

Ratskin’s Rumblings

NFL Draft

There’s an old saying: Ask 100 people at random an open-ended question, and you’ll get 100 different answers.

One that you could ask is, “Why did Shedeur Sanders fall to the fifth round in the NFL Draft?”

Especially when some prognosticators thought he’d surely be a slam-dunk No. 1 draft pick, or certainly a first-round pick.

I can’t answer that question myself. I’ve heard so many different explanations – attitude, potential for success (or failure) in the NFL, questions about his skills despite holding several season records, his father Deion – that I am having a hard time really coming up with a reason why it took to the fifth round for the Cleveland Browns to choose Sanders.

If you’re looking at assessing his skills – speed, ability to make good decisions quickly, arm strength, etc. – then I think the scouts, rather than the armchair fans would have the corner on this. I’d guess that they’re the experts and have seen what makes successful football players, ones having the most potential for helping their team to the post-season promiseland.

Recall that sometimes being the No. 1 draft pick, as some thought Shedeur would be, or in the very least a high first-rounder isn’t always a guarantee of success. LSU’s Jamarcus Russell to the Oakland Raiders in 2007 and Texas A&M’s Johnny Maziel to the Cleveland Browns in 2014 are classic examples.

Looking at things a different way, getting the job of NFL football player is the same as outside of sports (i.e. real life), such as a job interview, audition, etc. I don’t know how true the claim about how Shedeur’s meetings went with the NFL brass are, but there is something to be learned here nonetheless: If you don’t do well in an interview, you’re not going to get the job.

Back at the *North Scott Press* in Eldridge, I once covered a career fair where one of the speakers was Kurt Warner. Yes, *that* Kurt Warner; his brother-in-law was an assistant principal at North Scott High School. This was not long after leading Arizona to Super Bowl XLIII.

One of the points the future Hall Of Famer raised to students was how important it was to be prepared for a job interview, whether it’s your first job ever, your first job out of college, a promotion or so forth ... and that saying and doing the right things – researching the company, talking about your experiences and giving examples of successes and how you’ve learned from things that haven’t gone so well, how well you carry yourself and so forth – can make all the difference between being offered a job and having to continuing a job search.

“Not a lot of people have an opportunity to play at a professional level, so you always have to be able to separate yourself. You always have to have a reason for teams and coaches to pick you over the next guy,” Warner told students that day.

And by the way, Kurt Warner was undrafted ... and to date, the only winning Super Bowl quarterback (with the Rams when they were in St. Louis) and to lead another team (Arizona) to the Super Bowl.

Guess you don’t have to be drafted to be great.

And I’ve said it before about parents and how some are overbearing as their sons and/ or daughters just want to play the game, and quickly become a coach’s worst nightmare.

I’ve heard some allegations about Deion Sanders and predictions of how much influence he’ll carry into Shedeur’s professional career. Yes, there’s certain personality traits that I suppose father and son share, just like any other father and son(s), and that can be either a good thing or bad thing. But too much of it, and I wonder if concerns that father would try to have too much pull with the NFL team that picked son may have caused some teams to be uneasy.

So we’ll have to see.

Yes, Shedeur was highly successful at Colorado. Getting 7,364 yards passing in two seasons, 64 touchdowns and a 168.2 quarterback rating his senior year shows he knows what he’s doing, that he does have an arm and can make good decisions.

The Buffaloes were ranked in the final Associated Press and Coaches polls for the first time since 2016, and were invited to the Alamo Bowl. That 9-4 record didn’t happen by accident, and it’s often the quarterback is the face of the team.

And as the bonus, Shedeur took his later-than-expected pick with grace and humility.

“I’m extremely grateful for the opportunity, throughout everything,” he told reporters after being drafted by Cleveland. “I don’t ever focus on the negative or even think about the negative, because the positive happened so fast.”

But again, it’s those little things – attitude, interview skills, etc. – that may have held him back, at least initially.

I guess we’ll just have to wait and see how well Shedeur does in the NFL. As is the case with all the draftees and those who join teams undrafted, I wish him well.

* * *

Speaking of other draftees, the state of Iowa did quite alright with this year’s class.

Iowa has five players who heard their names called, including Kaleb Johnson, who’ll go to Pittsburgh as the 83rd overall pick. For a running back, being selected in the third round is usually pretty good, and having 1,500-plus yards in 12 games last fall is pretty impressive.

Running backs tend not to last long, but here’s hoping for a successful and lengthy career in the NFL for Johnson.

Three of Iowa State’s draftees went in the top three rounds, with wide receiver Jayden Higgins selected to the Houston Texans. With 1,183 receiving yards and nine touchdowns, it’s easy to see why the Cyclones were 11-3 last fall, reached the Big 12 Championship game and were a strong contender for the College Football Playoffs. He should do well.

I think this shows that Iowa and Iowa State can field excellent teams year after year and produce players who’ll find success in the NFL.

With the advent of modern weather forecasting, high school activity directors are able to make decisions earlier and earlier on whether to postpone a sporting event or allow an event to happen as scheduled.

This week was a key example.

Southwest Iowa didn’t quite escape the severe weather, as the tornado warning for northeastern Cass County attests. Even then, the storm wasn’t as bad as it could have been, thanks to the so-called “cap” that never quite came off to cause any storms to be really severe.

Yet, the ADs did the right thing, erring on the side of caution and postponing early.

As I noted last week, the coordination of school administrators, bus drivers, coaches and others played a key role in getting athletes home safely from several area meets on April 17, a night that began with at worst thunderstorms expected but ended with several strong tornadoes and large hail. It is that communication and care for safety of athletes that helped bring happy endings to a potentially deadly situation.

With the latest postponements – most of Monday’s events were golf and tennis meets, with many of those probably getting rescheduled since they are conference events – it does show that the powers that be are paying attention, even if the decisions are made last minute.

Because storms are often unpredictable, and you never know when you might run into a large tornado and have no time to react, except make your peace with God and hope for the best.



By Brian Rathjen
NT Sports Editor

Audubon County
Advocate Journal's

Athlete of
the Week

Carson Wessel, jr.
Audubon boys track

Contributing to a pair of top-three finishes at your home track invitational is a pretty noteworthy accomplishment.

Audubon junior Carson Wessel was up to the challenge this past week. He helped the Wheeler distance medley relay to a runner-up finish, the best of the night for the boys’ squad. He was with Mason Kasperbauer, Logan Stetzel and Aiden Kjergaard on that unit

He later returned to help the shuttle hurdle relay to a third place finish, with Mason Steckler, Brody Schultes and Kjergaard.

Congratulations for having a great meet, Carson!





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Legal Notice

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
April 15th, 2025

The meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order at 9:04 am by Chairman Heath Hansen. Present at the meeting were Heath Hansen, Kent Grabill, Don Mosinski, Lisa Frederiksen, Chassity Musfeldt, Meg Andersen, Mitch Rydl, Gareth Stoffer, Tyler Thygesen, Miranda Bills, Deb Campbell, and Dave Hansen.

Motion- Grabill Second- Mosinski to approve the agenda. Vote-all in favor. The City of Exira, represented by City Clerk Meg Andersen, met with Supervisors to discuss the 109 W Washington St property. Andersen asked if Supervisors would consider a tax abatement for the back taxes owed. Exira City will have an investor looking into the building to potentially have commercial business areas downstairs, and apartments in the upper level. Motion- Mosinski Second- Grabill to approve the tax abatement for 109 W Washington St in Exira. Vote-all in favor. Andersen and Engineer Rydl discussed upcoming projects and bid lettings. Mosinski stated that in the upcoming future, the County will be reviewing the costs of Law Enforcement for the other Cities.

Engineer Rydl gave Secondary Roads construction and maintenance updates. The 5 Year Plan and DOT Budget were presented. Supervisors reviewed these and will discuss/approve at the April 29th, 2025 meeting. A landowner meeting will be held tomorrow regarding the Oakfield 16 bridge. CAT will be meeting at Secondary Roads on Thursday to discuss Motor Grader prices. John Deere will also be providing quotes for Motor Graders.

Treasurer Campbell spoke to the Supervisors regarding the tax abatement for the Exira City property. Campbell said she needs the Supervisors to contact her regarding these, and they need to sign the documentation with their decisions. Motion- Mosinski Second- Grabill to approve the following MMP Annual Updates/Changes: Muhr (Handlos) #65707; Handlos Home Place West-7A #61965; Handlos Zaiger Farm #61951; Jorgensen Site #64571 and Madsen Barn #64624. Vote-all in favor. Motion- Grabill Second- Mosinski to accept/file the Clerk of Court fees collected for March 2025. Vote-all in favor. EMA Director Thygesen and Supervisors discussed the potential TTX Training on Cybersecurity for this Friday. The Courthouse is set to be closed to the Public due to a wiring update, so the idea of having employees attend a training session that day was previously discussed. Supervisors decided against having the training Friday and will potentially set a date later in the year.

At 10:00 am, Dave Hansen represented the City of Brayton to discuss the recent bid letting of the project with Rydl and Supervisors. There was a total of 3 bidders. Motion- Mosinski Second- Grabill to accept the low bid amount of \$463,250.06 and award the contract to Henningsen Construction Inc. Vote-all in favor. The estimated County portion will be \$364,239.24 and the Brayton City portion will be \$99,010.82. Brayton City still needs to discuss/decide the payment plan/options with the County. The 28E agreement with Brayton City may be revised after the road project is completed.

Discussion on the \$550,000 that was given to ACED for Economic Development was discussed. The idea was proposed to use those funds to pay on the annual Conservation Cabin TIF debt. There was no written agreement in place when the County allocated the funds to ACED. Supervisor Mosinski represents the County on the ACED Board and will inquire about the funds being used for the Cabin debt at Friday’s ACED meeting. Supervisors discussed prioritizing meetings with entities that receive allocations from the County starting this fall, having them provide documentation on the funds received, and consider adjusting the amounts allocated.

Motion- Mosinski Second- Grabill to approve setting the Public Hearing Date for the FY25 Budget Amendment #3 for May 13th, 2025. Vote-all in favor. Motion- Mosinski Second- Grabill to approve the meeting minutes of 4/8/25 and 4/11/25. Vote-all in favor. The Attorney’s Office Culligan water bill was discussed. Supervisors would like to meet with Attorney Swensen next week to make a final decision regarding who shall pay for the water. Motion- Mosinski Second- Grabill to approve claims as submitted by various departments to be paid in the amount of \$50,535.45 and published in a separate publication at the end of the month. Vote-all in favor. Non-Union wages following the Union increases were discussed. Supervisors checked with Secondary Roads and were shown hiring resolutions that state the Non-Union positions will follow the Union wage increases. Auditor Frederiksen went through the FY25 Budget Amendment #3 updates, and the FY26 budget for publication. Frederiksen explained the spreadsheets calculating the budget to Supervisors and answered questions. Motion- Mosinski Second- Grabill to approve the FY26 Budget for Publication. Vote-all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 12:11 pm.

/s/Heath Hansen
Chairman Board of Supervisors
(Published in the Audubon County Advocate Journal, Friday, May 2, 2025)

/s/Chassity Musfeldt
Audubon County Auditor Clerk