# NFL Draft: Matthew Stafford Top QB Prospect

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Thursday, 23 April 2009
Last Updated Thursday, 23 April 2009

The 2009 NFL Draft will take place this Saturday and Sunday, April 25-26 at the Radio City Music Hall in New York City. All signs are pointing toward the Detroit Lions taking Georgia quarterback Matthew Stafford with the first overall selection. The two parties are said to be in pre-draft negotiations at this moment.

NFL Draft: Matthew Stafford Top QB Prospect at Sportsbook.com currently has the former Bulldog field general listed at -2000 odds to be the first pick in this year's draft.

Stafford has long been hyped as an outstanding NFL prospect. His arm has been the subject of big talk dating back to his high school days in Dallas, Texas. Stafford was said to be able to throw the ball 80 yards even then and he has proven over the last three seasons at Georgia that he has the ability to make every throw that an NFL quarterback needs to make.

One of the knocks on Stafford is that he relies too much on his cannon-like arm and can get a little careless with his throws. However, he demonstrated improvement every year at Georgia and many have noted his ability to work through his progressions quickly and deliver the ball well in the face of pressure. Stafford clearly believes he is more than just an arm.

"I love dispelling the strong-armed quarterback stereotype when I am with NFL teams" Stafford said. "I love getting up on the board and showing folks how much I know about this game. I, obviously, don't know everything. I feel like, however, that I have a great knowledge of the game."

If the Bulldogs record over the past three seasons is any indication, than Stafford does know a thing or two about winning. Georgia went 30-9 in his three seasons there and also won three consecutive bowl games. In 2007 the Dawgs finished number two in the AP Poll and won the BCS Sugar Bowl 41-10 over Hawaii. Stafford was 14-of-23 in that game for 175 yards and a touchdown.

Last season the 6'3" Texas native connected on 235 passes in 383 attempts for a 61.4 completion percentage. He also passed for career highs in yardage (3459) and touchdowns (25).

Somewhat surprisingly, Stafford has shown an open desire to be the number one overall selection, despite that pick belonging to Detroit, which has been the NFL equivalent of purgatory. Perhaps its the opportunity to throw to Calvin Johnson or maybe it is his belief that he can help turn the moribund franchise around.

"I am a competitive guy" Stafford said. "I don't think the Lions are that far off."

That confidence could mean that Stafford is not that far off from cashing in in a big way.

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