

He has never played football—then the Eagles drafted him

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You heard that right!

The Philadelphia Eagles selected someone to join their roster after never playing in a football game, ever.

His name is Uar Bernard, and he was selected No. 251 in the seventh round of the 2026 NFL Draft by Philadelphia. He is part of the NFL's International Player Pathway program, a program that started back in 2017 to identify and develop talent internationally.

The Nigerian defensive tackle stood out in the combine due to his size, despite not playing football. The 6-foot-4, 306-pound athlete stood out even compared to the rest of the “big guys” in the combine.

Labeled an “athletic freak,” he maintains six percent body fat, along with a 39-inch vertical jump and 10-10 broad jump. It is no wonder scouts still had their eyes on him with the best measurements in each of these categories for players over 300 pounds.

He also added a 4.63 second 40-yard dash to his performance. With a time that fast, and bodyweight and size that large, those metrics are hard to come by. He has had a background in soccer and basketball, helping to explain some of his impressive stats with running and jumping, but his numbers still fly off the charts.

Only one other player in the draft, Seydoi Traore, was selected through the IPP program; however, Traore played collegiately at Arkansas State and Mississippi State. Bernard has never competed in any sort of organized football, making his journey much more interesting.

“We wanted to take the chance on the kid,” Eagles general manager Howie Roseman said, according to nfl.com.

Although he may have never played professionally or any level of football, his build and athleticism are rare to come by. His athleticism and strong figure can give the Eagles something no other team can have, and it could be a problem for opposing offenses.

Footwork and running are something the Eagles can work on with Bernard, but he already has one of the best physiques out of any defensive tackle in the league. This already gives Philadelphia an advantage with him being ahead of other players in his position.

The Eagles took a chance on Bernard, and they will now work hard in this postseason to adapt him to the NFL.

“It [means] a whole lot to me because I’m the first from my tribe to be at this level of NFL,” Bernard said regarding his pride in representing Nigeria, according to nfl.com.

This is not the first time the Eagles organization drafted someone through the IPP. In 2018, Philadelphia selected Jordan Mailata, an Australian rugby player. He was drafted 233rd overall. Mailata has excelled with the Eagles, helping them win Super Bowl LIX in 2025.

The Eagles are hoping for success with another international player trying to claim another



Uar Bernard before thge NFL draft. He was drafted to the Philadelphia Eagles.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @NFLAFRICA ON INSTAGRAM

Super Bowl under head coach, Nick Sirianni.

The team has found success in recent seasons with an addition like Bernard potentially boosting their defense.

Only time will tell how Bernard will adapt to the playstyle and pressure of the NFL. But, with his size and athleticism, anything is possible for this young star delivering the message that with opportunity and belief, anything is possible.

The Weekly Power Play:

Western Conference first round recap



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As we are now in week two of the NHL playoffs, things in the Western Conference are shaking up. Here's a look at how each series has played out so far

Colorado Avalanche vs. Los Angeles Kings: COL wins 4-0

The President's Trophy winner swept the Kings to advance to the second round. The Avalanche dominated each game to advance to the second round. Game 4 of the series also marked the final game for Kings center Anze Kopitar, who announced his retirement during the regular season.

Up next, the Avalanche will play the winner of the Dallas Stars and Minnesota Wild.

Minnesota Wild vs. Dallas Stars: MIN leads 3-2.

The Wild took a dominant 6-1 win over the Stars in Game 1 to kick off the series with the lead. The Stars quickly responded during Game 2 to tie the series 1-1, but Game 3 is where things got interesting.

With a tied series, both teams were looking for the lead. After the Wild took the lead in the second period with a goal from Michael McCarron, the Stars sent the game into overtime when Matt Duchene scored on the power play. A scoreless overtime brought the game into a second overtime where Wyatt Johnston was the hero for the Stars scoring on the powerplay to take the series lead.

During Game 4, both teams entered overtime yet again, but this time it was Matt Boldy who won the game for the Wild with less than a minute left in the game to tie the series 2-2. The Wild did not stop there and took a 3-2 series lead in Game 5.

Up next, the teams will travel back to Minnesota for Game 6 with the Wild in the position to win the series if they win this game. Puck drop is set for 7:30

p.m.

Utah Mammoth vs. Vegas Golden Knights: Tied 2-2

During Game 1, Vegas took the series lead in their first playoff win under new head coach John Tortorella, after they fired former head coach Bruce Cassidy at the end of the regular season. The Utah Mammoth, formally known as the Arizona Coyotes, secured a spot in the playoffs for the first time since joining the league last season. Utah tied the series during Game 2 and gained the series lead with a Game 3 win.

During Game 4, Vegas defenseman Shea Theodore scored the game winning goal in overtime to tie the series 2-2 and send both teams back to Las Vegas for Game 5.

Game 5 is set for Wednesday with puck drop at 10 p.m. and Game 6 back in Utah on Friday at 10 p.m.

Anaheim Ducks vs. Edmonton Oilers: ANA leads 3-2

After the Oilers took Game 1 to secure a series lead, Anaheim responded and now has the chance to close out the series at home on Thursday. During Game 2, the Ducks scored six goals to tie the series. In Game 3, Anaheim impressed yet again, netting a total of seven goals to take the series lead. Edmonton's defense stayed strong during regulation during Game 4 to send the game into overtime, but it was yet again the Ducks who took home the win with a goal from Ryan Poehling.

With a chance to win the series during Game 5, the Ducks only managed to net one goal which led to a game win for the Oilers, who put four goals on the scoreboard. Game 6 is set for Thursday where the Ducks have another chance to win the series with puck drop at 10 p.m.

Author's Note: Article was written before Game 5 contest between Utah and Vegas occurred



Two Colorado Avalanche players hugging on the ice. The Avalanche were 55-16-11 in the 25-26 season.

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