

K'vonte Scott: Freshman star

DAVID PICKETT
STAFF WRITER

When ETSU track coach Eli Sunquist was on the recruiting trail last season, little did he know what he would encounter. Like any other coach, he set out to recruit the nation's most-talented athletes. Along the way he stumbled upon a 6-foot, 2-inch multifaceted athlete from Virginia Beach, Va.

Sunquist knew he found something rare. This athlete stuck out like a sore thumb to him, and he immediately recognized the athlete's potential.

It was recognizing potential and believing that landed Sunquist the freshman that is now the 11th-ranked decathlete in the nation, K'Vonte Scott.

"When I was recruiting him I kept telling of the potential that I saw in the decathlon, and I think that my belief in him really helped his decision to come [to ETSU]," said Sunquist.

Thus far, Sunquist, has gotten more than he has bargained for from Scott.

Scott has blossomed in his first season as a Buccaneer, setting school records in the indoor heptathlon

and outdoor decathlon while earning Atlantic Sun all-conference honors during indoor.

According to Scott, he had no idea what he could do in his first college track season.

"Coming in to college I didn't expect to do much as a freshman. I just wanted to do my best and do everything I could to help my team," said Scott.

Scott has been at his best a number of times this season, which has earned him multiple conference awards, including being named this week's Atlantic Sun field athlete of the week.

Scott believes his early success is due to his smooth transition into college.

"Coach Sunquist has helped me make the transition from being a high school athlete to a college athlete. My family and high school coaches have also motivated me," said Scott.

Described as a coach's dream by Sunquist, Scott possesses natural talent and is extremely humble.

"K'Vonte has a tremendous work ethic, and I feel very lucky to have him in my training group," said Sunquist. "He is extremely focused, and listens very well. We make a good team because he communicates well

and asks great questions."

However, Sunquist said there is one downside about his star pupil athlete. He has no idea how talented he is.

Scott is talented nonetheless. He is ranked the No. 1 decathlete among freshmen in the nation with 6,618 points. His record-setting showing last weekend in the decathlon at the Charlotte 49er Classic, qualified him for the USA Junior Outdoor Championships in June.

With Scott's talents, ETSU is in great position to win its third Atlantic Sun outdoor title in six years.

"I just want to do my best and do everything I can to help my team win conference. I'm also hoping to win the decathlon and score over 7,000 points," said Scott

Sunquist sees a bright future for Scott.

"As of right now, I can't put a limit on what he can do. I truly believe that he has the potential to score over 8,000 points in the decathlon," said Sunquist

"As a decathlete you are a 'jack of all trades, master of none.' He has done a great job of studying all of his events and falling in love with the decathlon."

Scott and the rest of the Buccaneers will be in action this weekend as ETSU travels south to Atlanta, Ga., for the Georgia Tech Invitational.

Dodge is looking for some answers

THOMAS KNISLEY
STAFF WRITER

One of the most awkward conventions in the country took place a few weekends ago in Las Vegas. Dodge unveiled their 2013 Sprint Cup car, which currently has no one to drive it. Penske Racing announced last week that they would be switching to Ford starting next season. This leaves Dodge scratching their heads and searching for solutions.

The biggest team possibly in the mix at the moment to switch to Dodge in '13 is Richard Petty Motorsports, but they have said they are content with Ford. RPM's contract with Ford expires at the end of the season, and despite their op-

timism with Ford, Ford has not shown the same enthusiasm with RPM. Rumors have surfaced that Earnhardt-Ganassi is also one of the teams being targeted by Dodge. Chip Ganassi was one of Dodge's first and most loyal customers when Dodge re-entered the Cup series back in 2001.

However, many individuals on the Earnhardt side would likely have an issue with such a move due to their loyalty to Chevrolet.

An idea that has not been mentioned much, is that Dodge should put together their own factory-backed team, similar to what manufacturers like Ferrari and Lotus do in F1. Dodge could put together a team which would consist of

three or four cars. They should also have no trouble putting big name drivers behind the wheel. The first name that should come to mind is Kurt Busch.

He is the big X-factor and could be one of the biggest free agents after the season concludes. Busch drove Dodges for Penske for six years and has always been a good advocate for the brand.

Busch would be an excellent cornerstone to start a team because of the fact that he is a championship caliber driver and also despite his sometimes volatile personality, he is beginning to show that he can be the leader of a team.

Throw in another guy like Trevor Bayne, who seems to be at a dead end with Roush, and all of a sudden a

Dodge-factory team seems like a very profitable and competitive proposition.

Finally, putting a driver like Brian Vickers or Regan Smith into a third Dodge car would help provide a little extra leadership to help the team get off the ground, as well as be competitive on the racetrack. Kurt Busch, Trevor Bayne and Brian Vickers could be a solid roster that would not only be competitive on race day, but could do very well to advertise the Dodge brand as well.

Dodge has its work cut out for them. Losing Penske is a blow that will require some time to re-build, but if Dodge's attitude towards NASCAR is any indication, expect Dodge to be a force in NASCAR in a few years.



NFL mock draft showdown has begun

BRUCE JOHNSON,
THOMAS KNISLEY
STAFF WRITERS

It just would not be a spring semester if I did not do one of my mock drafts for the East Tennessean.

Looks like I'll have some competition, as Tommy Knisley decided to take me on head-to-head in these mock drafts. Good luck T.K., you're going to need it.

32. New York Giants
B — Mike Adams/OT/Ohio State: Coming off another

er Super Bowl win against the New England Patriots, marking their second Super Bowl victory in five seasons, must make the G Men feel great. New York wants to create competition at the right tackle spot, and drafting Adams would give Kareem McKenzie extra motivation to work harder to secure his starting job.

Adams has great size (6'7, 323 pounds) and can be a solid run blocker. His pass-blocking needs help as speed-rushers coming around the edge gave him problems. Putting Adams

at right tackle makes more sense than putting him at the left considering his problems in pass protection. Put simply, at least Eli could see the pass-rusher coming at him as opposed to the defender attacking him from his blind side.

T — Steven Hill/WR/Georgia Tech: At the bottom of the draft, coming of their second Super Bowl win in five years, the Giants don't have many needs. However, they did lose Mario Manningham to the 49ers, which leads me to believe that they will look to

patch up the WR position for another Super Bowl run and give Eli another weapon.

31. New England Patriots
B — Jerel Worthy/DE/Michigan State: New England's greatest need gets filled with the first of their two first-round picks. This selection comes as more of a luxury pick than anything.

When New England traded Richard Seymour to the Oakland Raiders a few years ago, the Patriot defense went through a noticeable decline in production.

Jerel Worthy played defensive tackle at Michigan State and his size (6'2, 309 pounds) makes him fitted to be more of a 3-4 defensive end, which would help to fill the need that Seymour left behind.

Worthy can slash in the offensive line and wreak havoc, something Patriots fans got used to with Seymour in the lineup.

T — Nick Perry/DE/USC: The Patriots will need to build their defense this draft; taking