

Peterson, Bell Selected In UFL Draft

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The United Football League hopes to turn its fortunes around, especially the National Football League going through an owner's lockout of its players.

On Monday night, a Southern Conference player and a former Walter Payton Award winner were selected in the five-team draft. Offensive tackle Joel Bell of Furman was selected with the fifth and final pick of the first round by the UFL champion Las Vegas Locos.

Bell, who stands six-foot-seven and weighs 308 pounds, was selected by The Sports Network as an FCS All-America in 2008. He's had NFL tryouts with the Buffalo Bills and the Dallas Cowboys.

Also selected in the draft was running back Adrian Peterson, who won the Payton Award in 1999. Peterson ran for 1,807 yards and scored 29 touchdowns in 1999 and led Georgia Southern to an FCS (Division I-AA at the time) national title that season. Peterson, who was drafted in the fourth round by the Chicago Bears and spent the last eight years with that team, finished his college career with 2,704 yards rushing and 40 TDs.

His best year with the Bears came in 2007, when he ran for 510 yards and caught 51 passes. Peterson was taken with the fourth pick in the third round and the 14th pick overall. Peterson was chosen by head coach (and former NFL coach) Mary Schottenheimer of the Virginia Destroyers.

The five-team UFL will play its third season in 2011 after, according to media reports, it lost close to \$80 million during its first two seasons. The league is trying to attract college players who went undrafted by the NFL last week and are not being offered free-agent contracts during the lockout.