

2001 WINNER JULIUS PEPPERS HOPES TO EXTEND ROTARY LOMBARDI NFL DRAFT STATUS

HOUSTON- Should 2001 Rotary Lombardi Award winner Julius Peppers be selected by the Carolina Panthers with the second pick in the 2002 NFL Draft, he would continue the tradition of Lombardi winners and finalists being selected high in the annual talent lottery. Peppers would become the 10th Rotary Lombardi winner to be taken in the first two picks in the draft and the first since Orlando Pace (a two-time winner) was taken first overall by the St. Louis Rams in 1997. The last winner taken as the second overall pick was Cornelius Bennett of Alabama who was taken by the Bills. Peppers figures to be long gone before 2001 Heisman Award winner Eric Crouch of Nebraska's name is called. He will become the ninth Lombardi winner in the past 11 years to be selected before his Heisman counterpart. The only recent years when the Heisman winner was tabbed before the winner of the Lombardi was in 2000, when Ron Dayne was taken before Corey Moore of Virginia Tech. The other instance was in 1996, when Lombardi winner Orlando Pace elected to stay in school and was not eligible for the draft. Overall, a total of 18 Rotary Lombardi finalists have been selected with either the first or second picks in the draft. The first was Notre Dame's Walt Patulski, who was the first overall selection in the 1972 draft. Most recently, Penn State teammates Courtney Brown and LaVar Arrington, who were finalists in 1999, were taken with the first two picks in the draft. Now in its 33rd year of honoring the top lineman in Division I football, the Rotary Lombardi Award Dinner has raised over \$2.6 million for The American Cancer Society since it was first held in 1970. Table sales for the 2002 Lombardi Award Dinner are currently underway. For more information about participating in, or supporting the 2002 Dinner as a sponsor, please call (713) 942-1209 or visit our on-line information page All media inquiries should be directed to Chuck Pool by email or by calling (281) 485-1589

LOMBARDI

WINNERS TAKEN WITH THE FIRST TWO PICKS

YEARNAME# OF SELECTIONPOSSCHOOL 1972 Walt Patulski 1 DE

Notre Dame 1975 Randy White 2 DT

Maryland 1976 Lee Roy Selmon 1 DT

Oklahoma 1982 Kenneth Sims 1 DT

Texas 1984 Dean Steinkuhler 2 OG

Nebraska 1986 Tony Casillas 2 MG

Oklahoma 1987 Cornelius Bennet 2 LB

Alabama 1992 Steve Emtman 1 DT

Washington 1997 Orlando Pace 1 OT

Ohio State 2002 Julius Peppers ?? DE

North Carolina