Stimulus bill narrowly survives Senate test

David Espo
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — An $808 billion economic stimulus bill backed by the White House narrowly advanced in the Senate on Monday over strong Republican opposition, and Democratic leaders vowed to deliver the emergency legislation for President Barack Obama's signature within a few days.

The vote was 61-36, one more than the 60 needed to move the measure toward Senate passage on Tuesday. That in turn, will set the stage for possibly contentious negotiations with the House on a final compromise on legislation the president says is desperately needed to tackle the worst economic crisis in more than a generation.

The Senate vote occurred as the Obama administration moved ahead on another key component of its economic recovery plan. Officials said Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner would outline rules on Tuesday for $350 billion in bailout funds designed to help the financial industry as well as home-owners facing foreclosure.

As for the stimulus, Obama said Monday night at the start of his televised news conference, "I can tell you with complete confidence that a failure to act will only deepen this crisis as well as the pain felt by millions of Americans."

The Senate vote was close but scarcely in see Stimulus, page 2

SLO POWDERED WITH SNOW

BRIAN BINKOWSKI COURTESY PHOTO

San Luis Obispo County was surprised yesterday by rare snowfall in some of its higher elevations after several days of rain and cold temperatures.
Stimulus
continued from page 1

but about $827 billion figure from last week. Ironically, the agency
said provisions in the bill intend- ed to limit bonuses to executives
at firms receiving federal bailout
money would result in lower tax
revenues for the government.
This bill has the votes to pass. We
know that," conceded Sen. John Thune, a South Dakota Re-
publican who has spoken daily in the Senate against the legislation.
As if to underscore its prospects
for passage, the U.S. Chamber of
Commerce, a prominent and pow-
erful business group, issued a state-
ment calling on the Senate to ad-
vance the measure.
Even so, in the hours before
Monday's vote, Republican oppos-
tion attacked it as too costly and
unlikely to have the desired effect
on the economy. "This is a spend-
ing bill, not a stimulus bill," said
Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn.
"We will have games all based on communicating in relationships, and a booth
set up for couples, or friends, to
get "married" and have their picture
taken," Dorgan said. "It's just to have
a good time and enjoy relationships."
The bookstore is having a pajama
party Wednesday night from 5 to 8
p.m. and all Valentine's gifts, ranging
from cookbook to picture frames, will
be 30 percent off.
To up the fun factor, Backbone
Pizza will be handing out free slices
of pizza with the purchase of a drink,
and 19 Metro Station will give free
breakfast to students wearing paja-
mas, marketing manager for El Corral
Bookstore Teresa Kaiser said.
Everyone will be wearing their
PJs, including the staff, but the idea is
just to have fun, we turn up the music,
making it a very fun nighttime event," Kaiser said.
The sale offers students a chance
to save money and get creative with
the different arts and crafts supplies
for those interested in making gifts for
their family and friends, she said.
Valentine's items on display at
Campus Market include gifts fea-
turing Cal Poly chocolates made by
the food science and nutrition de-
partment. The chocolate production
course, founded in 2000, is the only
one taught at an American university.

Health
continued from page 1

of Directors, the six college council,
and students, who will be able to at-
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sponse form where they can provide individual feedback or reject the pro-
posal, as well as the opportunity to
give suggestions and feedback. Ma-
jority support of at least two of the
three constituencies is required for
the proposal to pass. Mor-
ton said that he hopes the alterna-
tive consultation process will give
students an opportunity to practice
direct democracy. "This mechanism
requires us to be certain that we have
reached out in a sufficient way to the
student community in gathering de-
tailed feedback. Students have an op-
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" he said.
A sample response form is avail-
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Friday, February 13, 2009

Stimulus
continued from page 1

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Stimulus
continued from page 1

in support of the

WORD ON THE STREET

"Are you surprised that Alex Rodriguez admitted to using steroids?"

"Yes, I don't know much about it, but I know that he's usually not good with the media."

David Enlow, civil engineering sophomore

"I wouldn't say so. He probably knows the consequences that everyone else has suffered and doesn't want to get further into trouble by denying it."

Michael McMahan, earth science junior

"Yes, I don't know much about it, but I know that he's usually not good with the media."

David Enlow, civil engineering sophomore

"It's kind of sad athletes now feel like they have to do that to get ahead."

-Alisha Lopez, psychology junior

Stimulus continued from page 2

All 36 votes in opposition were cast by Republicans.

The two remaining versions of the legislation are relatively close in size — $834 billion in the Senate and $819 billion in the House, and are similar in many respects.

Both include Obama's call for a tax cut for lower-income wage earners, as well as billions for unemployment benefits, food stamps, health care and other programs to help victims of the worst recession in decades. In a bow to the administration, they also include billions for development of new information technology for the health industry, and billions more to lay the groundwork for a new environmentally friendly industry that would help reduce the nation's dependence on foreign oil.

The measure nearing approval in the Senate calls for more tax cuts and less spending than the House bill, largely because it includes a $70 billion provision to protect middle-class taxpayers from falling victim to the alternative minimum tax, which was intended to make sure the very wealthy don't avoid paying taxes.

Both houses provide $87 billion in additional funds for the Medicaid program, which provides health care to the low income. But the House and Senate differ on the formula to be used in distributing the money, a dispute that pits states against one another rather than Republicans against Democrats.

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Hung on parking garages, adorning buildings and decorating creek walkways around San Luis Obispo are hidden treasures. These art pieces are put in place by the Art in Public Places program, a committee under the San Luis Obispo County Arts Council, "ARTS Obispo," which helps the city decide where to place public art pieces and pick which artists get commissioned.

"I think the cities have realized it's important to have a public art program," said Jim Jacobson, a local artist who has several art pieces around San Luis Obispo. "It makes a city so much more attractive and so much more revealing as to what it stands for and what it's about."

The statue of Pick in the Downtown Centre, the sign identifying each level in the Palm Street parking structure and the Child and Bear fountain in Mission Plaza are just a few examples of art pieces that have been installed over the years as a result of the Art in Public Places program. Jacobson was one of the first artists selected to create a piece for the program and the first piece he completed was the mobile in front of the Parks and Recreation Department building. He said he read that the city had gotten money together for public art and wanted to be a part of the program.

"I've been a part-time artist just about all my life and I thought (the public art program) would be an exciting way to get involved in making larger pieces and some pieces that had a significant amount of money behind them," Jacobson said. "Now a full-time artist, he said there weren't as much competition in the early days of the program when there were only 10 proposals instead of the most recent 70. Jacobson considers himself fortunate to have been commissioned.

He worked on two more mobiles in the Mission Plaza area and a hand railing on Santa Rosa Street in front of the Frank Lloyd Wright building. He said there wasn't much money involved with the hand railing but it didn't matter.

"It was just so exciting to do something that would tie in to the Frank Lloyd Wright building, which I thought would be quite an honor," said Jacobson, who includes the famous architect as someone who inspires and influences his art. Jacobson has worked on many more pieces for the program and said he enjoys the entire process of public art. Jacobson calls the historical research that goes into creating his art, and the design process of creating something that will work in a specific location, exciting.

San Luis Obispo has several ordinances in place to fund the creation and display of public art around the city. One ordinance states that 1 percent of the money from capital improvements (meaning any buildings the city builds) goes toward a public art fund.

A second ordinance for private developers was later added to the San Luis Obispo Municipal Code, stating that .5 percent of the money the developer spends goes toward public art for the building. If the developer chooses not to do public art, he said, there must be a public art program in place.
lic art for their project, or it's determined not to be suitable for public art, the developer can put the money in an in-lieu fund. From this fund, the city can fund new art projects, as well as complete repairs and maintenance on existing art pieces.

The most important thing (the private developer ordinance) does is it provides the city a way to do matching grants," said Art in Public Places committee chairperson Ann Ream.

After one of the original founders of the program, Bill Beeson, passed away, the arts council wanted to honor him with an art piece. The council asked the city if it would match the money they raised, up to $10,000, and the city agreed because it could use the in-lieu fund.

When the city decides it wants to put a piece of art somewhere, an extensive selection process is completed before the artist and artwork is chosen. A Request for Qualifications is sent out as a call to artists who want to participate. Artists then submit their resume, references and a narrative of what their vision is for the site. A jury of five to seven people from the community decide which artist and artwork they think will work best for a specific space and then the artist can begin the creative process.

ARTS Obispo helps facilitate the process of finding the artist, getting jurors and then distributing the art piece when it is finally finished, but they are more of an advisory body to the city council, said ARTS Obispo program director Alissa Maddren.

"To reach out to the community is very important and for them to get involved in public art," said public art coordinator Shannon Bates. "The most significant way they can do that is to be part of the jury," she said, adding that they often seek people to do just that.

Certain people have to be on the jury, such as a community member or business owner in the area where the art will be placed and artists, Bates said. The rest of the jury is made up of people who are simply interested in picking a piece or being involved in the community.

"It's a big commitment of time, but it's also something that's interesting and fun and a great experience; you get to be involved in the community," Bates said. "A lot of our pieces will be there for hundreds of years and you could say I was involved in putting that piece there."

After the jury selects an artist, their artwork moves to the Architectural Review Committee and members of the public are allowed to voice their opinion at this time. Ream said it's written in the guidelines for the Art in Public Places program that the public have the opportunity to express their opinions on each proposed project. The city council will then either approve or not approve the piece.

Currently, a stainless steel sculpture is proposed for a site across from the Apple Farm restaurant. The project has already been through the jury selection and review process and is near construction, Bates said.

Other projects in the works for the public art program include reconstructing the fountain at Marsh and Higuera streets and a piece of sidewalk art that will go in front of San Luis Obispo Little Theater.

With the economy in its current shape, some may wonder how the city can fund all these public art pieces. Bates said it's a question that comes up a lot when the city is forced to cut positions because of budget issues but it's important to know where the money comes from.
Most of the money for projects, such as the Marsh and Higuera Streets fountain, comes from private developer fees.

The ever-shrinking budget is cause for some concern among those involved in the Art in Public Places program.

"(The program) could definitely go away," Maddren said. "It's one of our big concerns right now because our budget is so thin (the city council) might look at it and decide (they) can't do that."

The percentage of the capital improvements that go toward public art could be reduced to 0.5 percent which is something the council has done previously during slow economic times.

Bates said she doesn't predict too much of an impact right now because the city uses a lot of money from private developers (not the city budget) and the money used for current projects is from the city's budget two years ago.

"(Some people) are saying that development won't be down because this is the time to develop," Bates said. "Land costs are low, construction costs are low so maybe there won't be that decline in development that we're predicting and then our public art fund will be pretty healthy."

Even with the budget concerns, the program remains strong for now and an important part of San Luis Obispo culture. Ream said she recently drove past the Hey Diddle sculpture (which depicts a cat atop a fiddle on the corner of Marsh and Garden streets) and saw a young girl on her father's shoulders with her nose touching the cat's nose.

"That sums it all up," Ream said. "There's all this language, and it's good language, but it's the language of public art helps the community, it does this, it does that. It's all true but to see that, to see the language come to life was really wonderful."

PHOTOS BY ALISHA AXSOM
MUSTANG DAILY
MAP GRAPHIC BY MILENA KRAY/BUKH
MUSTANG DAILY

Valentine
continued from page 5

Even with my complaints and woes over this holiday, I can't help but love to hate it. I've done the romantic dinner and even received a heart shaped box of chocolates, but these things didn't make me love the person more or make the relationship any better. What makes a good Valentine's Day is doing what you want to do, not what you are expected to do. If candle light dinners and chocolate covered Strawberries are your thing, then go for it, but that's not for me. This year I'm going to do Valentine's Day right: I will wear pink, order pizza, drink beer and enjoy good company.

Dennis Nilan is a journalism senior and the Mustang Daily's new sex columnist.
China, U.S. should work together for greener future

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who will make her first visit to China in just a few weeks, will likely set a new tone for U.S. foreign relations toward the country. Among other issues, she’s expected to discuss climate change, an issue that should be dealt with by the two countries focusing on their similarities rather than their differences.

Unable to agree on each other’s role in addressing climate change, the talks between the world’s two largest greenhouse gas emitters have remained in gridlock since the United States excused itself from the Kyoto Protocol in 2001. To cash into a new era of policy making, both countries should focus on popular initiatives that could significantly reduce emissions, such as shared efforts to develop electric vehicles, green buildings and carbon sequestration projects, as devised in a recent Brookings Institution report.

“Climate change evokes philosophical disagreements, whereas clean energy evokes economic opportunities,” said the report’s co-author David Sandalow, who served as associate director for the global environment in former U.S. President Bill Clinton’s Council on Environmental Quality. Rather than grapple with the most controversial issues in the climate change debate — trade competition, coal use and emission targets — a focus on mutually beneficial, large-scale projects would “capture the public’s imagination” for further emission reductions, said Sandalow.

The two countries could also strengthen pre-existing local partnerships that exchange technology and expertise in a range of climate-related industries. For example, Denver, Colo., and the Chinese city of Chongqing have joined forces to develop electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. These partnerships currently suffer from “information barriers” and a lack of funding, the report said. Zhuo Wenzhong, Chinese ambassador to the United States, said “China has done a lot, but of course it’s not enough. Our most urgent issue is to limit poverty and develop the economy for one-fifth of the world’s people.”

Coal-mining efforts have recently been shifting from China’s northern Shanxi province to an even more vulnerable ecosystem: the grasslands of Inner Mongolia. Many worry that if this area becomes the next big provider of energy and chemical products, large amounts of its natural resources will be destroyed beyond the point of restoration, as seen in Shanxi. It must be protected: no amount of money can replace the soil carried off by sandstorms. This is such an important report. Chinese policies should encourage rural farmers to use the resources naturally available rather than force rural locations to compete with cities and industry for fossil fuels. The government will not only be closer to its goals of reinvigorating its villages, but China also will save energy, reduce emissions and increase food production in the process.

China has 3.2 million villages that are home to over 800 million people. If similar methane projects were undertaken in each one, 853 million tons of CO2 emissions would be avoided every year (current annual emissions are 7 billion tons annually). If one takes into consideration the methane reduction in use of chemical fertilizer and the carbon returned to the fields via organic fertilizer, the emission reductions are even larger.

The United States and China combined contributed more than 40 percent of the world’s annual greenhouse gas emissions. “Neither side is doing enough,” said Kenneth Lieberthal, a co-author of the Brookings report who served as senior director for Asia on President Clinton’s National Security Council. “Each of us plays a major role in the politics of this issue in either country, and none of us are very sensitive to that.”

Let’s make this era of Chinese and American collaboration and ensure that Bush-style silent stagnation becomes a thing of the past.

Ben Eckdall is a business senior, the president of the Empower Poly Coalition and a Mustang Daily columnist.
Give entire $875 billion to students for quick economic fix

Jason Staggs

Obviously, the federal government hasn't been spending enough over the past eight years, or we wouldn't be in the jam that our silly free market economy got us into.

This year, if you take a calculator and divide 14.2 million people into $875 billion, you reach the whopping number of 61,619.72 per student. For those of you with limited imaginations, allow me to enlighten you on why this plan is flimsy.

College students spend money. It's what we do. If we are not spending money, it is because we don't have it to spend. Obviously, not a problem with $60,000 in cash burning a hole in your checking account. None of that waiting around for a project to be studied, commissioned, designed, discussed and voted on. No waiting around in committee for us Problem solved, for us and for the economy.

What kinds of industries does undergraduate spending support? Local businesses, small businesses, American businesses; the ones in need of support.

The food and beverage industries, which are taking just as much of a hit these days, need the help. One can only imagine how much of an impact money spent at grocery stores would have on the national economy. Think of all the jobs.

Speaking of jobs, I think the U.S. auto industry might be saved by this. Speaking as a carless American, the first thing I would buy would be a vehicle. With all that money, GM might even restart the Hummey line. Maybe that's only a dream, but there is more in my line of reasoning.

Recognizing that the laundry, lawn and liquor industries might move in on most of the profit from this stimulus bill, one should note that college students are not all-stuffy people. I'm sure some of the money would make its way to our parents, who would spend it on responsible stuff. So, in the end, everyone benefits.

Now try to disagree with me. $875 billion is undershooting our potential just a bit.

Jason Staggs is a contributor to The Battalion of Texas A&M. This article was originally published in The Battalion.
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Kaufman
continued from page 12


He obtained his bachelor’s degree in social science and industrial relations at Cal Poly in 1984.

After his time in football was over, Kaufman became heavily involved in volunteer work.

He was director of the minority internship program and a training camp director for the Redskins. He also worked with Big Brother’s and Big Sisters of Washington D.C., served on the board of directors for the Northern Virginia chapter of the American Lung Association and was a spokesperson for the FBI, Drug Enforcement Agency and the U.S. military, working with and speaking to children and adults.

Funeral arrangements are pending at Chapel of the Roses in Atascadero.

Rodriguez
continued from page 12

and Andy Pettitte.

Rodriguez’s admission is in stark contrast to the denials of former teammate Roger Clemens and Bonds.

Bonds, a seven-time MVP, is scheduled for trial next month on charges he lied when he told a federal grand jury in 2003 that he never knowingly used performance-enhancing drugs. Another federal grand jury is considering whether to indict seven-time AL Cy Young Award winner Clemens on charges he lied when he told a congressional committee last year that he never used steroids or human growth hormone.

S.com reported Rodriguez tested positive for Primobolan and testosterone.

“It was such a loosey-goosey era. I’m guilty for a lot of things. I’m guilty for being negligent, naive, not asking all the right questions,” Rodriguez said. “And to be quite honest, I don’t know exactly what substance I was guilty of using.”

Rather than hold a news conference, as Giambi and Pettitte did for their confessions, Rodriguez chose the controlled setting of an interview with ESPN, one of Major League Baseball’s television partners.

The interview left open many questions;
- Whom did Rodriguez obtain steroids from?
- How did he pay for them?
- Did anyone help him to obtain steroids, human growth hormone or any other performance-enhancing substance?

In his 2008 book, “Vindicated: Big Names, Big Lies, and The Battle to Save Baseball,” Jose Canseco claimed he introduced Rodriguez to a steroids dealer. Canseco, who has admitted using steroids, subsequently said he had no knowledge of any drug use by Rodriguez.

“They are looking in the wrong places,” Canseco said in a text message to The Associated Press. “This is a 25-year cover-up. The true criminals are Gene Orza, (union head) Donald Fehr and (commissioner) Bud Selig. Investigate them, and you will have all the answers.”

Si said that Orza, the union’s chief operating officer, tipped off three players in September 2004 that they would be tested. Orza has repeatedly denied that he tipped off players, saying he merely reminded them late in the season that if they had not yet been tested, baseball’s drug agreement required them to be tested by the end of the regular season.

Orza, who has been widely criticized by media since the SI report, said in an e-mail to The Associated Press that he doesn’t care what the media says. “I know the facts,” Orza wrote.

Rodriguez said Orza told him in August or September 2004 about the list of names that had been seized by federal investigators.

“He said there’s a government list. There’s 104 players in it. You might or might not have tested positive,” Rodriguez said.

On Friday, Rodriguez is still expected to attend an event at the University of Miami, which is renaming its baseball field in his honor.

He gave $3.9 million to the school in 2003, the largest gift ever to the Hurricanes’ baseball program and money that provided much of the resources needed for renovating the existing on-campus stadium. In return, the baseball complex will be called Mark Light Field at Alex Rodriguez Park.

Despite the scandal, the facility will continue to bear Rodriguez’s name, a university official said Monday. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the matter’s sensitive nature.

Miami baseball players and coaches were not available for comment, spokesman Mark Pry said.

—Associated Press Sports Writers Tim Reynolds in Miami, Dan Gelston in Philadelphia and Stephen Hawkins in Dallas contributed to this report.

To see what Redskins fans are saying about Kaufman, check out
Off the Page at
mustangdaily.net/offthepage

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Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Cal Poly assistant coach Mel Kaufman shares some tips with senior linebacker Dominic Rickard last year.

Cal Poly linebacker's coach and two-time Super Bowl champion Mel Kaufman died Saturday night in his home in Santa Margarita. He was 50.

No cause of death has been announced but an autopsy is scheduled for Wednesday.

Kaufman was a linebacker for the Cal Poly Division II national championship team of 1980, but he had his greatest success with the Washington Redskins where he won Super Bowl XVII in 1982 and XXII in 1987.

"It's a tragedy. He was a good man and a compassionate man," said former Cal Poly head coach Rich Ellerson in a news release. "I pray that the stress of the coaching business wasn't a contributing factor. He was just a good guy, a passionate guy, a Mustang."

Ellerson, who left to take the head coaching job at Army in December, originally hired Kaufman to guide his young linebacking core last spring.

Kaufman helped the Mustangs to an 8-3 record, a top three national ranking through most of the season and the school's first ever home Division I playoff game.

"I hired him because of his past, the number of guys he played with over the years and the kind of person he was," Ellerson said. "We took a bit of a chance with him because he hadn't coached before at this level, but there were a lot of compelling things in his background as a player and scout as well as who he was as a person."

Ellerson remembers the unheralded linebacker general manager Bobby Beathard and former Washington Redskins coach and executive vice president Charlie McDaniel will also remember Kaufman for the purity in which he played the game of football.

"There were tough times, but it's a little easier when doing it with friends," McDaniel said in a statement. "Both of us were skinny kids and we both knew we had to work to achieve anything. We went into pro football doing the same thing. Bobby gave us an opportunity. We roomed together. We kept each other going."

McDaniel will also remember Kaufman for the integrity in which he played the game of football.

"He's one of the great Redskins," Kaufman retired from the NFL in 1989 after starting 78 of 91 career games with Washington. He remained with the team as a scouting supervisor until 1998.

"I hired him because of his past, the number of guys he played with over the years and the kind of person he was."

--Rich Ellerson

Cal Poly Hall of Famer Kaufman passes away

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

A-Rod admits using performance-enhancers

Ronald Blum

NEW YORK — Alex Rodriguez, the player who would restore integrity to baseball's home run record, admitted Monday to using performance-enhancing drugs himself.

The All-Star third baseman said in an interview with ESPN that he used steroids with the Texas Rangers for three years, from 2001-03, in an attempt to justify his status as the game's highest-paid player after signing a 10-year, $252 million contract.

"Back then it was a different culture," Rodriguez said. "It was very loose. I was young. I was stupid. I was naive, and I wanted to prove to everyone that, you know, I was worth, you know — and being one of the greatest players of all time."

He said he quit after 2003, his first of three AL MVP seasons, because "I've proved to myself and to everyone that I don't need any of that." He was traded to the New York Yankees before the 2004 season.

The admission came two days after Sports Illustrated reported on its Web site that Rodriguez was among 104 names on a list of players who tested positive for steroids in 2003, when testing was intended to determine the extent of steroid use in baseball. The results weren't subject to discipline and were supposed to remain anonymous.

"When I arrived in Texas in 2001, I felt an enormous amount of pressure. I felt like I had all the weight of the world on top of me and I needed to perform, and perform at a high level every day," Rodriguez said.

"And I did take a banned substance and, you know, for that I'm very sorry and deeply regretful. Although it was the culture back then and Major League Baseball overall was very — I just feel that — You know, I'm just sorry. I'm sorry for that time. I'm sorry to fans, I'm sorry for my fans in Texas. It wasn't until then that I ever thought about substance of any kind."

Rangers owner Tom Hicks said the admission caught him by surprise.

"I feel personally betrayed. I feel deceived by Alex," Hicks said in a conference call. "He assured me that he had far too much respect for his own body to ever do that to himself... I certainly don't believe that if he's now admitting that he started using when he came to the Texas Rangers, why should I believe that it didn't start before he came to the Texas Rangers?"

The 33-year-old Rodriguez ranks 12th on the career list with 473 home runs, including 52, 57 and 553 homers, including 52, 57 and 471 in his three seasons with the Rangers. He is 209 behind Barry Bonds' record 762.

Now, though, he's on top of a much different list — the highest-profile player to confess to doping, joining teammates Jason Giambi and Mark McGwire.

"I said to myself, 'Wow, this guy is really skinny at 198, maybe 202 pounds. He's not going to make it at linebackers,'" Beathard said in a news release. "But he worked out real well, so I told him we're not going to draft you, but we will sign you anyway after the draft.

"I bought Mel a whole bunch of protein powder and peanut butter, and told him to start lifting to gain weight," Beathard added. "He got up to 218, 220 at the start of the 1981 season and ended up playing at about 215. He just did just an amazing job."