Anderson, Ozdowski, Beasley Go In Draft

From Wire Dispatches

Ricky Bell, Southern California's great running back, was drafted by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers Tuesday and within hours signed a five-year pact with the National Football League team reportedly worth $1.24 million.

The 21-year-old player was flown direct from New York draft meetings to Tampa, where he was given a Bucs' jersey with his old USC number 42 and a pen to ink five one-year contracts.

Bell, 6-foot-2 220-pounds, said his selection came as no surprise. He had known for 1½ years he would be picked by the Bucs and was in contract negotiations for the past six weeks. He was signed less than two hours after his arrival in Tampa.

"All I did was transfer my bank account to Ricky," quipped Bucs' owner Hugh Culverhouse.

In other draft developments, two of Virginia's top collegians were early selections. The Baltimore Colts gobbled up University of Virginia defensive end Mike Ozdowski in the second round and the Pittsburgh Steelers made Virginia Tech defensive tackle Tom Beasley their No. 3 selection.

Warren Anderson, a former James Blair High and West Virginia State College standout at wide receiver, was the fourth-round choice of the Houston Oilers.

Ozdowski was one of five Atlantic Coast Conference players chosen in the first four rounds. Chesapeake, Va., native Mike Vaught, the ACC Player of the Year at tailback for North Carolina, went in round three to Cincinnati Bengals, joined by Maryland standouts, fullback Tim Wilson and offensive guard Ed Fulton, drafted by Houston and the Los Angeles Rams respectively.

Duke's All-American center, Billy Bryan, was a fourth-round choice of the Denver Broncos.

The Gobblers' Beasley wasn't shocked at his selection by the Steelers.

"I predicted I'd go in the third round. I was told the first two rounds took quite a bit of time, but each minute was getting longer. I've been waiting for this since December, but the long wait might have helped since I'm up to 253 pounds."

Dallas' move to get Heisman Trophy winner Tony Dorsett wasn't the only trade of the day. The Chicago Bears obtained quarterback Mike Phipps from the Cleveland Browns in exchange for their fourth-round draft pick this year and their first-round pick next year.

As for the Washington Redskins, they finally had a choice in the fourth round and selected defensive end Duncan McColl of Stanford.

McColl, 6-foot-4 and 240 pounds, visited the Redskins training center for physical tests earlier this year. In addition to his visits to Washington, a Redskins' spokesman said defensive coordinator Torgy Torgesen went to the Stanford campus earlier to test him there, especially in speed drills.

The Colts only had two picks in the first five rounds and made Kentucky wide receiver Randy Burke their No. 1 choice with Ozdowski No. 2.

"I'm just super glad to be with the Colts," said Burke. "It will be great to play with Bert Jones because he's one of the best in pro football today."

Baltimore Coach Ted Marchibroda raved about the 6-5, 244-pound Ozdowski. "He's a 110 per center. He plays with pain and has extreme quickness."