

Lipford Going Pro....

Written by Staff Reports
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Darius Lipford, who played at Hibriten High, will forgo his senior year at the University of North Carolina and entered the 2014 NFL supplemental draft. The supplemental draft takes place on Friday.

The supplemental draft is for college players who didn't request early entry into the regular draft. Lipford, a linebacker, stands 6-foot-3 and weighs 245 pounds. A Lenoir native, Lipford started four games as a sophomore at UNC in 2011 before tearing his anterior cruciate ligament in the Independence Bowl.

After sitting out the 2012 season, he appeared in 10 games at bandit last year, finishing with 20 tackles, six tackles for loss, 2.5 sacks and four quarterback hurries.

Lipford played in 11 games and started one as a true freshman in 2010. He had four tackles on the season, including two against Virginia and one each against Miami and William & Mary. His first collegiate start came against William & Mary.

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Lipford was one of the highest rated linebackers in North Carolina his senior year. He was selected to play in the Shrine Bowl team, and he had a sack and forced a fumble in that game.

Lipford was the 13th ranked player in North Carolina by SuperPrep; he was ranked the No.25 prospect in North Carolina by The Charlotte Observer, and ESPN.com considered him the No. 39 outside linebacker prospect in the country.

Lipford was earned first-team all-state honors his senior year. He was coached by Hibriten athletic director (at that time the football coach) Chuck Cannon. Lipford played basketball his senior year and helped the Panthers reach the Class 3A Western Regional finals.

Photo Courtesy: Darius Lipford, UNC Athletics