

Welcome to our Mics in Motion IDP Rookie Report! We're glad you're here, whether you're already a loyal MiM listener or reading about us for the first time today!
We're part of the Mics in Motion podcast, which is all about Individual Defensive Players (IDP) in fantasy football. As passionate fantasy football players, we are fascinated by the defensive side of the sport and have made it our mission to bring this great hobby out into the world and get the defense more love.
As we do every year, we take a close look at the upcoming NFL Draft, have a closer look at the top defensive talents and discuss them at our podcast.
As we're entering our fifth season as a podcast this year, we thought we'd prepare something very special for you to mark the occasion.
And we've been working our fingers to the bone for months, evaluating and summarizing everything for you in this ever-growing PDF!
You can get a first insight with our pre-combine version. Here we took the effort to analyze the players individually and independently before the Combine, without exchanging information with each other beforehand. This was a real challenge for us, but also a lot of fun, as the top 10 rankings of the respective position groups provide exciting constellations.
Today we have version 2.0 for your eyes! After the Combine is before the Draft and we've made some changes. We've added the results of the Combine to the player profiles, recruited two more writers and given our rankings a complete update!
We hope you like the new version, which is now even more heart and soul.
The final version will follow after the NFL Draft, until then stay tuned!
For our English-speaking audience, we have made an effort to provide an accurate translation. Please forgive any errors.

PRW\%: Pass Rush Win Rate
SK: Sacks
HIT: Hits - when the passer is hit by the defender
HUR: Hurries - when the passer is hurried by the defender
PRS: Pressures
BAT: Batted Passes - the number of passes batted or deflected at the line of scrimage
TKL: Tackles
AST: Assisted Tackles
MIS\%: Missed Tackle Rate
STOP: Defensive Stops - tackles that constitute a "failure" for the offense
FF: Forced Fumbles
COV\%: Percentage of Coverage Snaps
TGT: Receiving Targets
REC\%: Percentage of targets caught
PBU: Pass Breakups
INT: Receiving Interceptions
NFL: NFL Passer Rating Against
PEN: Total (Declined+Offset): Total and (declined or offsetting) penalties

DEFEENSIVE TACIKLE

## EDGE RUSIHER

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## CORNERBACK

## SAFFTTY




- Great first step
- Distinct arsenal of pass rush moves and counters
- Stops the run

- Newton relies more on his athleticism than his basic skills

8

- Injury history

8 HIT


The Big Ten's reigning Defensive Player of the Year is a strong guy with quick feet and a powerful motor who is versatile and a nightmare for his opponents.

His explosiveness is particularly noticeable, leaving opposing blockers standing with his first step or using his speed to chase down the ball carrier.

Even when he relies on his exceptional athleticism, he always uses a variety of pass rush moves and counter-attacks to beat his opponent. His game vision and instincts allow him to make the right decisions, making him a true defensive playmaker.

Newton is a rare talent that has the potential to be a dominant force at the next level, and I wouldn't be surprised if he goes off the board as a top-10 pick this year.


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Bench

- Extremely explosive and agile
- Effective against double blocks
- Can be used variably
- Undersized
- Sometimes too aggressive

19.6\% PRW\%

6
SK
3
HIT

36
HUR


Byron was a standout player for the Longhorns and was utilized in a variety of ways. Whether it was as a nose tackle, three-technique or five-technique, he always had a big impact.

He is able to hold his ground against double blocks or control them vs. the run. He always exudes a certain calmness that makes it look effortless. It's easy for him to get rid of the opponent's hands and free himself up to create pressure. He is also quick enough to win chases and penetrate the opponents.
However, he needs to work on his pass rush plan to not give the other side a chance to place their hands first.

I think Murphy will be picked late in the first round or early in the second round and has the potential to be a disruptive and impactful player in the NFL.

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- Strong tackling
- Less athletic
- Gap Control
- Closing Speed
- Versatile in use
- Focused on QB only
- Not always fully committed
HAT
- Anchor

First things first: We call him Ruke O. His greatest strength is his confident tackling, where he can set the anchor and stop the runner at the point of attack.

But his versatility also speaks for itself. He can play as a DT in a 3 or 4 man front and has even seen outside snaps. He can also control two gaps well. Although he does this with power, he lacks the technique to consistently assert himself against the O-line and rarely uses his arm length. This causes him to lose interest and play with less commitment. But his athleticism also limits him somewhat. He lacks the speed to win or stay with the runner.

However, he has good balance thanks to his wrestling past. Ultimately, he is a Day 2 player, the only question is whether it will be enough for Round 2.


### 4.78

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Bench

- Impressive athleticism and agility
- High motor
- Large repertoire of pass rush moves

- Effectiveness against the run
- Sometimes too high pad level
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9.1\% PRW\%


3

3 HIT

17 HUR


24
TKL

Braden Fiske is one of the clear winners of the Combine, where he was able to show off his outstanding athleticism. Overall, he came out of the Combine as the RANK 1 defensive tackle

You can see his effectiveness right off the snap. He has a very quick get-off and can sometimes beat offensive linemen with his pure explosiveness when he hits with high energy. His large repertoire of pass rush moves is also useful here, which should make his transition to the NFL easier. One of his best attributes is his relentless motor. Braden Fiske never gives up on a play and can apply pressure late in the game.
With his upper body strength, he can sometimes hold his own against stronger double-team blocks and thus avoid creating gaps for the running game, but he has to be careful here because physically superior linemen can counter him together.
As an interior pass rusher, he could be interesting for teams that prefer to play with many disguise concepts in multiple front looks. This way, his less-than-ideal dimensions won't come into play.


- Athletic
- Gap Control
- Explosive release, good speed
- Violent Hands
- Understanding of the game and
- Understanding of the game and
- Focused on QB only
- Skillset
- Usage varies

Taylor is athletic as hell! He's the right size and frame for an inside pass rusher. Taylor shoots explosively from the holes and looks so light on his feet.
He keeps his opponent busy with violent hands and wins disruptively through the middle. Every snap is $\mathbf{1 0 0 \%}$ full throttle for him and you can see that he wants to make the play. But he only goes for the QB.
The run is secondary, unless it runs through his gap. Then he can also finish the tackle, but still too inconsistently. Once the runner has passed him, however, it becomes difficult for him as he lacks the pursuit speed. He also occasionally overruns the play or opts for the wrong gap, which is due to his lack of experience.

Nevertheless, his athleticism makes him an exciting prospect who could even jump into the first round.

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- Very powerful
- No Passrush Upside
- Sets an outstanding anchor
- Not explosive
- High Motor
- Undersized

Jenkins was a key part of one of the best defenses in college football this past season and one of the leaders of the national champions.

He impresses with his strength and commitment. All his actions are pure power!
He has powerful hands and a solid arsenal of counter moves. He sets an outstanding anchor and doesn't let blockers into the backfield. He even has decent speed for his size.
But his size is also his biggest weakness. He's small even for a NT, but simply doesn't work at all as a DE. Even for the 3Tech he is not explosive enough and has no pass rush moves. Any pressure comes from his strength, which won't be as big of an advantage in the NFL as it was in college.
At the Combine, he looked quick, explosive and surprisingly agile. You could feel the power in his hands even on the screen... Jenkins has the upside to be a force in the middle of an NFL Dline!


- Energizer Bunny
- Well-trained technician
- Good against the run
- Undersized
- Has an injury history

2 HUR


What immediately struck me about Michael Hall Jr. is his tremendous drive and the intensity with which he approaches every play. There really is energy behind it!

He may be a little on the small side, but he makes up for it with his explosiveness and agility. He also has a good repertoire of pass-rush moves and counters, which he executes skillfully with his strong hands. Thanks to his speed and ability to execute tight turns, Michael is also able to make an impact from the wing. He adapts to his opponents, has a good vision and defends well against the run.

Against much bigger blockers, he might have some trouble getting through. And when he runs against double blocks in the pass rush, he tends to roll out, which sometimes leads to large gaps. But he should be able to overcome this with targeted training.


$\square$
9.5\% PRW\%

- Athletic
- Lack of power in upper body
- Size
- Bad Countermoves
- Good pass rush moves (spin \& swing move)
- Little experience

HIT
HAT

Mason Smith was one of the most exciting DT prospects as a freshman in 2021. But he got injured in the $\mathbf{2 0 2 2}$ season, after only 8 snaps. His comeback last season was all the stronger! Because a player of his size and weight shouldn't be able to move like that!

However, Smith was only able to confirm this to a limited extent during the Combine. He showed that he is a very good lateral mover, but his numbers on the 10-and 40-yard runs were unfortunately not as explosive as expected. He was neither able to demonstrate an explosive start nor great speed. Which, combined with the lack of power, is not a good combination.

However, he is still very mobile and agile for his size and has a decent arsenal of pass-rushing moves.
With a year of NFL offseason and a backup role, however, he could develop into a very exciting starter at the 3Tech position thanks to his age and the athletic upside he still possesses.


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## 26 <br> $\overline{\equiv \overline{\overline{4}}}$

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Bench

- The guy has the size of a bear...
- ...and he plays like one!

- He runs out of breath towards the end
- Must develop a pass rush game plan
15.3\% PRW\%

|  | 3 | HIT |
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| HUR |  |  |
| HAT |  |  |

T'Vondre Sweat is an impressive defensive lineman who can overwhelm the opposing offensive line with his physical presence and fighting spirit.

He has strong hands and arms to control and shed blocks, a stable base and a low center of gravity to prevent opponents from moving him. His relentless motor and long reach allow him to prevent or stop plays. He is effective in both the run and pass game as he can close gaps and deflect passes. He can play both nose tackle and three-tackle, making him versatile and valuable to NFL teams.

However, he needs to work on some aspects of his game, such as his quickness and explosiveness after the snap and his pass-rush game plan. He also needs to improve his conditioning and stamina, as he tends to slack off during games.

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## - Athletic

- Tackling technique \& finish
- Skillset
- 3-Tech only
- Balance 3 HIT

Carter is one of the more athletic defensive tackles in the class. He's not the biggest, but he's very mobile and athletic and is no bowling ball. His release is on-time, has decent steam behind his first step, but gives up too much area with his upper body and loses if he stands farther outside. His
THITIV 3 step, but gives
movement and speed are okay.

When he plays, he plays with a high motor. However, he needs breaks to keep his energy up.
His skillset is characterized by a quick swim move and a bull rush. He has the power to push against 2. However, his hands need to work more and he needs to expand the skillset to play a role in the pass rush.
He has primarily played in a 4-3 and has gained a lot of experience. He recognizes the play quickly, gets his hands up at the line, but needs to improve his gap play significantly to be able to make stops. I don't see him in any other scheme at the moment.
With luck, he can get off the board at the end of Day 2.


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Bench

- Release and speed
- Body measurements
- Workhorse
- Limited mobility
- Finish inconsistent
- Injury Prone


2 HIT

Wingo is a very balanced player. His release is solid, sometimes even explosive, but he often oversleeps it. He gets up to speed quite quickly, but can only maintain it as long as he keeps going straight ahead. Nevertheless, he is a workhorse and constantly works hard.
He lacks the body and arm length to be able to assert himself. His hands don't work enough and his skillset mainly consists of a push-pull move. He can make a solid tackle in the run game, but rarely gets away from the blocker to be able to hold his gap regularly. He can also contribute to the tackle in the open field with a solid wrap-up, but is still too inconsistent.

He recognizes the play well, can even play inside and outside, but is too heavy for the latter in my opinion. On top of that, he missed a few games in 2023 with an injury, which obviously needs to be monitored.


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- Physically NFL ready
- Good acceleration
- Good tight Spinmove
- Possibly too heavy for Outside
- Cannot set edge well
- Not a big pass rush arsenal

The Combine has shown us where Brandon Dorlus sees himself and as what. Namely as a DT.
He was a 3-year starter for the Oregon Ducks, but played mostly on the outside, as a DE. He is a physically strong prospect that can make an immediate impact thanks to his outstanding strength
running. For his weight, he is quick and driven and has solid closing speed. He has good endurance, almost never has to come off the field and is versatile, able to rotate to the outside and play as a DE. He has a good, very tight inside spin move.
He had his biggest problems against the run, which could limit his role (3Tech), and since he has 0 trouble getting away from physical OTs when they get their hands on him, the move inside will help him. Against smaller guards, he will be able to utilize his athleticism better.


- Very powerful
- Undersized
- Effort
- Not very athletic
- Experience
- not flexible to use

Tyler Davis is one of the most experienced prospects in the entire draft class. He has played as a starter for the Clemson Tigers for a total of 5 years since his freshman year.

The undersized powerhouse impressed in the trenches with his strength and aggressiveness. He
0\% MIS\% regularly takes on double teams and doesn't let them push him into the backfield, makes tough tackles and even brings a pass-rush upside by making good use of his physical limitations (size) by making himself small and slipping under or between blockers.

But there's not much more to it than that. Due to his mass, he's not the fastest or most agile DT in the class. Since he was able to win regularly with his power, he doesn't have any pronounced pass-rush moves. And despite his power and great effort, he's limited by his short arms and it's questionable how he'll handle bigger and more athletic linemen in the NFL.
I think he'll find his role in the league as a rotational player for first downs. But I don't have the imagination for more than that.


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8.7\% PRW\%

- Fast, agile feet
- Misses Passrush-Moves
- Good acceleration
- Bad timing
- Strong Rundefender
- A bit small

HIT



Jackson was finally able to play a full season this year. Which was good for the Aggies and his draft stock. Because he is one of the most exciting and flexible Dline prospects in this year's draft class.

His powerful and massive build make him an interesting NT prospect. With his hard punches, he can quickly push Oliners backwards and put pressure on the QB. He is very difficult to get past against the run. He sets the anchor/edge well against the run. Recognizes the opening gaps very quickly and closes them effectively.

Despite his powerful upper body and aggressive hands, he still regularly has trouble getting off physical blockers. He comes purely through his physicality. He still lacks technique and timing in his actions. Unfortunately, the Combine took away the illusion of his quick burst and McKinley looked slow and ponderous, which takes away his upside at a position other than NT in the NFL.


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- Elite athlete, dictates the direction against tackles with his powerful hands
- Explosive first step that clearly influences his game
- All Around very well trained and experienced
- Doesn't feel comfortable in coverage
- He occasionally overlooks the run play and breaks out too far
HIT

Jared Verse could have landed in Las Vegas last year and teamed up with his idol! Instead, he returned to Tallahassee and could be the first defensive end off the board in April.

Verse is an intriguing blend of power and athleticism! He dominates offensive tackles with his speed and power on the outside. He relies on his well-honed pass rush moves! His explosiveness off the snap and incredible strength make opponents look bad at times.
His strong hands help him to break off blocks. As a result, he cuts a fine figure in run defense as well. In one-on-one situations, this guy is almost unstoppable, even in the NFL!

For me, Verse is the complete package at defensive end in a four-man or hybrid front. If he has a weakness, it's his coverage skills! But let's face it, who wants to see a guy like that in coverage?


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- Speedster with fierce explosiveness
- Modern EDGE that feels comfortable with every task
- Works hard on his pass rush repertoire
- Great size with upside in weight and strength

In the 2023 season, Dallas Turner was named SEC Defensive Player of the Year and First Team All American. He has everything you would expect from a modern EDGE. His speed/explosiveness in particular gives opponents a headache. He passes the blocker incredibly quickly and uses several pass rush moves such as the Dip\&Rip or Ghost Rush, which he continues to develop.

Turner is also very agile, flexible and intelligent and feels comfortable in coverage. What he still lacks, however, is more mass and strength, which his body should be able to handle without any problems. Especially with his strength and physicality, it's noticeable that he often gets caught by tight ends in run defense or doesn't have enough strength in pass rush to push the arms of blockers away.
But we all know about the NFL's infamous Peanut Butter Sandwiches, which should help here. Dallas to me has the most upside among all pass rushers and could become an elite EDGE. I see him going off the board as a late 1st or early 2nd.

- He needs to work on his strength, consistency and physicality...
- ...especially in the running game
HIT


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- Pass rush skillset
- Tackling
- Football IQ
- Work assignment
- Explosive release

- Body weight
- 2 Point Stance only

11
HIT

Latu impresses with his reliable reads and his ice-cold instinct, which allows him to locate the ball quickly. He can be used in a variety of ways, even in coverage. Explosiveness is his specialty, even if he needs a little time to pick up speed.
His stature: perfect! Long arms, bendy upper body and violent hands make life difficult for the O-line. Pass rush plan and moves for this: Check! The full range is on offer, i.e. spin moves, punches, duck moves, etc. are on the agenda. The finish: Hard and painful for the opponent!

But what else is missing? He needs to work on his release technique and not offer too much surface area. This causes him to lose speed and gives the tackle a point of attack. This leads to the next point: he needs to get away from the tackle more consistently to be able to make the tackle. Last point: He needs to become more confident in open-field tackling and improve his angles to the runner.
Still, the clear 3-4 EDGE is the best in the class for me and finds himself on a team's board early to mid-round 1.


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- Agility
- Tackling efficiency
- Speed
- Pass Rush only
- Release
- Body size
- Relase
- Lack of experience

18
HUR
BAT

He shows why the class is so close together. Chop Robinson shines with his athletic skills. He's quick as an arrow out of the holes, has the agility to weave his way through the gaps and finish on the final speed.
7.1\% MIS\%

Yes, he's a little undersized and still too light, but we all know NFL teams have the recipe for this. 100\% effort, on every snap - that's his promise. Constantly working hands and solid counter moves are already part of his repertoire, but there is still room for improvement. When he hits, he really hits. Attention: risk of turnover! What he simply lacks is experience. This is evident in duels with better tackles and reflects the inconsistency in his reads. Against the run, he has great potential for improvement - which could lead to us talking only about pass-rush ability with him.

He fits best in a 3-4 system where he can shine with his speed. The potential could propel him into the mid-first round.


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- Versatile
- End speed missing
- Body measurements
- Effort inadequate
- Release when the opportunity arises
- Understanding of the game
- Experience
- Thin skillset

Isaac also shines with his physical attributes, which makes him my \#7. He is tall, has long arms and is also athletic. Has good mobility, which allows him to come from the outside, but also from the inside.

Although he hasn't been on the field continuously, he has the experience to operate out of both stances, can also drop in coverage and has good reads. Sometimes he reads a little too long, which means he misses the snap a little and loses a few meters. However, he plays with a lot of effort and works with his hands to achieve his goal.
But he needs a better plan with more moves to be able to hit the tackle more consistently. I also find him more effective and explosive when he plays out of the 2-point stance. He lacks speed in pursuit, so he needs to close the edge better to make the play at the line sooner. He'll have to start in the rotation and learn before he can hopefully take on a 3-down role - I wish he could, because he has


- Speed
- Height and weight

mand
- Spin Move
- Missing counters
- High Motor
- Power

13

2
2 HIT

- Nice skillset for an 3-4 EDGE

Jonah Elliss of the Utah Utes has been one of the most dangerous pass rushers in college this year!
So it's almost a given that one of his biggest strengths is his explosiveness off the snap. This coupled with strong closing speed and his quick spin move makes him a constant threat to the opposing QB. Additionally, he is powerful for his size and is THE example of a high motor player. He never loses a play, never gives up and never spares himself a second. Elliss even has experience in man and zone 25 coverage against TEs.

But unfortunately, he's not the biggest and he's pretty light. He will have problems with bigger Oliners who can match him athletically. He lacks counter moves to keep his pads clear or to get away Oliners who can match him athletically. He lacks counter moves to keep his pads clear or to get away
from the Oliner once he gets a hand on him. Also to watch is his missed tackle rate, which was $20.7 \%$ last season but only $\mathbf{1 3 . 8 \%}$ the year before. Since he is small, he has to play quite upright, which makes it even easier for opponents to get to his pads.

Unfortunately, he didn't participate in the Combine or the Utes' Pro Day.

WWEAKKNESS

- Slow


## - Physically

- Strong edge setter

Lack of pass rush moves 9 SK

- Lack of pass rush moves
- Agility

6 HIT

26
HUR


Darius Robinson had a great Combine. He confirmed his athleticism and power and was even able to show that he is more agile than expected. The top round fender surprised everyone in 2023 and presented himself as a pass rushing force. This was clearly reflected in his sacks (up from 3 to 9) and hurries (up from 10 to 26) numbers. He has the physical tools to be a Day 1 starter in the NFL.

He's big, powerful, with aggressive hands that he uses with purpose. He has long arms, which leads to a large tackling radius and the power to set the edge or anchor. All attributes for a good to very good round fender. All of this paired with a lot of experience and understanding of the game (is a super senior) makes him an exciting DE prospect for a 4-3 Dline that can go straight for the first 2 downs.

As good as his performance was at the Combine, he had shown with his forty time that he isn't the fastest. Which will limit him somewhat, as I don't think he has the upside to play as an OLB/Edge in a 3-4. Rather then up front as a DE in a 3-man front.


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- Elite athlete with a strong mix of length, strength and speed
- Cool as a cucumber, whether at the LoS or in coverage
- Closing speed is outstanding
- Insufficient arsenal of pass rush moves and counters
- Must convert its speed more consistently into power

Braswell still doesn't get enough love for me. The guy is \#10 on Bruce Feldman's "Freak's List" and has steadily improved his performance over the last three years.
It's fascinating how Braswell delays his movements during the play, unsettling his opponents in order to beat them at the same moment and pursue the OB with incredible speed! His long arms and strength support him perfectly. His patience and calmness also pay off in coverage.
However, he still lacks pass rush moves and counters to become more variable and unpredictable. But that's nothing he can't work on with his future coaching staff.
Chris Braswell is an exciting player with a lot of experience and strong performances in college. In my opinion, he is one of the top talents of the second round.


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Shuttle

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- Hard work and determination
- Body size
- Athletic
- Hard hitter

- Speed and timing
- Open field tackling
- Block shedding
- Stiff hips
17.2\% PRW\%
- Open field tackling 8 SK

17 HIT

51
HUR


If you're looking for a player to give you sample measurements, you'll be stuck with Bralen Trice. Top size, top frame, athletic, what more could you ask for?

A full-time, high-motor player who played over 1000 snaps in college, who works in and especially through the tackle with power and an already solid skillset and then brings the ball carrier down hard with confidence. His experience is reflected in his versatility to be a player for both schemes. He also has good reads and good anticipation, which can sometimes backfire and cause him to overrun the play. The measurements take away some of his mobility and speed, his release is often off-time. He needs to disengage from the tackle more consistently in order to become more efficient in the run game.

I see him most likely in a 4-3 scheme where he can set the EDGE. Whether it's enough for round 1


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- Agility
- lack of mass
- athleticism
- not versatile
- good tackling
- Thin Skillset

The sophomore from Kentucky has good movement and is light on his feet. His acceleration is strong, you can tell he is athletic and can stress the tackle. He is good at building up speed and wins a lot with an explosive first step. His mass helps him here, even if it makes him far too light for a 5-tech. Booker works along the line if the first effort is not successful.

He plays very attentively, has a solid read, adjusts well against the run and tries to create pass deflection on screen plays. However, he needs time to process what he sees on play actions and stops. He also needs to improve his gap reading against the run.
He has a nice swim or duck move and takes the speed well into the backfield. His spin move is also quick and clean. However, there is not much more, as he usually tries to win with speed. He can tackle and finish safely, even in the wrap-up, and can assess his reach very well. However, he needs to disengage better from the tackle. His off-block tackling is otherwise rare. A solid combine makes him an early pick in round 3.


WVEAKINESS


- Long arms
- not explosive
- Good edge setter
- small arsenal of pass-rush moves
- lots of experience

3 HIT

28
HUR

1
BAT

38
TKL
Kneeland is the rising star of the last few weeks! The non-Power 5 prospect has steadily worked his way up from the late Top 200 towards Day 2. And if you take a closer look, you can see why.

He is a very well-rounded prospect who has no clear weaknesses in his game. His athletic profile has everything you'd expect from a DE or edge in a 3-4. He has a good burst and is a good lateral mover. He is also relatively bendy. But his biggest strength is his round fense. He has a large tackle radius, is very powerful, can set the edge well and is a sure tackler.

Problems at the beginning will probably be his lack of pass-rush arsenal and experience against welltrained Oliners. However, he is already showing good signs, thanks to his quick hands he can keep his pads free and he has a good spin move.

Nevertheless, you shouldn't expect miracles at the beginning, he will probably see a role as DE 3 in year 1, mostly on the first 2 downs, as the explosiveness is still somewhat lacking, in addition to the technique.


- Explosive release and strong athleticism at the snap

- Undersized, small arm span, can be easily controlled by offensive lineman 19.4\% PRW\%

Very few pass rush moves, tries to beat Very few pass rush moves, tries to beat
the opponent primarily through his
speed and athleticism speed and athleticism - Not a run defender, often misses the
tackle here Not a run defender, often misses the
tackle here
14 SK 12

- Has tremendous quickness
- Clear pass rusher, either as an end in a 4-3 or as an outside linebacker in a 3-4 defense, where he would be a pure rusher
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mandink



If you like pass rushers who shine from the snap with explosiveness and quickness, Mo Kamara is the guy for you. Each rush features a player who has a strong release and moves toward the quarterback with insane speed regardless of his stance.
Though, Kamara often lacks pass rush moves and limits himself to his skillset of speed and agility. He will definitely need to work on this in the NFL.
Another negative is his run defense, where he misses tackles due to the nature of his pass rush.
As a clear pass rusher in a front where he can hit the offensive lineman with speed, Mo Kamara should feel most comfortable.


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- Prototype of a modern LB
- Above average in all tasks
- He lacks functional strength
- Needs fine-tuning
- Constantly productive


Edgerrin is a versatile, athletic and prototypical modern three-down linebacker. He has the length, explosiveness and instincts to disrupt at the line of scrimmage, as well as the coverage skills and range to handle duties on the back end of the field.
His passion for the game and Football IQ have allowed him to mature into an extremely productive and consistent playmaker.
However, he is not yet complete. He lacks functional strength and still needs to polish his movements. He often plays too high and therefore loses his balance too quickly or offers blockers too much room to strike. For me, he also attacks the ball too rarely in coverage.
But he can work on these points and is one of the top prospects at LB in this year's draft.

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911 --

- Great instincts
- "You need lift a little more!"
- Big Play affine
- Can he stay healthy?
- Can be used for practically anything
- Combine

|  | 9 | HUR |
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|  | 92 | TKL |

At 6'4", NC State's Payton Wilson is a very long and slender player and is also comparatively old at 24. He is an instinctive and athletic playmaker who has qualities in both coverage and run defense.

He plays with great discipline, has a good eye and nimble hands, which earned him four interceptions and two forced fumbles in the 2023 season.

With his slender limbs, however, he still lacks the strength and technique to better pick off his opponents. Or to put it in the words of R. Sherman: "You need lift a little more!" He can still work on that, then he could become a fully-fledged three-down LB.
With his long injury history and his lack of strength and finesse, he is also a big risk. He needs to pass the medical tests and prove that he can stay healthy and improve his weaknesses.


- Fearless \& Tough

- Tackle machine
- Few big plays so far
- He is always on the ball carrier!
- Needs more patience

He is always on the ball carrierl
HUR


Colson is one of the players I'm most excited about this year. Even though I am alone in this view, I am convinced that Junior has everything it takes to be a successful three-down linebacker in the NFL.

If you watch his game, you notice that he is always near the ball no matter where he started. He's really comfortable between the big guys in the trenches, burrowing through or creating enough space against much bigger blockers and stopping ball carriers with a certain pop for sure.
However, he needs to become more patient to avoid falling into traps. But Colson regularly plays big in the important situations and quickly makes up for mistakes. It's not a surprise that he was a finalist in the Lott IMPACT Trophy.

I think anyone who finishes the game with a broken hand shows the fighting spirit and commitment that I love so much about this sport!

\#4
21y/ $6^{\circ \prime \prime} / 228 \mathrm{lbs} /$ Clemson

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- Mindset
- Lack of body length and power
- Versatile in use
- Misread prone
- Light-footed with speed
- Big Play ability

HIT


Trotter is always in action. He is a player with a constantly running engine who is always helping his teammates and never stops working. He is light on his feet, can go sideline to sideline and adapts quickly to the play.
He gets through traffic very well, can shoot explosively through the gap and secure the TFL. His tackling is pretty solid, even in the open field as a wrap-up. He is already a 3 down LB who can play in the box, get involved in the pass rush or drop into coverage. He has careful reads and good instincts. However, these let him down when it comes to read option plays. Here he often runs into nothing, which leads to unnecessarily long runs.
His lack of body length and therefore lack of power raise questions. As a result, he struggles to establish himself in the pass rush and often loses the upper hand against blockers. I also think he lacks a turnover ability, he will make fewer big plays, but rather the sure tackles. He will also go off the board early on the second day.


- Athletic
- Change of direction
- Team Leader
- Speed
- Versatile use
- Football IQ

- Agility
- Tackling


Cedric Gray is very promising. He has the size, the body and is very athletic. He lacks a bit of strength, even to set the anchor, but he can make tackles in the box and distribute hard hits.
He is a team leader and plays like one. He is versatile, can play in the box, but can also drop in coverage. He reads the play well, finds his way around traffic well and is a high motor player.

However, he lacks a little light-footedness and sometimes reacts a little too slowly to a play, which is 14,6\% MIS\% a good reason to place him a little further back. He is consistently good at keeping free, but has problems tackling in the open field. He doesn't exude enough confidence here and sometimes overshoots. His speed is the big question mark. He has to show this at the Combine, otherwise he could go down further. Despite everything, the first round will be difficult for him.



- Launches everything on the field
- Not the most athletic
- Good Runstopper
- One-dimensional
- Good Floor
- Low ceiling
2 HIT


Tommy Eichenberg has been the constant in the middle for the Buckeyes the last 3 years. The tackle machine from Cleveland came to Columbus as a 4 star recruit and could have gone in the draft last year.
His biggest strengths are his sure tackling ( $8.7 \%$ missed tackle rate) and his outstanding effort. He always plays at full throttle and has a good get off. He has a great understanding of the game and can read blocking schemes well and recognize opening gaps. He is a solid zone cover LB also thanks to his tall/wide build.

His frame also ensures that he is not the most mobile and agile. His combine stats have shown us that he lacks speed, which limits his usage (no sideline-to-sideline ability) and he doesn't have the pass rush technique or sophisticated counter moves to have impact in the pass rush (only 5 sks. in 3
1 FF years). His body looks very finished, which raises the question of whether he hasn't already reached FF his athletic ceiling.


- Athletic
- No Passrush Moves
- Flexibility
- Lean
- Build like a Saftey, hits like a Linebacker
- Raw and impatient

=

3

1 HIT

Hopper has been a starter at Missouri since transferring from the Florida Gators for the 2022 season, making the AII-SEC Second Team both years.

With the Tigers, he has impressed with his speed and flexibility from the start. He can cover very well in zone ( 2022 Coverage Grade 78.6) and always had a solid impact in the pass rush. Which is confirmed by his numbers over the last 2 years: 7 sacks, 36 hurries and 70 stops.
He's still pretty raw and impatient in his actions though. Doesn't have any distinct pass rush moves, only comes through his speed and agility. And allows too many yards after contact or bounces off the runner (missed tackle rate $\mathbf{2 2 . 7 \%}$ ), which is also related to his somewhat slender stature. As a result, he can't get away from blockers once they get their hands on his pads.

Unfortunately, he didn't take part in any activities at the Combine, but he still looked pretty lean and slim.


- Strong in pass rush, has a good get-off and gets through gaps quickly
- Top speed and acceleration
- Agility

4 SK
$7 \quad$ HIT

- Leader, high football IQ
- Coverage
- Physically strong, also in run defense

|  | 7 | HIT |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 17 | HUR |

THE 2

JT Bertrand is one of my favorites in this draft after his tape.
The shortcomings are obvious, he doesn't have top speed or outstanding agility. On second glance,
however, Bertrand is an absolute leader, coordinates the defense, reads plays and recognizes gaps for the pass rush without forcing plays.

Even if he lacks speed, he finds ways to make secure tackles and is also a solid linebacker in coverage. Bertrand's draft value will depend on how teams view his athleticism, because beyond his athleticism, Bertrand is a great linebacker.

1.59

\#20
$\overline{\overline{4}}$
Vertical
IIIIII


- Stronger in Coverage (Man and Zone)
- Fast
- Flexible / agile
- Small and thin
- Bad vs. Run
- No passrush upside

Luifau was a 2-year starter for the Fighting Irish and was especially impressive in coverage. His coverage grade of 84.1 (according to PFF) for the entire season puts him in the top 20 in all of college football.
Coverage is also his biggest strength! Of course, his athleticism helps him tremendously. He is fast, with very strong closing speed. Bendy and agile, so he can cover TEs and RBs in man and mirron their routes well. His effort also stands out, he doesn't shy away from contact with physically clearly superior opponents and even seems to seek it out at times.
Unfortunately, this effort can't make up for his physical limitations (he's not the tallest and quite light) or his lack of strength. This could make him a problem against the run and render him almost useless for the pass rush, as he can't disengage from blockers and is too easily pushed into the

He was able to confirm his good acceleration and straight-line speed at the Combine, but hasn't put on any muscle, which could make his start in the NFL more difficult.

- Instinctive run defender
- Reads the play and QB very well


## - Can be involved in the pass rush

- Needs to add mass and strength
- Needs to improve his technique when tackling and disengaging from the blocker


|  | HIT |  |
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Tyrice Knight is the leader of the 2023 college season with 117 solo tackles. And that with a tackle technique that is anything but perfect!

He has extremely good instincts against the run and knows exactly where to position himself, which
19 AST allows him to close the opponent's free blocked gap immediately. He is clearly comfortable side line to side line and sets the perfect angle to the opponent's ball carrier to make the tackle. He also cuts a good figure in the pass rush by pulling his shoulder down so that the blocker reaches into void.
However, he lacks proper tackling technique, which is surprising considering his numbers. As well as disengaging from the blocker once he has grabbed him. With more bulk and strength, he should have the necessary boom to succeed as a run stopper in the NFL.

For me, a top Will LB prospect for Day 3. He could be especially interesting for teams that work with even fronts.


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| Split | Dash | 3 Cone | shuttle | Vertical | Broad | Bench |

- Fast
- little passrushupside
- large tackling radius - needs a little more power
- good in coverage

4

3 HIT

12
HUR


45
Trevin Wallace is one of the winners of the Combine!
Thanks to his great straightline speed, the ILB from Kentucky climbed the boards of all scouts.
But it's not just his speed that makes him an exciting prospect. He has solid size, great hands and a good wingspan, which makes for a great tackling radius. Thanks to 3 years of experience as a starter, he also has a good understanding of the game and good coverage skills. The defensive playcaller is also known as a leader on and off the field.

Despite his solid physique, he lacks the power to hold his own against blockers. In addition, he lacks the technique to compensate for his lack of strength. He doesn't have a counter or pass-rush arsenal to be used as an extra rusher at the LB level.

Overall, Trevin Wallace is an exciting ILB prospect with 3-down upside thanks to his coverage.


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- Change of direction
- Skillset
- Speed
- Tackling

- Limited versatility
- Lack of power

3

- Commitment
- Agility

HUR
0

Curtis Jacobs wins with his light-footedness. He can move sideline to sideline and also drops well in coverage. He has the speed to keep up with RBs or TEs in man coverage and also bring it to the pass rush on straight runs. However, he needs to come unblocked for this, as he lacks the pass rush moves 13 - which wasn't his main role in college - but still wouldn't be bad.

He has good block-shedding and can bring his opponent to the ground with a good bear hug. On clear passing downs, he was sometimes not even on the field.

He is a read and react player, but can compensate for this with good mobility. I miss his lack of effort during his time on the field. Although he works behind and tries to help his colleagues and finishes what they haven't finished, he sometimes gets lost in traffic and doesn't give me the impression of wanting to set the tone.


- Strong cover LB
- Small and thin
- Good tackler
- Not much power
- Playcaller with lots of experience
- Not much power 1 SK
HUR

Mitchell is one of the most experienced prospects in the entire LB class. Even as a freshman he played 445 snaps in 7 games. Since then he has been a 3 year starter for the UConn Huskies.
Mitchell brings great technique along with experience. He is a sure tackler, good in zone coverage, 31 has the athletic potential to hold his own in man coverage against TEs and RBs and also has a small pass rush upside thanks to his closing speed and agility. He was also the playcaller of the defense.
But the upside is only small because of his build. Jackson Mitchell is rather small and lean. Doesn't impress with his strength. Has trouble getting off blockers and can't set an edge or anchor against the run. He also doesn't have long arms, which makes it difficult for him to keep blockers from getting to his pads, limits him in terms of potential pass-rush moves and makes for a small tackle radius. Additionally, he has no side-to-sideline ability due to his lack of elite speed.
Mitchell unfortunately did not participate in the Combine, so he could not prove his athletic limitations.

## CORTERRBACIKASA




- Agility
- Understanding of the game
- Athletic
- Body size
- Tackling
- Speed

0 29
DeJean is the best cornerback in the class for me. He has the perfect body length, frame and mass to make life difficult for any WR.

With his athleticism, he can stick to the receiver and not give them any room at all. He has the acceleration to challenge comeback routes directly, he can keep his speed across the field and if a gap should arise, he can close it very quickly. As a reminder: the man runs the 100 m in 11.16 sec!
And with this speed, he can not only play perfectly in man coverage, but can also be incorporated into blitzes. Of course he can also play in zone coverage, but I think he's too strong in man press.
What you can criticize is his turnover production. He's not a player who catches INTs non-stop, but he still has a natural nose for the ball. In addition, he is too hasty in the open field and misses the tackle as a result. But that's all complaining at the highest level.
Guaranteed first round.


- Very fast
- To grabby
- Powerful
- Pure outside CB
- Very strong in mancoverage



Before the season, Arnold was still overshadowed by his team-mate Kool-Aid McKinstrey, but that has changed over the course of the season. Depending on who you believe at the moment, he could even be picked ahead of his colleagues with the eye-catching name. There are reasons for that!
He brings solid size, long arms and great speed in all his actions. Can defend quick cuts, thanks to his loose hips and quick feet, and is one of the surest tacklers in the CB class. His athleticism makes him perfect for man coverage. All attributes you look for in a shutdown CB.

Nevertheless, there are a few small weaknesses in his game. He is solid in zone, but prefers to have the clear task of taking out a player in man. When he plays press, he occasionally gets too grabby and takes his hands away from the opponent too late, which can lead to penalties in the NFL.

But the positives clearly outweigh the negatives and make him a 1st round talent.


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- Size


## - Straight linespeed

- Agility
- Hard tackler
- Very strong at the catchpoint
- Too reserved in zone

A maximum average-sized outside CB from Toledo is shaking up the draft boards, you rarely see anything like it. It's no longer surprising after a closer look at his tape. He has great speed, sure hands and a "nose" for the ball. Despite his size, he is very strong at the catch point, which enables him to


39
TKL

Still, Mitchell has some things to work on to become a true \#1 in the NFL. Most of it has to do with his agility, he still loses too much speed on quick cuts and has problems back-paddling.
In zone, he sometimes seems a little "reserved" or wait-and-see, which can allow a few too many yards after catch.
On the whole, however, his athletic profile makes him an exciting prospect as an outside cover CB who can also be taken on Day 1.


- He is the shutdown corner prospect of the 2024 Draftclass

- Requires fine adjustments
- More mass = more class
- Only 20 years old...
- ...Sky is the Limit!

|  | PBU |  |
| ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 44,4 | NFL |  |
| 23 | 2 | TRS |

Wiggins is a former four-star recruit and an All-ACC First-Team selection. For his size, he has impressive quickness, agility and physicality.
He can play both man and zone defense and uses his instincts and ball skills expertly. His technique, especially his tackling, still needs coaching. He often plays too high, especially when changing direction, which costs him speed.
He should also build up more strength and mass to be able to deal better with bigger and stronger opponents. But these are fine-tuning issues that good coaching and training can fix.
He's only 20 years old, but he already has the skills and confidence to make his mark in the NFL as a shutdown cornerback!
I can't imagine him falling into the second round.


## KOOL-AID MCKKINSTRYY

21y / $6^{\circ} 0^{\prime \prime} / 199$ lbs / Alabama

\#6
\#6
\#5
\#5

- Excellent physique

39 TGT

- Must work better against the deep pass
- Ball skills
- Finds his place in every scheme
- QB very rarely throws in his direction!

Kool-Aid, what a name! The former five-star recruit has excellent physicality, speed and athleticism

| 73,1 | NFL |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | PRS |
| 27 | TKL | for a cornerback.

He is very versatile, can play as a press-man, off-man or in the zone and is also a dangerous weapon as a blitzer.

He still needs to work on his positioning on deep passes, as he tends to give the receiver too much space or lose sight of the ball. In college, he was usually able to make up for this with his talent, but in the NFL this tends to be punished.
Unfortunately, we saw much less of his potential in the 2023 season as the opposing offenses consistently played around him, which greatly benefited his teammate Arnold.
Kool-Aid is a highly talented and confident player who can develop into a Pro Bowler and will have an immediate impact in any system as a starter and playmaker.


- Commitment
- Acceleration
- Solid reads
- Grabby tendency
- Size
- Orientation

6 PBU


Tampa is a very balanced player overall. It's hard to pinpoint any strengths or weaknesses.
He has the frame and body to make an impact as an outside CB in the league. His speed is good enough to match up with receivers and catch up to them if necessary. However, he lacks the top

He is good at disengaging from blockers and getting involved in the run game, which is what he wants to do. He is a high motor player who wants to make his mark on every play. At the point of catch, he specifically goes for pass break-ups.
He can be used in a variety of ways, I find him more effective in zone than in man because he can read the OB better there and react more agilely than in man with a very good understanding of the zone.

For me he is a player for the second round - maybe his name makes a suitable landing spot.

- Competitive and confident demeanor, plays with a lot of confidence
- Excellent pressman skills with physicality, footwork and hand use at the line
- Has trouble with bigger and stronger receivers who can overpower him
- Tackling technique and consistency need to improve


Ennis Rakestraw Jr. has good size, length and athleticism for a corner. You can tell he loves to compete and is up for any challenge.

His movements are fluid and smooth, making it easy for him to mirror receivers in and out of their
breaks. He is very physical at the Line of Scrimmage where he uses his arms to disrupt or even break running lanes. He also has good instincts to find the ball and disrupt the play.
He also needs to work on his tackling technique and should build up more strength and mass to be able to play off the opposition even more effectively with his aggressive style of play.
He has the potential to be an immediate starter in the NFL. Especially in a system where he can play pressman coverage.
I think he'll go off the board early on day 2.


### 6.62

4.12

三20
Shuttle

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Broad
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Bench

- Speed
- Too slender
- Agility
- Insecure in mancoverage
- Too grabby


## -



Lassiter is another strong defensive prospect from Georgia.
He was a 2-year starter in the Bulldogs' secondary and was especially impressive this year. What immediately stands out about him is his speed and agility. He has good acceleration and closing speed and very agile hips, which help him in turn-and-run situations.

The second big plus point is his good technique. He picks up receivers well, can mirror their routes (which is due to his past as a WR) and allows little at the catch point. He also has a secure tackling technique (wrap-up).
The only problem is his physicality. Lassiter is quite lean and lacks the power to hold his own against physical outside receivers. This raises the question of how flexible he is and whether he is more of a pure zone cover CB. In his desperation, he also gets very grabby when he has to play pressman.


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| Split | Dash | 3 Cone | Shuttle | Vertical | Broad |

- Excellent ball tracking
- Effective at the catch point and in jump balls
- Very good at mirroring receivers and disrupting routes
- No top speed
- High football IQ

Khyree Jackson is a top 10 outside man/press cornerback prospect. His physique makes him superior to most receivers and allows him to dominate the catch point. What stands out the most, however, is his deliberate style of play paired with a very developed vision. He manages to put his theoretical understanding of the game into practice.

Khyree Jackson is also strong in the blitzing game. He can beat offensive blockers with different moves and effectively put pressure on the quarterback. He led Oregon with 46 quarterback pressures. Overall, Khyree Jackson is an outstanding talent with a rare blend of size, physicality and disruptive playmaking ability. He can counter the question marks based on his speed with his effective disruption of receiver routes. However, success will also depend on how he manages to refine his technique.
He should be of interest to teams that play more complex pattern defense systems and also want to incorporate him into creative blitzing packages.

- Sometimes relies too much on his physicality instead of technique
$-\quad$ PBU



## MAAX MELTON

age unknown (Senior) / 5'11"/187lbs / Rutgers

\#10 \#12 \#10 \#8

### 1.51 <br> 寻 0 <br> Split

4.39

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Dash

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| Shuttle |  |





- Agility
- Body dimensions
- High Motor Player
- Kick off too weak
- Versatile in use
- Skillset
- Turnover Production
- Inconsistent tackling

44 TGT

$$
2-2
$$

- 

| 3 | PRS |
| :---: | :---: |
|  |  |
| 26 | TKL |

Melton was able to shine in college with his turnovers. 8 INT in 4 years is something to be proud of. He scored them everywhere, because he played outside and inside as a nickel. He showed off his skills in zone and against man. With fast and solid reads and good communication, he was able to make a difference or two. He is also agile and has the movement to keep up with shifty slot receivers.

However, he loses some points when it comes to speed. His short area quickness is enough to stay with the man for the first few yards, but beyond that it becomes difficult and he gets grabby. He also lacks size and bulk. He's too small and slight for an outside CB in the NFL, so I see him ending up in the slot.
He's a high motor player who can also get involved in the run game when the opportunity arises and support with a solid wrap-up. However, he is often too far away from the receiver in zone and therefore cannot challenge the point of catch. Over $50 \%$ completions per year is a lot. The Combine was good, which should keep him as a hybrid cornerback prospect in round three.


70 Dash

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Shuttle

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Broad
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Bench

- great ball skills
- Lean
- Ballhawk upside
- lack of power
- good router cognition
- insecure tackler
D.J. James didn't join the Auburn Tigers until his junior year, but immediately earned one of the 2 starting outside corner spots and comes into this year's draft with 2 years of experience as a full-time starter.
The very technically sound CB impresses with his strong ball skills at the catch point, his great instincts for routes and his athletic ability to mirror them well. He is helped by his solid size, loose hips and good acceleration and closing speed.

But James is still a little thin/shallow for his size and lacks the power to keep up physically against big receivers. This is especially noticeable in press man, at the line of scrimage and in run support. In response, he tends to get grabby, which can lead to flags in the NFL.
D.J. James is a 2-3 year project, but has the upside to be a good outside CB 2 with ballhawk ability.


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| Split | Dash | 3 cone | Shuttle | vertical | Broad | Bench |

- High football IQ!
- Elite Ballskills!
- Due to his frame, he is somewhat limited in the NFL
- Plays bigger than he is!
- Excellent blitzer!
- He lacks the strength against much stronger WRs

| 6,5\% | REC\% |
| :---: | :---: |
| 10 | PBU |
| 87,4 | NFL |
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| 38 | TKL |

Sainristil is the prototypical nickel defender. His Combine has confirmed his physical abilities and physical limitations.
In high school, Mike was a very good wide receiver, which gives him the advantage today to read plays and react to or anticipate the routes of his opponents. His outstanding game intelligence alone allows him to win plenty of matchups.
You can tell with every breath he takes that he wants to win and overwhelms his opponents with his competitive spirit alone. In addition, his speed and agility help him to be used as an extremely dangerous blitzer and thus put pressure on the offense.
Only his god-given physical limits in size and strength restrict him in his area of use. Teams that are looking for an explosive nickel and play more zone may have found the perfect talent in Mike.


WVEAKINESS

- Grabby


## - Clooingspeed

- Safe tackler
- Strong in zone
- Balltraking (when in the air)
- Problems in mancoverage

Caelon Carson is one of the most experienced prospects in the draft. Despite his average size at best, the very athletic outside CB brings 4 years of experience as a starter for Wake Forest. He has good closing speed and moves well in traffic.
Carson is one of the sure tacklers in the CB class, which with his athletic attributes makes him a very good zone cover CB. He always has the QB in his sights and loves it when the play is in front of him.
As good as his zone coverage is, his man defense is problematic. He really stalls on quick cuts and is too slow to get loose again. He becomes grabby and has trouble locating the ball in the air.
This makes him very one-dimensional and only useful for teams that play mostly in zone.


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Shuttle

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- Acceleration and speed
- Understanding of the game
- Tackling
- Skillset
- Versatility
- Body measurements

1 PBU


The Penn State cornerback shines with his acceleration and speed. He gets out of the holes quickly, can build up speed very fast and stay with the receiver. He can also maintain this speed across the field and integrate himself well into the run.
He is light on his feet and can play in zone and man, although the latter is more effective as he is often too late in zone coverage. He plays intuitively and recognizes plays very quickly, but sometimes loses sight of his opponent.

Apart from that, he can make good tackles, going full-body ahead, but this can also result in missed tackles.

However, he is too grabby on the move, he lacks the reaction time to be closer to the man
0
He primarily plays outside CB, occasionally even as a strong safety, but he has one problem: he is too small. At 5'11", it can be difficult against big Z receivers, which is why a nickle cornerback role could suit him.


- Explosiveness
- undersized (for Outside)
- Passrush upside
- lack of power
- agile
- insecure tackler
lack of $\quad 67,7 \%$ REC\%

Johnny Dixon is one of the most experienced prospects in this year's CB class.
The former South Carolina Gamecocks recruit never fully established himself there and took a year to acclimatize after transferring to Penn State.
Then he was able to convince the coaches with his explosiveness, agility and quick feet. All of that paired with great effort and a high understanding of blocking schemes have made him one of the most exciting nickel CBs in the class, who also brings a solid pass-rush upside.

But that's all Dixon will be able to become in the NFL. His size and lack of technique to cover outside really needs to add some bulk and power and work on his tackling technique to avoid yards after contact.
However, the chance to find a solid zone cover nickel CB who has already shown his productivity as a blitzer should make him interesting for NFL teams.




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- Top athlete
- Must tackle more consistently
- Flexible to use
- Get more routine
- Speed Speed Speed
- A little too hasty
2 HUR

Kam Kinchens comes into the draft as one of the youngest safeties. The Miami product is not inexperienced, however, as he has been starting since his freshman year.
He impresses with athleticism, power and his effort. His explosive burst and strong closing speed make him flexible to use in the defensive backfield. Thanks to his speed and agility, he can defend the deep zone on his own as a FS. At the same time, it makes him exciting for the big nickel and strongside spot.

Initially, one of the two spots closer to the LoS would be a better fit, as he still has trouble anticipating deep/longer routes and his open-field tackling still leaves a lot to be desired. He jumps into the opponent more with his body than he wraps around him. As great as his motivation is, and he sometimes carries his teammates along with his energy, it can also be "dangerous" for his game, as he occasionally misses the target. Unfortunately, at the Combine he was able to fully confirm the speed and explosiveness you see on tape. Still, he remains one of the most exciting safety prospects in the class thanks to his athletic upside.


## - Adjustment

- Athleticism missing
- Versatile in use
- Speed limited
- Hand skills
- Game Recognition

Nubin is versatile. However, my opinion of him is divided here. He lacks athletic skills, seems stiff in the hips, doesn't have the downhill speed to come from deep or the speed and body to play single high FS. His kick-off is constant and okay, but nothing more. His frame tells me: a man for strong safety, but he lacks experience here, especially in man coverage against TEs or RBs. He can get into the tackle well with a body, even in open field, through a wrap up, but it's not the safest and he chooses long routes to the man, so the angles are weird. However, he takes too long in the box to recognize the play or needs to recognize the blocking schemes better to avoid ending up in the wrong gap or getting caught by blockers. He did this better and more consistently from a little further back and was able to show off his ball skills and catch INTs.

His mentality and attitude to the game should not be written off. He supports his colleagues on a permanent basis and has already gained experience as captain.
A hybrid safety who will probably find his home for me in the middle of the third round.


- Fast and agile
- Plays very powerfully
- Reliable tackler
- Still has problems reading the game
- Lacks technique/only comes through athleticism

49\% cov\%

0 SK PBU


Brade was the starter for the surprisingly good performing Maryland Terrapins the last 2 years. In those 2 years he was utilized in a variety of ways. As a sophomore he played most of the time at FS, as a junior he was used more flexibly throughout the defensive backfield.
This also shows one of his great strengths. Beau Barde can play everything from nickel CB to box safety to free safety. He impresses with speed and power. He is fast, agile and explosive when it comes to finishing plays (closing speed + hard tackling). He is a safe wrap-up tackler who also convinces with good angels in the open field on tape. He works strongly against the run, which might qualify him more as a box safety or big nickel. This is also supported by the fact that he copes better when the field/zone he has to defend is rather small.

Unfortunately, Brade did not participate in a workout at the Combine and his ProDay had not yet taken place as of press time. Still, he remains one of the most exciting and versatile safety prospects in this year's class.

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Bench

- Fluid hips and quick feet in coverage

- Small stature and build
- High football IQ and understanding of - Inconsistent tackler and technique the game
- Tracks the ball well and has good hands

| 5 | PBU |
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Javon Bullard is someone you enjoy watching. His commitment and grit are immediately noticeable!
As a free safety, he virtually flies across the field and can cover a huge area. He shows an exceptional understanding of the game, which means he always positions himself well and takes up a lot of space with his good burst. He always has his eye on the ball, attacks opponents and the ball at the right moment and can also generate the odd big play thanks to his good hands.
His small stature brings natural disadvantages, such as relatively short arms, and his tackling is also quite inconsistent, which will put some teams off.
Still, I think he's one of the best talents at safety and should find a suitable taker in the second round.


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- High Motor Player
- Grabby due to lack of speed
- Agility at its best
- Missing mass
- Versatility
- block shedding

He can play well in man against TEs and RBs and be incorporated in the pass rush, although he has a better understanding of the play from deep when he has a little more time to read the play and reacts almost instinctively.
In the box, he may neglect the runner and look to pick up the block instead of avoiding it. On the one hand, he lacks the mass to beat this blocker and, on the other, to stop runners more effectively. They would otherwise simply bounce off him. Nevertheless, his tackling looks secure, also in the open field, when he can set good angles from deep.
His acceleration is good, he can pick up the pace well downhill. His really relaxed movement is important here. He can easily open his hips in the zone and quickly adjust his direction of travel. He also has the speed to work towards the sideline and doesn't lose it through traffic. Although he is less able to maintain top-end speed over the length, which causes him to be grabby.


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| Split | Dash | 3 Cone | shuttle | vertical | Broad |

- Impressive size and length for a safety
- Good instincts and awareness in zone coverage
- Can disrupt the timing and catch point of receivers
- Leader and communicator on the field
- Thin lower body and average functional strength
- Not very experienced in man coverage of tight ends
- A little prone to penalties
- Terrible Combine Performance

Williams is an impressive five-star recruit at the safety position because he's just HUGE! And his skillset is so special that he can really become a gamechanger.
His enormous wingspan alone means he covers a gigantic area, which is further enhanced by his
 athleticism and poses enormous problems for quarterbacks and receivers.

Especially in zone defense, he can play to his strengths by covering large parts of the field with his agility and speed. He plays instinctively and aggressively at the catch point and against the run. He is

Due to his stature, you could also consider using him as a linebacker, but I personally wouldn't be a big fan of that as he would lose some of his physical advantages.

But he didn't do himself any favors with his performance at the Combine. The whole thing seemed kind of lazy and clearly damaged his reputation. He drops drastically in most boards, until late in the last rounds. I hope he still gets a chance and can confirm his unicorn existence.

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- Very explosive
- Small
- Great closing speed
- Stiff hips/immobile
- Ballhawk
- Pure zone cover DB

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HUR
``` PBU


Tykee Smith came to the Bulldogs 3 years ago as a starter from West Virginia, but it wasn't until last season that he became the undisputed starter.
The very quick and explosive DB played most of his time as a nickel CB, but has also played regularly as a safety. He is a tough tackler with good ball skills (4 interceptions in 2023). He is most comfortable in zone defense when the play is in front of him. For his size, Smith has long arms and big hands, which will definitely help him against the run.

Despite a lot of experience, he has problems in man coverage, which is due to his "immobility" (stiff hips, loses a lot of speed on turn and run) and also his size (likes to be overpowered by bigger receivers). However, his biggest limitation is and remains his size, at 5'10 (approx. 178 cm ), which will make it difficult for him to stay on the field permanently.
His skillset speaks for a nickel CB/box-safety prospect with special teams upside that can be taken early on Day 3.

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- Speed from the top shelf
- Versatility
- Effort
- Game Recognition
- Skillset
- Needs more mass

HUR
THL 4

At 6'3', he has a wingspan and body size that only very few safeties in this class have. He can 17

AST generate speed quickly, shoot forward explosively and convert that burst into super closing speed that he can work with in all directions.
His size limits his mobility somewhat, but he can still cover a lot of grass and drop softly in coverage. Hicks plays with a lot of power and energy, is \(100 \%\) involved in every play and follows every route, even through traffic. His skillset includes not only a hard tackle with his shoulder in front, but also the ability to come from the second row in the pass rush or to shoot gaps.
Watch out: big plays are his ultimate goal! He takes full risks, which can also lead to missed tackles.
He is also not versatile. He primarily played in the box, snaps at free safety were the exception. However, he is good at picking up RBs and TEs and shows a good understanding of zone and man coverage.

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Bench
- Tough tackler
- Stiff hips vs faster \& agile WR

- Extremely versatile, with good pass defense against TE
- Energizer
- Loses sight of the ball from time to time

2

6 HUR

I love the energy and intensity that Oladapo brings to the field. He always plays with full
Kitan has the perfect size and length for a safety. And with his physical style of play, short area quickness and agility, he is made for the role in the box or in the slot. He has the skills to be used as a blitzer and can easily cover tight ends in the passing game.
He has good instincts in the run game and is a good tackler who often delivers very hard hits.
Although, he will have a tough time against faster and more agile receivers because he doesn't have the hip mobility to maintain speed on quick changes of direction.
I see enough talent here for the second or third round and the potential to be a good starter. But I think I'm a bit alone there and the team that picks him late can be happy

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- Fast and agile
- One-trick-pony (Free Saftey)
- Plays very big/long
- Too light and powerless
- Can cover large zones on his own
- Unsafe tackler


The former 4 star recruit of the USC Bruins came in as one of the program's saviors and, along with a few transfers, was supposed to bring the Bruins defense up to the level of the offense and lead the Bruins to the playoffs. Unfortunately, like some others, he never really reached the level expected of him.Still, there's a lot to like about Bullock. He plays big and has a great wingspan, giving him a big catch radius. He can also defend big and deep zones on his own thanks to his outstanding speed and explosive approach, which he confirmed to us at the Combine. He is very good at the catch point and makes it difficult for the receiver in 1 on 1.
Unfortunately, that's the only thing he can do. He is a classic one-trick pony who seems to be best suited deep in coverage. He lacks the physicality and bulk to support against the run and has no sure tackling technique. On tape he showed problems in man coverage, especially when mirroring receivers, has trouble following routes and can be thrown off by double moves and quick cuts. He needs the play and routes in front of him and is an exciting FS prospect that can help a team early thanks to his athleticism.

- Elite-Athlet, Sprinter
- Gutes Timing am Catch Point
- Downhill Tackler
- Allows too many big plays
- Falls for fakes 1 SK
- Reactive route coverage
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HUR

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Mr. 23 MPH. Malik Mustapha was measured at over 37 MPH in one game via GPS and was also able to show his elite speed at 40-yard dash.
Although Malik Mustafa doesn't have the ideal measurements, he can play in the box and in short and intermediate coverage concepts. This could make him an every down option for some teams. Overall, he plays bigger than he is and can beat receivers or tight ends superior to him at the catch point. When he takes them directly into press coverage at the line of scrimmage, he can make the most of his speed and strong hands.
As a box safety, he shoots through the gaps downhill against the run and often gets into the backfield for a tackle for loss. He is able to react to receiver blocks and quickly close gaps that open up. He's not the most intuitive player, but he's excellent at recognizing and reacting to receivers'
1 INT routes.I see him most likely as a player in 2 high coverage systems with Malik Mustapha as a hybrid player between linebacker, slot corner and safety.```


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