



2023 MINNESOTA STATE FOOTBALL

MAVERICKS IN THE PROFESSIONAL RANKS

Minnesota State has had three players selected in the annual National Football League Draft over the course of the program's history. The most recent player was offensive lineman **Jeff Reinke**, who was the Raiders tenth-round pick in 1986 and later went on to play with Cincinnati.

Probably the most well-known MSU professional football player was tight end **Bob Bruer**, who was selected by the Houston Oilers in the ninth round of the 1975 draft. Bruer, who was released by the Oilers prior to the start of the '75 season, spent the '76 training camp with the Dallas Cowboys, was cut, and then was picked up by the Chicago Bears for the final game of the '76 season. He then spent two years with the Saskatchewan Roughriders of the Canadian Football League before signing with the San Francisco 49ers in 1979 before joining the Minnesota Vikings in 1980. "Brue," who compiled 85 catches, 10 touchdowns and 1,271 receiving yards in four seasons at MSU, went on to play five years with the Vikings.

Defensive lineman **Phil Driscoll**, who had sons Phillip and Kellen that also played football at MSU, was selected in the 11th round by the Miami Dolphins in 1980.

Currently, former Mavericks on NFL squads include **Adam Thielen**, who signed with the Minnesota Vikings in 2013, **Chris Reed** who signed with the Jacksonville Jaguars in 2015, **Evan Heim** who signed with the Detroit Lions in 2021 and **Shane Zylstra** who signed with the Minnesota Vikings in 2021. **Jalen Sample** signed with the Washington Commanders in 2022.

MSU Players Selected in the NFL Draft		
Year	Player (Position)	Team (Round)
1975	Bob Bruer (tight end)	Oilers (9th)
1980	Phil Driscoll (defensive line)	Dolphins (11th)
1986	Jeff Reinke (offensive line)	Raiders (10th)

MSU'S PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS

- Kreg Kapitan - WR**
Signed as free agent and went to camp with Minnesota Vikings (NFL) in 1972 and 1973, and with Calgary Stampeders (CFL) in 1974.
- Marty Kranz - DB**
Signed as free agent and went to camp with Chicago Bears (NFL) in 1974 and 1975.
- Bob Bruer - TE**
Drafted in ninth round by Houston Oilers in 1975; played with Chicago Bears (NFL) in 1976, Saskatchewan Roughriders (CFL) from 1978-79 and Minnesota Vikings (NFL) from 1980-84.
- Craig Hartwig - OL**
Signed as free agent and went to camp with Atlanta Falcons (NFL) in 1975.
- Phil Driscoll - DL**
Drafted in 11th round by Miami Dolphins (NFL) in 1980.
- David Robb - WR**
Signed as free agent and went to camp with Green Bay Packers (NFL) in 1984.
- Curtis Frazier - OL**
Attended camp with Pittsburgh Steelers (NFL) in 1985.
- Al Tachovsky - LB**
Signed as a free agent and went to camp with Minnesota Vikings (NFL) in 1985.
- Jeff Reinke - OL**
Drafted in 10th round by Los Angeles Raiders (NFL) in 1986; played with Cincinnati Bengals (NFL) in 1987.
- Ted Elliot - DL**
Signed as free agent and went to camp with New Orleans Saints (NFL) in 1986.
- Joel Nielsen - P**
Signed as free agent and went to camp with Minnesota Vikings (NFL) in 1986.
- Scott Annestad - OL**
Signed as free agent and went to camp with Kansas City Chiefs (NFL) in 1987.
- Duane Goldammer - OL**
Signed as free agent and went to camp with Washington (NFL) in 1987.
- Larry Brown - RB**
Played with Minnesota Vikings (NFL) in 1987 during NFL players strike.
- Mark Hanson - OL**
Played with Minnesota Vikings (NFL) in 1987 during NFL players strike.
- J.R. Buckley - LB**
Signed as free agent and went to camp with Ottawa Rough Riders (CFL) in 1989.
- Stephen Henley - DB**
Signed as free agent with Green Bay Packers in 1995, played with Edmonton (CFL) in 1995.
- Ed Speck - OL**
Signed as free agent and went to camp with British Columbia Lions (CFL) in 1995.
- John Hebben - QB**
Signed as free agent and went to camp with San Diego Chargers (NFL) in 1996.
- Tywan Mitchell - WR/TE**
Signed as free agent with Baltimore Ravens (NFL) in 1999; spent 1999 season with Arizona Cardinals (NFL) practice squad; played with Cardinals from 2000-02; signed as free agent and went to camp with Detroit Lions (NFL) in 2003; signed as a free agent with Calgary Stampeders (CFL) in 2005.
- Andrew Tippins - DL**
Signed as free agent and went to camp with Minnesota Vikings (NFL) in 2003; signed as a free agent and played with Louisville Fire (AFL) from 2004-05; signed as a free agent and played with New York Dragons (AFL) in 2006.
- Ryan Dutton - P**
Signed as free agent with Cleveland Browns (NFL) in 2004; played with the Amsterdam Admirals (NFL Europe) in 2005; signed as free agent with Seattle Seahawks (NFL) in 2005; signed as a free agent with the Green Bay Packers (NFL) in 2006.
- Christian Harmeyer - OL**
Signed as a free agent and played with Spokane Shock (AFL) in 2006.
- Bobby Ruffin - RB**
Signed as a free agent and played with Sioux Falls Storm (UIFL) in 2005; signed as a free agent and played with Sioux City Bandits (UIFL) in 2006.
- Roderick Warren - WR**
Signed as a free agent with the Ottawa Renegades (CFL), drafted in seventh round of Dispersal Draft by Toronto Argonauts (CFL) in 2006 and went to training camp.
- Sean Treasure - RB**
Signed as a free agent with the Sioux Falls Storm (UIFL) in 2007.
- Bryan Alberty - RB**
Signed as a free agent with the Sioux Falls Storm (UIFL) in 2007.
- Michael Lawrence - WR/DB**
Signed as a free agent with the Central Valley Coyotes (AFL) in 2006.
- Kevin Adams - DB**
Signed as a free agent with the Quad City Steamwheelers (AFL) in 2006.
- Melvin Matlock - DB**
Signed as a free agent with the Mahoning Valley Thunder (AFL) in 2008.
- Ben King - QB**
Signed as a free agent with the Manchester Wolves (AFL) in 2008.
- Allen King - DB**
Signed as a free agent with the Sioux City Bandits (IFL) in 2009.
- Colin Bryant - OL/DL**
Signed as a free agent with the Oklahoma City Yard Dawgz (AFL) in 2009.
- Junior Aumavae - DL**
Signed as an undrafted free agent with the Dallas Cowboys (NFL) in 2010; Signed by the Fairbanks Grizzlies (IFL) in 2011.
- Adrian Battles - OL**
Invited to training camp with the Minnesota Vikings (NFL) in 2010 and was cut, signed with the Green Bay Packers (NFL) in December of 2010.
- Kelvin Rodgers - CB**
Signed with the Milwaukee Mustangs (AFL) in 2011.
- LaMark Brown - TE**
Invited to training camp with the Atlanta Falcons (2012)
- Cordell Bell - OL**
Invited to training camp with the San Diego Chargers.
- Adam Thielen - WR**
Signed with the Minnesota Vikings in 2013.
- Chris Reed - OL**
Signed with the Jacksonville Jaguars in 2015.
- Evan Ferrizo - DL**
Signed with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 2018.
- Evan Heim - OL**
Signed with the Detroit Lions in 2021.
- Shane Zylstra - WR**
Signed with the Minnesota Vikings in 2021.
- Jalen Sample - WR**
Signed with the Washington Commanders in 2022.



Former MSU tight end **Bob Bruer** performed with the Minnesota Vikings from 1980-84. Bruer is one of three former MSU football players who have been selected in the NFL draft.



MSU defensive **Andrew Tippins** signed as a free agent with the Minnesota Vikings during the 2003 training camp and saw action in several preseason games.