

# Cal's Fujita, Walker Picked In NFL Draft

By JASON JONES  
 DAILY CAL STAFF WRITER  
*Monday, April 22, 2002*  
 Category: Sports

Scott Fujita went to bed Saturday night not knowing where he'd be playing in the NFL.

Langston Walker could rest that night knowing he wouldn't have to change area codes.

Walker was chosen by the Oakland Raiders in the second round of the 2002 NFL Draft with the 53rd overall selection. The pick was the second-round selection acquired from Tampa Bay as compensation for signing head coach Jon Gruden.

Fujita landed with the Kansas City Chiefs in the fifth round (143rd overall). The Chiefs are a team in need of help at his position, outside linebacker.

Walker's selection surprised some, since he was predicted to go a couple of rounds later. Walker too was surprised. The Raiders had only watched him work out once, and since then he hadn't had any contact with the team.

But Oakland snatched up the 6-foot-8, 345-pounder. When he was still available at No. 53., the Raiders couldn't resist with its third pick of the day.

"It's hard to pass up a lineman of that size and that caliber," Oakland head coach Bill Callahan said.

The Raiders thought Walker would have been off the boards. Callahan, Oakland's offensive line coach before his promotion, was ecstatic that Walker was available.

"I've been giddy all draft about this guy," Callahan said.

Walker said he was surprised with the selection. The Raiders hadn't shown much interest, but internally, they were hoping to land Walker.

But after attending Cal and Bishop O'Dowd High School in Oakland, there will be other matters to deal with.

"Now I've go to worry about more tickets," Walker said. "I've got a lot of Raider fans in my family."

Callahan said Walker will work at tackle, where he has All-Pro Lincoln Kennedy to learn from. Callahan also said Walker will play guard, noting Walker's intelligence will allow him to learn more than one spot. Perennial Pro Bowl guard Steve Wisniewski retired following last season, so he'll help address depth concerns.

Callahan said Walker will have to get stronger, but that won't be a problem with Oakland's workout regimen. He also noted Walker's play improved over his senior season, despite playing on a team that went 1-10.



Scott Fujita

[Printer Friendly](#)  
[Comments \(0\)](#)  
[Email/Share](#)

Langston Walker



**The Daily Cal Chooses**  
 Evocative as our Web Host

**Using our Free Discount Card Saves You Money!**  
 Watch for our Street Teams or Pick One up at our Offices, 600 Eshleman Hall, UC Berkeley  
 THE DAILY CALIFORNIAN  
 Berkeley's Newspaper

**Job Postings**  
**Daily Cal Job Board**  
**PHP Engineer**  
 Synacor  
**Operations Engineer**  
 Admeta  
**Director Business Development Germany**  
 Admeta  
**Product Analyst - Unique Content**  
 Kosmix  
**Member of Technical Staff - Data Analytics Platform**  
 Kosmix

For his part, Walker said the way his final season turned out was worth it, no matter the outcome this weekend.

"If I had went to Green Bay in the seventh round, I'm still getting a shot," he said.

Walker's NFL career gets started this weekend with his first minicamp.

"His best football is ahead of him," Callahan said. "What he can do in this league and where he can take his talent is exciting."

Fujita's wait was a little longer, but he lands with the Chiefs.

"I know one thing: he's the brightest guy on our football team," said general manager Carl Peterson. "I think he's a 4.0 graduate of the University of California, Berkeley. Big wingspan and a guy that we think can play 'sam' linebacker for us."

Salary cap problems forced Kansas City to release starter Donnie Edwards. The Chiefs signed restricted free agent Warrick Holdman to an offer sheet, only to have Chicago match the offer.

The pick seems to be a perfect fit.

"After the combine I had a real good feeling about that team," Fujita said.

It wasn't easy to follow Saturday's picks without hearing his name, but once it was there was a sense of relief.

"I'm just happy it's over," Fujita said. "The (draft) position doesn't matter all that much."

Fujita, who will head to Kansas City with his wife, Jaclyn, is looking forward to working with his new head coach, Dick Vermeil. Fujita grew up a Los Angeles Rams fan and Vermeil led the St. Louis version of the franchise to the 2000 Super Bowl title.

"I've heard nothing good things about (Vermeil)," Fujita said.

Vermeil is enamored with Fujita's athleticism, as were several teams.

"Scott Fujita is . . . we call him an Olympian," Vermeil said. "When you go to the (scouting) combine and take his 6-foot-5 frame and his 248 pounds and put him through all the tests that they give he does them all at the highest level at that position."

Vermeil is now set on putting Fujita's intelligence and physical skills to good use.

"Now, we'd like to go ahead and really make him a better football player within those athletic abilities," Vermeil said. "Obviously, he's a gifted student as well. So, he will not have any problem learning our scheme."

Tags:

## Comments (0) »

### Comment Policy

The Daily Cal encourages readers to voice their opinions respectfully in regards to both the readers and writers of The Daily Californian. Comments are not pre-moderated, but may be removed if deemed to be in violation of this policy. Comments should remain on topic, concerning the article or blog post to which they are connected. Brevity is encouraged. Posting under a pseudonym is discouraged, but permitted. [Click here](#) to read the full comment policy.

[Leave a comment](#)

**Echo** 0 Items

[Admin](#)

Social Networking by

### Sports



#### Losses on Bears' Minds in Duel With Davidson

The Cal lacrosse team should be ready to



hibernate at this point. The  
[... Read More»](#)

Advertisements

- [Sugar Daddies](#)
- [Home Services Guide](#)