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Mailbag: What could the Ravens do with their four additional draft picks?

Apr 02, 2026 at 01:12 PM



by Abel F. Fenwick



Abel: Despite occurring relatively late in the draft order, the [four compensatory picks awarded](#) by the NFL stand to really benefit the team's future by bolstering its defensive line.

In an [interview last week](#), Sports Illustrated pundit Gilberto Manzano speculated that strengthening the wide receiver position would provide the most overall benefit to the team, suggesting that the Ravens should draft Makai Lemon of USC, Carnell Tate of Ohio State, or Jordyn Tyson of Arizona State.

While giving Lamar Jackson a fast target to throw to would certainly boost the team's overall production, it would do little to address the weaknesses which led to the Ravens being [ranked 24th in total defense](#) last year. Although drafting Trey Hendrickson stands to significantly improve the team's ability to resist rushing offenses, some concerns surrounding the age of cornerback Chidobe Awuzie remain.

My solution? Use the compensatory picks to draft defensive rookies Akheem Mesidor and Mansoor Delane. While the cornerback and edge rusher positions have been filled, drafting rookies who can learn from the position's veterans stands the future of the Ravens' defensive line in good stead.



50 Words or Less: The owner from the Lone Star State makes a lone sympathetic statement about the Maxx Crosby trade.

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Although it has been nearly a month since the Maxx Crosby trade fell through, the dust is yet to settle around the league.

Preceded by a series of cryptic tweets by quarterback Lamar Jackson, the March 9th announcement that the Baltimore Ravens had traded the No. 14 pick in the 2026 draft and a first-round pick in 2027 for star defensive end Maxx Crosby was warmly received by the flock and players alike (bar the notable and humorous exception of [Cincinatti Bengals wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase](#)).

24 hours later, however, concerns surrounding a potentially degenerative knee injury led to the trade being aborted. In the aftermath of the news and aided by Crosby's own social media posts, a media firestorm erupted.

To state that the decision was a PR nightmare would be an understatement. From conspiracy theories that the Ravens had [deliberately delayed the medical](#) in hopes of trading for Trey Hendrickson to maintain their draft capital, to criticism for [flying the star player out in economy](#), backlash against the team was swift, [entirely unfounded](#), and unfortunately long-lasting.

It is surprising, therefore, that the team has found an unlikely ally in Dallas Cowboys manager [Jerry Jones](#). No stranger to his own managerial controversies, the 2026 rival in the Maxx Crosby trade vocally criticised the media's handling of the trade, reminding the public that

“There’s no hidden item there – you’ve got to pass a physical. We’ve never completed an agreement until the player passes the physical. We would have had the same conditions with the physical. As you know, we were in on making an offer for him. So he would have come to Dallas, and we’ll all just guess what would have happened.”

Here are my thoughts on the last month in 50 words or less:

- Jones' vocal and authoritative defense of the team is a welcome change. Despite only the Las Vegas Raiders being directly impacted by the failed trade, several owners have allegedly expressed their distrust of the entire Baltimore Ravens organisation. These rumors have only tarnished the reputation of the Ravens further.
- Given Jones had also pursued Crosby during the offseason, he is a very unlikely ally. While nowhere near as generous as the two first-round picks the Ravens offered, a package of the No. 12 overall pick in the 2026 NFL draft and a 2027 second-rounder still represented a significant offer.
- It should not be overlooked that the Dallas Cowboys' medic conducted the physical. Jones' firm assertion that he would not seek to draft Maxx Crosby to the Dallas Cowboys in the 2026 season strengthens the Ravens' narrative that injury concerns led them to call off the trade.
- As of this morning, NFL executives have publicly cast aspersions on Crosby's account of the trade. After a solid month of disparaging headlines drawing unwarranted criticism to the Ravens organization, however, this attempt to address it comes too little too late.