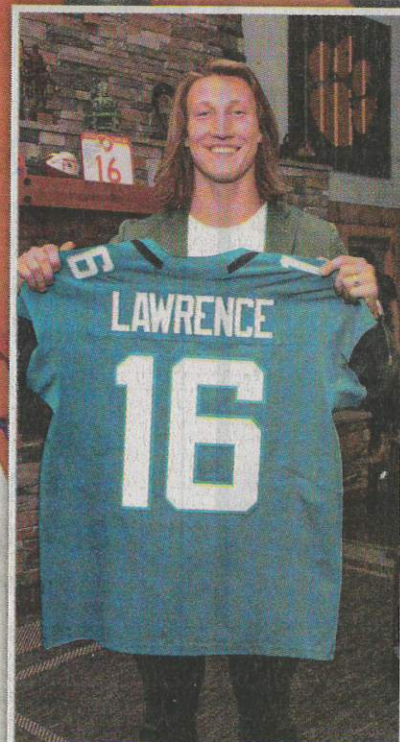


Historic night

Jaguars make Lawrence Clemson's first top NFL pick, reunite him with Etienne



Former Clemson quarterback Trevor Lawrence made history Thursday night, as he became the first former Tiger to be taken with the No. 1 overall selection in the NFL draft. As he watched with friends and family in Seneca, Lawrence was selected by the Jacksonville Jaguars at the top of the draft Thursday — only to be joined later in the first round by Clemson teammate Travis Etienne, who the Jags selected with the 25th overall pick. South Carolina cornerback Jaycee Horn was also a first-round selection, going No. 8 to the Carolina Panthers. For full draft coverage, turn to page C1.



ABOVE, LEFT: FILE PHOTOS
RIGHT: ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLEMSON: Lawrence becomes Tigers' first No. 1 pick

FROM PAGE C1

in the NFL Hall of Fame.

Certainly, there have been flame outs, led by Ja-Marcus Russell. But many of those who became the top overall pick enjoyed either outstanding or at least serviceable NFL careers for a number of years. While our definition of success might be measured in Super Bowl titles or MVP awards, the fact that many of these players lasted 10-15 years in a league where the average career is less than four years and earned enough money to enjoy a secure post-playing career are also definitions of success that cannot be discounted.

Clemson fans who experienced the privilege of watching Lawrence display his talents in Death Valley for three years — where he never lost — or in leading the Tigers to three of its six consecutive College Football playoff appearances, or two national championship games — winning one — will now get to experience the excitement of watching No. 16 on Sundays. Although no one can predict the future, Lawrence's selection Thursday night

cemented him a place in Clemson football history and marked yet another milestone for the Tigers' gridiron program. Tiger fans will always be appreciative of what he did during his three years in Tigertown and eagerly look forward to seeing him at the professional level, where the hope is for a long and fruitful career.

Lawrence has been a winner his entire career. While Jacksonville has work to do to provide him with the supporting cast needed to achieve the success enjoyed in high school and at Clemson, this is a franchise that has won in the past, and with No. 16 at the helm should win again in the very near future.

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