

# 2006 NFL Draft

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## Leinart just ready for draft to start

By Matt Leinart Special to  
ESPN.com

*Editor's note: Former USC QB [Matt Leinart](#) will offer ESPN.com an exclusive look into his life in the days and weeks leading up to the NFL draft, which starts Saturday.*

I'm tired. It's been a long day.

This week has been stressful and tense, but you try to block it out and relax. The biggest thing is just to relax, have fun, and enjoy the experience. It only comes once in your life. I'm trying to enjoy it.

I was a little more stressed out earlier in the week than I am now. I'm more relaxed now and just want to get it over with. It's just really hard not having any idea what is going to happen.

During my down time, I would turn on the TV and all I would see is draft coverage. It started getting to me. Now I'm just watching movies. I'm not watching TV. I've gotten to the point where I'm so tired because there's so much draft coverage. You don't even want to listen to it anymore.

It's tough in New York because I'm getting pulled in every direction possible. It's out of good nature by a lot of people, but it's at a time when I just want to focus and do as little as possible. It's definitely to the point where you have one goal and focus in mind, which is Saturday. Once tomorrow is over, I'll be happy and stress-free. I'll talk to anybody that wants to talk to me, but up until then, I'm just kind of doing my thing.

Thursday, I had the opportunity to meet with Donald Trump. I was looking forward to it ever since we talked about scheduling the meeting last week. I met with him for 20-30 minutes and just hung out. He's a very powerful man in the city. We talked about golf, the Notre Dame game -- just everything. Before I got sick this past weekend I was supposed to play golf on one of his courses. It was good to get a chance to meet and speak with him. Not a lot of people have the opportunity to do that. It was exciting. What a great guy.

I've been going to many of the NFL draft events with [Vince Young](#), [Mario Williams](#), [Reggie Bush](#), [D'Brickashaw Ferguson](#), and [Vernon Davis](#). We all get along well. I've known Vince, Mario and D'Brickashaw for awhile. I met Vernon in Oakland last week. We're all in this together. We're all in the same boat. There's no individual who separates himself from the group. We all hang out together. Everyone is really nice and there's almost naturally been a great connection.

Friday, we actually had a chance to see the Twin Towers Memorial and where the World Trade Center buildings were before the terrorist attack. It was an eerie feeling because it was one of the biggest tragedies ever. But I was glad that I got to see that.

All of us also met with NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue. He's obviously been the commissioner for a long time and is retiring this year. He said it was nice to see great guys on and off the field. He talked about our talent and said we'll represent our schools well. We joked around with him a little bit. It was a real quick conversation, but he said a lot of nice things. Along with meeting him as a group, we got to see the NFL offices here in New York. It was cool.

The biggest fear for all of us is sitting in the green room on Saturday at Radio City Music Hall, watching pick after pick and not hearing your name. The longer we're in there, the harder it will be and the more nerves it will start to shake up.

Friday evening is my last night here because on Saturday I have to go to the city of whichever team drafts me. Unless it's the Jets. I plan on going to dinner with my family and agents. That's it.

My brother Ryan and I wish we flew out here Friday night and skipped this whole week. He wouldn't mind if we got the call saying who I was drafted by out on the golf course. My

### MATT LEINART

Matt Leinart starred for three seasons at USC, leading the Trojans to two national championships and a 37-2 record in



games that he started. In his three season as a starter, Leinart completed 807 of 1,245 passes (64.8 percent) for 10,693 yards, 99 TDs and just 23 INTs.

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family came out here with me, which is most important, but it would also have been nice to stay home with my family and friends.

While I've talked to some teams, I still have no idea what is going to happen. I just want to be picked as early as possible.

It's an honor to be here and to potentially be a top pick. The six of us here in New York all should go pretty high.

We'll see what happens tomorrow.