	Tjuan Hagler	LB	Cincinnati
6.	Dave Rayner	K	Michigan State
7.	Anthony Davis	RB	Wisconsin

Analysis: Colts mined two starting defensive backs with their first two picks. Gandy and Giordano also have been key contributors. Gandy had 11 starts in 2006 and saw action in 10 games in 2007. Giordano started four times last season and is an impact player on special teams.

2006

Rd.	Player	Pos.	School
1.	Joseph Addai	RB	Louisiana State
2.	Tim Jennings	DB	Georgia
3.	Freddy Keiaho	LB	San Diego State
5.	Michael Toudouze	OT	Texas Christian
6.	Charlie Johnson	OT	Oklahoma State
6.	Antoine Bethea	DB	Howard
7.	T.J. Rushing	DB	Stanford

Analysis: The Colts had eight total picks and hit the jackpot with four starters, including 2007 Pro Bowlers Addai and Antoine Bethea.

The Colts also found starters in Keiaho and Johnson. Jennings had four starts at cornerback in 2007.



ADDAI

2007

Rd.	Player	Pos.	School
1.	Anthony Gonzalez	WR	Ohio State
2.	Tony Ugoh	OT	Arkansas
3.	Daymeion Hughes	DB	California
3.	Quinn Pitcock	DT	Ohio State
4.	Brannon Condren	DB	Troy
4.	Clint Session	LB	Pittsburgh
5.	Roy Hall	WR	Ohio State
7.	Keyunta Dawson	DE	Texas Tech

Analysis: This class has all the appearances of being an overwhelming success. Of the Colts' nine selections, eight remain on the active roster.

Gonzalez, taken with the final pick in the first round, and Ugoh, taken with the 42nd overall pick, made immediate impacts. Gonzalez started nine times, and Ugoh had 11 starts at left tackle.

AT A GLANCE

What: NFL Draft
When: First round starts at 3 p.m. today, with the second round to follow. Round 3 begins at 10 a.m. Sunday, with rounds 4 through 7 to follow.

Where: New York

Top pick: Miami Dolphins, who already have signed Michigan offensive tackle Jake Long, right, and will select him with the first pick.

Colts' picks: None in the first round but nine selections overall

TV: ESPN

