The Detroit Lions have a big decision to make with the third overall pick in April's NFL draft. Presumably, the two teams picking before the Lions, the Cincinnati Bengals and Washington Redskins, will be drafting LSU Quarterback Joe Burrow and Ohio State Defensive End Chase Young respectively. Many expect the Lions to use the third overall pick on Ohio State Cornerback Jeff Okudah, a player who would help them compete right away. The Lions need to pick a player who will most positively impact their success for the next 15 or so years, not the guy will help them the most in 2020. With that being said, the Detroit Lions would be wise to draft Alabama Quarterback Tua Tagovailoa and here is why**:**

1. They won’t get a better opportunity to replace Matthew Stafford.

The Detroit Lions went 3-12-1 this past season and as a result, now have a chance to grab a top player. Normally the Lions aren’t nearly bad enough to get as high of a draft pick as they have now. If it wasn’t for Matthew Stafford missing the teams final eight games, the Lions wouldn’t be holding a top three pick. The Lions likely won’t be picking this high in the draft for the foreseeable future and they need to make it count. The NFL Draft is where most teams find their franchise quarterbacks because organizations won’t let a star quarterback enter free agency, and this is the Lions opportunity. At the age of 32, Stafford is far from finished, but it isn’t too early to start thinking about his future replacement. Tua Tagovailoa may not be ready to play in 2020 because of a hip injury that derailed his final season at Alabama, but he would certainly be worth the wait.

1. Matthew Stafford has a lot of trade value.

Before his season-ending injury, Stafford was on pace to throw for 38 touchdowns, 10 interceptions, and 4,998 yards on 8.6 yards per attempt. By those numbers, Stafford would have led the league in touchdowns and finished second in passing yards and yards per attempt. There are teams like the Chicago Bears who are a good quarterback away from competing for a Super Bowl that would likely be willing to give up a first-round pick for 3-4 more good years from Stafford. you’re probably asking why the Lions would trade him. Well, when healthy, Stafford can get the Lions to at least 6-7 wins a year but he’s not going to elevate his team much further than that because the supporting cast around him isn’t good enough. An elite quarterback would be able to carry the Lion’s underwhelming roster to the playoffs consistently, but Stafford is not an elite quarterback. This shouldn’t be seen as a knock on him given that there are only a couple of elite quarterbacks in all of football right now. It’snot all his fault, but the Lions have been unable to win a playoff game since Stafford got drafted by the team in 2009. Why will things suddenly change next season? The Lions need to take advantage of Stafford’s high trade value and find their new franchise quarterback. Now.

1. The NFC North is a very tough division.

If the Lions decide to keep Stafford and use their third overall pick on a defensive player to help them compete next season, they likely believe that they are capable of being a playoff team. With the Green Bay Packers and Minnesota Vikings both coming off playoff appearances, along with the Chicago Bears being one year removed from winning the division, the Lions will have their hands full trying to compete. Even before Stafford’s season-ending injury, the Lions were sitting at 3-4-1 and an afterthought in the NFC playoff race. In a tough division, the Lions being a playoff team is unrealistic with or without the help of their third overall pick.

Tua Tagovailoa could be a superstar in the NFL. Unlike Joe Burrow, the likely first overall pick, Tua Tagovailoa has been a star since the moment he stepped foot onto a college football field whereas Burrows spent his first two seasons as a backup and didn’t have a dominant season until he was a senior. Tagovailoa can make every throw, he’s athletic, and a very coachable player. Entering this season, a knock on Tagovailoa was that he would look to throw deep too often rather than finding an open receiver 5-10 yards down the field. This season, Tagovailoa showed the ability to get rid of the ball more quickly and locate open receivers rather than recklessly throwing the ball down the field. Tagovailoa can be a very special player if he stays healthy.