



2018 IDP ROOKIE ROUNDUP



PREFACE

Welcome to the 2018 IDP Rookie Roundup. Members of the IDP Football Factory felt it was time for IDP to get their own Rookie Preview without any of those pesky offensive players getting in the way.

Our writing staff worked extensive hours watching film, collecting statistics and breaking down these draft eligible prospects. We hope you enjoy this guide as you prepare for the NFL Draft and your forthcoming IDP league drafts.

I would like to thank DFF owner, Michael Goins ([@AlwaysBBuilding](#)) and DFF Editor-in-Chief Brad McDaniel ([@DFF_BMack](#)) and our participating staff for their input and assistance with layout, design development of this project.

Without further ado, the IDP Football Factory team is proud to present our 1st Annual IDP Rookie Roundup.

— Dan Cook, Editor/Writer

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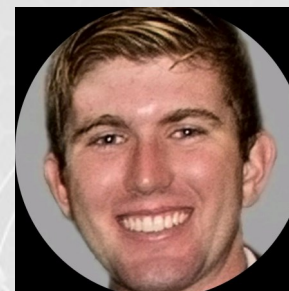
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SAMPLE PROFILE

On each Profile we include:

Basic Information - Name, Position, School, Height, Weight, Date of Birth and Class

College Statistics - Games Played, Solo Tackles, Assisted Tackles, Total Tackles, Tackles for Loss (TFL), Sacks, Forced Fumbles (FF), Fumble Recoveries (FR), Interceptions (INT), Passes Defended (PD), and Touchdowns (TDs)

Combine Results - 40 Yard Dash (seconds), Bench Press (repetitions), Vertical Jump (inches), Broad Jump (inches), Three Cone Drill (seconds), and 20 Yard Shuttle Run (seconds)

N/A = Didn't complete

Bradley Chubb Defensive End North Carolina State	Strengths	Summary
Height: 6'4" DOB: 6/24/96 Weight: 269 lb. Class: Senior	Motor: Chubb plays with a lot of passion and effort on every snap. Run Defense: He's built sturdy and has shown the ability to shed blocks. Toughness: Chubb has been schemed around for two years, taken a beating still produced his entire career.	Bradley Chubb has an excellent chance to be a top 10 selection in the 2018 NFL draft. Some consider him the top defensive lineman prospect coming out this year. With three years of dominant play to show NFL GMs along with his size and motor, we see Chubb being an immediate factor in the NFL. His best fit will be in a 4-3 scheme, where he can use his pass rushing and run defending skills best. If selected into the right situation, I could see his IDP draft stock rising to late 2nd round in rookie drafts. — Osterloh
Career Statistics	Weaknesses	OFF Consensus Ranks
Games: 40 FF: 6 Solos: 100 FR: 1 Assists: 98 INT: 1 Tot Tackles: 198 PD: 4 TFL: 54.5 TDs: 0 Sacks: 25	Pass Rush Moves: Likes to use the rip move and the bull rush. Refining his spin move and learning how to counter toward the inside will help him avoid chip blocks.	Defensive End: 1 Overall: 3 Projection: DE1
Combine Stats	Maturity: Chubb spit on a the FSU logo after his team beat the Seminoles then lied, saying he didn't remember doing it.	
40 yd. Dash: 4.65s Broad Jump: 121" Bench Press: 24 3-Cone Drill: 7.37s Vertical Jump: 30" 20 yd. Shut: 4.41s		

Strengths, Weaknesses, Summary and Rankings - Projections are based on what our team believes the likely outcome in IDP will be. For example: Roquan Smith should be come a top 12 scoring linebacker so his projection would be LB1. An LB2 would be from 13-24, An LB3 would be 25-36 and so on. Rankings are done by position and overall and are a consensus of the team.

OVERALL RANKINGS

1. Roquan Smith, LB, Georgia
2. Tremaine Edmunds, LB, Virginia Tech
3. Bradley Chubb, DE, NC State
4. Rashaan Evans, LB, Alabama
5. Marcus Davenport, DE, UTSA
6. Leighton Vander Esch, LB, Boise State
7. Derwin James, S, Florida State
8. Minkah Fitzpatrick, S, Alabama
9. Harold Landry, DE, Boston College
10. Ronnie Harrison, S, Alabama
11. Lorenzo Carter, LB, Georgia
12. Darius Leonard, LB, South Carolina St.
13. Josey Jewell, LB, Iowa
14. Tegray Scales, LB, Indiana
15. Malik Jefferson, LB, Texas
16. Fred Warner, LB, BYU
17. Genard Avery, LB, Memphis
18. Justin Reid, S, Stanford
19. Shaun Dion Hamilton, Alabama
20. Maurice Hurst Jr., DT, Michigan
21. Vita Vea, DT, Washington
22. Quin Blanding, S, Virginia
23. Arden Key, DE, LSU
24. DeShon Elliott, S, Texas
25. Shaquem Griffin, Central Florida
26. Joshua Jackson, CB, Iowa
27. Sam Hubbard, DE, Ohio State
28. Marcus Allen, S, Penn State
29. Armani Watts, S, Texas A&M
30. Jaire Alexander, CB, Louisville
31. Jordan Whitehead, S, Pittsburgh
32. Denzel Ward, CB, Ohio State

OVERALL RANKINGS

33. Siran Neal, S, Jacksonville State
34. Harrison Philips, DT, Stanford
35. Uchenna Nwosu, LB, USC
36. Nick DeLuca, LB, North Dakota St.
37. Frank Ginda, LB, San Jose St.
38. Jack Cichy, LB, Wisconsin
39. Dorian O'Daniel, LB, Clemson
40. Da'Ron Payne, DT, Alabama
41. Derrrick Nnadi, DT, Florida St.
42. Taven Bryan, DT, Florida
43. Duke Ejiofor, DE, Wake Forest
44. Jason Cabinda, LB, Penn State
45. Isaiah Oliver, CB, Colorado
46. Hercules Mata'afa, DE, Washington St.
47. Jerome Baker, LB, Ohio State
48. Skai Moore, LB, South Carolina
49. Ogonnia Okoronkwo, LB, Oklahoma
50. Dorance Armstrong Jr., DE, Kansas
51. Da'Shawn Hand, DE, Alabama
52. Josh Sweat, DE, Florida State
53. Jalen Davis, CB, Utah State
54. Keishawn Bierria, LB, Washington
55. Christian Sam, LB, Arizona State
56. Oren Burks, LB, Vanderbilt
57. Micah Kiser, LB, Virginia
58. Matthew Thomas, LB, Florida State
59. Peter Kalambayi, LB, Stanford
60. Trayvon Henderson, S, Hawaii
61. Kyzir White, S, West Virginia
62. Jesse Bates III, S, Wake Forest
63. Mike Hughes, CB, Central Florida
64. Tavarus McFadden, CB, Florida State

OVERALL RANKINGS

65. Terrell Edmunds, S, Virginia Tech

66. Poona Ford, DT, Texas

67. Carlton Davis, CB, Auburn

68. Azeem Victor, LB, Washington

69. Trenton Thompson, DT, Georgia

70. Jeff Holland, DE, Auburn

71. Chris Worley, LB, Ohio State

72. Tim Settle, DT, Virginia Tech

73. Rasheem Green, DE, USC

74. Christian Campbell, CB, Penn State

75. Kylie Fitts, DE, Utah

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DEFENSIVE ENDS



IDP ROOKIE ROUNDUP RANKINGS

DEFENSIVE ENDS

- 
- The background features a large, faint 'IDP' logo on the left and a circular 'IDP FOOTBALL FACTORY' logo on the right. At the top center, there is a logo for 'nasty FOOTBALL FACTORY' with the tagline 'BUILDING DYNASTIES ONE PLAYER AT A TIME'.
1. Bradley Chubb, N.C. State
 2. Marcus Davenport, UTSA
 3. Harold Landry, Boston College
 4. Arden Key, LSU
 5. Sam Hubbard, Ohio State
 6. Duke Ejiofor, Wake Forest
 7. Hercules Mata'afa, Washington St.
 8. Dorance Armstrong Jr., Kansas
 9. Da'Shawn Hand, Alabama
 10. Josh Sweat, Florida State
 11. Jeff Holland, Auburn
 12. Rasheem Green, USC
 13. Kylie Fitts, Utah

Bradley Chubb

Defensive End
North Carolina State

Height: 6'4" **DOB: 6/24/96**
Weight: 269 lb. **Class: Senior**

Career Statistics

Games: 40	FF: 6
Solos: 100	FR: 1
Assists: 98	INT: 1
Tot Tackles: 198	PD: 4
TFL: 54.5	TDs: 0
Sacks: 25	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.65s	Broad Jump: 121"
Bench Press: 24	3 Cone Drill: 7.37s
Vertical Jump: 36"	20 yd. Shut: 4.41s

Strengths

Motor: Chubb plays with a lot of passion and effort on every snap.

Run Defense: He's built sturdy and has shown the ability to shed blocks.

Toughness: Chubb has been schemed around for two years, taken a beating still produced his entire career.

Weaknesses

Pass Rush Moves: Likes to use the rip move and the bull rush. Refining his spin move and learning how to counter toward the inside will help him avoid chip blocks.

Maturity: Chubb spit on a the FSU logo after his team beat the Seminoles then lied, saying he didn't remember doing it.

Summary

Bradley Chubb has an excellent chance to be a top 10 selection in the 2018 NFL draft. Some consider him the top defensive lineman prospect coming out this year. With three years of dominant play to show NFL GMs along with his size and motor, we see Chubb being an immediate factor in the NFL. His best fit will be in a 4-3 scheme, where he can use his pass rushing and run defending skills best. If selected into the right situation, I could see his IDP draft stock rising to late 2nd round in rookie drafts. - Osterloh

DFF Consensus Ranks

Defensive End: 1
Overall: 3
Projection: DE1

Marcus Davenport

Defensive End

U of Texas-San Antonio

Height: 6'6" DOB: 9/4/96
Weight: 264 lb. Class: Senior

Career Statistics

Games: 43	FF: 6
Solos: 95	FR: 2
Assists: 90	INT: 0
Tot Tackles: 185	PD: 8
TFL: 37.5	TDs: 1
Sacks: 21.5	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.58s	Broad Jump: 124"
Bench Press: 22r	3 Cone Drill: 7.2s
Vert Jump: 33.5"	20 yd. Shut: 4.41s

Strengths

Inside Move: Quick off the line and able to slash his way into the backfield.

Active Hands: Gets hands up when QB passes. Able to bat down or alter throws.

Speed/Size: Good quickness and mobility able to cover in flat and wheel routes.

Weaknesses

Run Defense/Play Recognition: Lost ball carrier even in close proximity on some plays.

Power Moves: Shedding blocks on run and pass plays.

Summary

Davenport will be a top 10 pick in the NFL draft and contribute as a pass rusher immediately. He shows ability to get to the QB, cover out of the backfield and make tackles. He could play in either a 3-4 or 4-3 defense as he tends to rush from a stand-up position. Impressive at the Senior Bowl against higher level talent and dominated the game. As an IDP asset being labeled a defensive end would be optimal. He would still be valuable as an OLB especially in sack heavy leagues. -Cook

DFF Consensus Ranks

Defensive End: 2
Overall: 5
Projection: DE1

Harold Landry

Defensive End
Boston College

Height: 6'3" **DOB: 6/5/96**
Weight: 252 lb. **Class: Senior**

Career Statistics

Games: 38	FR: 1
Solos: 100	INT: 1
Assists: 58	PD: 6
Tot Tackles: 158	TDs: 0
TFL: 48	
Sacks: 25	
FF: 10	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.64s	Broad Jump: 119"
Bench Press: 24r	3 Cone Drill: 6.88s
Vertical Jump: 36"	20 yd. Shut: 4.19s

Strengths

Speed: He can fly past blockers who don't get their hands on him.

Arm usage: He competes and combats with very quick arm slicing when not tied up.

Bendable: Landry wins with a 45 degree edge bending moving. That will make prognosticators wet their pants with glee.

Weaknesses

Secondary Rush Move: He uses his speed to rush, but doesn't have an array of moves to get to the QB.

Gets blocked: Landry does have a tendency to get swallowed up by smaller players. This is a definite concern to see college RBs (who are usually not well-versed in pass pro) tie him up.

Summary

Landry is in the mold of a speed rusher. He is also able to bend the edge and going underneath would be blockers. Landry is a smart player who knows his position and the responsibilities that lie within. He always seems to have his hand up to make the opposing QB throw around him. He will also stand his ground and disturb the edge on rushing plays. His 2017 tape was disappointing mostly because of a nagging high-ankle that hampered for much of the season. He also was given plays off to stay fresh. Not to mention after leading country in sacks in 2016 he was a marked man. -Johnson

DFF Consensus Ranks

Defensive End: 3
Overall: 9
Projection: DE1

Arden Key

Defensive End
LSU

Height: 6'6" **DOB: 5/3/96**
Weight: 238 lb. **Class: Junior**

Career Statistics

Games: 31	FF: 3
Solos: 58	FR: 2
Assists: 71	INT: 0
Tot Tackles: 129	PD: 4
TFL: 24.5	TDs: 0
Sacks: 20	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: N/A	Broad Jump: 117"
Bench Press: N/A	3 Cone Drill: 7.16s
Vertical Jump: 31"	20 yd. Shut: 4.25s

Strengths

Speed: Key has an elite first step, and exhibits tremendous closing speed in the backfield.

Pass Rush: He have a diverse array of moves and an excellent ability to sink his hips and rip his arms to avoid blocker.

Agility/Athleticism: He has dynamic open field redirection and fluidity that most others don't.

Weaknesses

Character: Key left the team for personal reasons in spring of 2017 and has shown immaturity on and off the field.

Injuries: Key has had surgery on his shoulder and one on his finger in the last 18 months. As a Junior, he also dealt with a foot issue that contributed to reduced production and missed time.

Summary

He's got all the physical attributes a superstar NFL pass rusher needs, similar to Jadaveon Clowney. If the dynamic playmaker can stay out of trouble, get healthy, and find a team to cultivate his talent, Arden Key will be a sack machine for the next decade. If selected to play Defensive End in a 4-3 scheme, Key could easily find his way into the conversation with Joey Bosa. However, if selected by a team using a 3-4 defense, Key's value drops, as OLBs don't produce volume tackles, and IDP linebackers generally need high tackle volumes to be useful in most fantasy league formats. -Osterloh

DFF Consensus Ranks

Defensive End: 4
Overall: 23
Projection: DE2

Sam Hubbard

Defensive End
Ohio State

Height: 6'5" **DOB: 6/29/95**
Weight: 265 lb. **Class: Junior**

Career Statistics

Games: 39	FF: 3
Solos: 64	FR: 1
Assists: 52	INT: 1
Tot Tackles: 116	PD: 3
TFL: 30	TDs: 0
Sacks: 17	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: N/A	Broad Jump: 116"
Bench Press: N/A	3 Cone Drill: 6.84s
Vertical Jump: 35"	20 yd. Shut: 4.32s

Strengths

Motor: Worker bee attitude that won't take any breaks

Intelligent: Aware in every football situation and had a 3.6 GPA in Finance at OSU.

Productive: Averaged 44 tackles and 5+ sacks per season since becoming a full time starter.

Weaknesses

Athleticism: Doesn't show great burst or make flash plays due to average athleticism.

Power: Sometimes he loses at the point of attach when overpowered.

Summary

Sam Hubbard has all the intangibles to be a long time producer in the NFL. He's got a solid build, excellent football intelligence, refined moves, and strong balance to be an every down 4-3 defensive end. Unfortunately for the Ohio State alum, he does not possess top level athleticism, which hinders his ceiling as a pro. However, with the work ethic Hubbard demonstrates, we see him becoming a slightly above average defensive lineman in the NFL with DE2/DE3 IDP value in most IDP leagues. -Osterloh

DFF Consensus Ranks

Defensive End: 5
Overall: 27
Projection: DE3

Duke Ejiofor

Defensive End
Wake Forest

Height: 6'4" **DOB: 4/24/95**
Weight: 264 lb. **Class: Senior**

Career Statistics

Games: 38	FF: 4
Solos: 80	FR: 2
Assists: 53	INT: 1
Tot Tackles: 133	PD: 6
TFL: 43.5	TDs: 0
Sacks: 24	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: N/A	Broad Jump: N/A
Bench Press: N/A	3 Cone Drill: N/A
Vert Jump: N/A	20 yd. Shut: N/A

Strengths

Inside Move: Ejiofor normally rushes up the field on the outside of the tackle, but occasionally will go inside.

Spin Move: He keeps blockers hands off of him on his way to the backfield

Run Support: He has racked up the TFLs due to his ability to stop what is in front of him.

Weaknesses

Athleticism: He's not the quickest edge player. More of a defensive end prospect.

Space Defense: He does not do well with creative space players. They can put a move on him and go right by.

Gets Blocked: Blockers push him up the field using his moves to open run lanes.

Summary

Ejiofor is one of the EDGE prospects who will probably be classified as a defensive end. He played in a 3 or 4 point stance on virtually every down and rarely dropped back into coverage. He also lacks some of the athleticism needed to play OLB. He does have a couple good pass rush moves, but linemen were normally able to move him out of the direction of the play or outside enough to give the QB time to throw. He did not participate in drills at the combine due to injury. -Cook

DFF Consensus Ranks

Defensive End: 6
Overall: 43
Projection: DE2

Hercules Mata'afa

Defensive End Washington State

Height: 6'1" DOB: 9/19/95
Weight: 254 lb. Class: Junior

Career Statistics

Games: 34	FF: 3
Solos: 83	FR: 2
Assists: 38	INT: 0
Tot Tackles: 121	PD: 0
TFL: 45.5	TDs: 0
Sacks: 21	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.76s	Broad Jump: 108"
Bench Press: 26r	3 Cone Drill: 7.24s
Vert Jump: 31.5"	20 yd. Shut: 4.37s

Strengths

Motor: He did not take one play off over all the games watched.

Penetration: He is in the backfield on seemingly every play

Quickness: Defeats blocks by "getting skinny" to get between lineman.

Weaknesses

Hand Usage: He struggled to get off of the blocks.

Run Defense: Struggled to disengage blockers when he didn't burst through the middle against the run.

Role: Will not be able to line up over the guard like he did in college. He'll need to learn to set the edge.

Summary

He blew up run plays and harassed QBs as much as any other player in college football in 2017, but he faces a big adjustment to the NFL. Washington St. deployed him from all stances and angles, but he had the most success as a 3-tech. He has the athletic ability to transition to being a 3-4 rush OLB. He will initially have success as a situational rusher, but he could easily be one of the best pass rushers in the NFL. He may be a middle to late round IDP to stash and reap the rewards once he adjusts to his new position and refines his skillset. -Moss

DFF Consensus Ranks

Defensive End: 7

Overall: 46

Projection: DE3

Dorance Armstrong Jr.

Defensive End
Kansas

Height: 6'4" **DOB: 6/10/97**
Weight: 246 lb. **Class: Junior**

Career Statistics

Games: 33	FF: 6
Solos: 89	FR: 3
Assists: 53	INT: 0
Tot Tackles: 142	PD: 8
TFL: 34.5	TDs: 0
Sacks: 15.5	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.87s	Broad Jump: 118"
Bench Press: 20r	3 Cone Drill: 7.12s
Vertical Jump: 30"	20 yd. Shut: 4.23s

Strengths

Speed: Good burst off the line. He's able to get into the backfield quickly.

Motor: Has a great motor and plays to the whistle.

Tackling: Solid tackler that doesn't miss many.

Weaknesses

Gets Blocked: Bigger offensive lineman keep him occupied.

Hand Usage: Doesn't use his hands well when blocked to create separation.

Role: Not the strongest in space, but maybe not quite big enough to play end necessarily.

Summary

This is a player who will need to switch positions to be a good NFL player. I like him as a OLB in a 3-4 where he could also drop onto the line in nickel and dime work. That ability gives coaching staffs another weapon on every down. He knows how to tackle and understands blocking schemes which helps him know where a play may be going. The major question mark would be if he can handle playing in space. It would be a gamble I would take if I was in the front office on a NFL team. -Orr

DFF Consensus Ranks

Defensive End: 8
Overall: 50
Projection: DE3

Da'Shawn Hand

Defensive End

Alabama

Height: 6'4" **DOB: 11/14/95**
Weight: 297 lb. **Class: Senior**

Career Statistics

Games: 34	FF: 1
Solos: 30	FR: 0
Assists: 41	INT: 0
Tot Tackles: 71	PD: 1
TFL: 14.5	TDs: 0
Sacks: 9	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.83s	Broad Jump: 111"
Bench Press: 28r	3 Cone Drill: 7.98s
Vert Jump: 31.5"	20 yd. Shut: 4.62s

Strengths

Versatility: Can play DE and DT.

Edge Setter: He can be dominant when blocked by tight ends. Sets a good edge in run support.

Trailing Speed: Good at running down the play and making the tackle.

Weaknesses

Pass Rush Moves: Doesn't have elite pass rush moves.

Double Teams: Doesn't handle double teams well.

Shedding Blocks: Doesn't get off blocks well could struggle at the next level.

Summary

A versatile defensive lineman who can play both the end and interior spots. He's an average run stopper and pass rusher. Needs to develop more pass rush moves to expand that part of his game. He's a better playmaker when trailing play from behind, than when it comes right at him. He dominates when blocked by TEs, but struggles with double teams. He's somewhat of a flash player, meaning he will make a big play then disappear. Needs very good talent around him for him to be effective. -Winstead

DFF Consensus Ranks

Defensive End: 9

Overall: 51

Projection: DE3

Josh Sweat

**Defensive End
Florida State**

Height: 6'4" **DOB: 9/19/95**
Weight: 251 lb. **Class: Junior**

Career Statistics

Games: 35	FF: 1
Solos: 77	FR: 3
Assists: 61	INT: 1
Tot Tackles: 138	PD: 6
TFL: 29	TDs: 0
Sacks: 14.5	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.53s	Broad Jump: 124"
Bench Press: N/A	3 Cone Drill: N/A
Vert Jump: 39.5"	20 yd. Shut: 4.28s

Strengths

Footwork: Although he wasn't dominant in the sack department his quick feet are penetrating enough to still develop into a solid pass rusher.

Hands: His hands are quick and strong.

Bend: He can do the 45 degree bend around the edge.

Weaknesses

Tweener: Needs to be on a 4-3 defense to stay a defensive lineman.

Leverage: Needs to lower his pads more off the snap.

Leg Strength: Will need to improve leg strength to win more off the line.

Summary

While the "wow" sack production wasn't there for Sweat at FSU you can see the potential. Obviously a DE designation would be ideal. However with his speed, footwork and hands he could thrive as an OLB. It might take a year or two. Current Raven 3-4 OLB Matt Judon could be an excellent gauge for Sweat's ceiling as a LB at the next level. -Johnson

DFF Consensus Ranks

Defensive End: 10
Overall: 52
Projection: DE3

Jeff Holland

Defensive End

Auburn

Height: 6'2"
Weight: 249 lb.

DOB: 9/27/95
Class: Junior

Career Statistics

Games: 32	FF: 5
Solos: 43	FR: 2
Assists: 28	INT: 0
Tot Tackles: 71	PD: 1
TFL: 18	TDs: 0
Sacks: 12.5	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.79s	Broad Jump: 116"
Bench Press: N/A	3 Cone Drill: N/A
Vert Jump: N/A	20 yd. Shut: N/A

Strengths

Outside Rush: Gets upfield quick and makes tackles push him past the pocket and QBs step up in the pocket.

Screen Defense: Showed good identification of screens and stopping them quickly.

Hands: Rip and swim moves get him separation from blockers well.

Weaknesses

Pursuit: Doesn't show a lot of hustle to the ball. Doesn't play to the whistle or run down ball carriers well.

Moves: Doesn't really show much variety except his outside speed rush moves.

Summary

Holland is primarily a pass rushing DE that will probably fill the role of 3rd down pass rusher in the NFL. Thinking of his IDP value I don't see a whole lot here. He could get a job as more than situational pass rusher, but would have to improve in the run game to help your IDP team. When he rushes against NFL tackles he will have to use more than speed to get around the to be successful. -Cook

DFF Consensus Ranks

Defensive End: 11

Overall: 70

Projection: DE3

Rasheem Green

Defensive End
USC

Height: 6'5" **DOB: 5/15/97**
Weight: 275 lb. **Class: Junior**

Career Statistics

Games: 32	FF: 3
Solos: 48	FR: 1
Assists: 67	INT: 0
Tot Tackles: 115	PD: 8
TFL: 20	TDs: 1
Sacks: 16.5	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.73s	Broad Jump: 118"
Bench Press: N/A	3 Cone Drill: 7.24s
Vert Jump: 32.5"	20 yd. Shut: 4.39s

Strengths

Hands: Uses long reach to jab, stab and bulrush opponents.

Shed Blockers: Gets off of blocks to make plays in the backfield.

Pass Rush: Does well in one-on-one situations with blockers.

Weaknesses

Strength: Needs to work on upper body strength. Plays upright and needs to use leverage more.

Play recognition: Focuses on blocker and doesn't necessarily find the football well.

Summary

He has all the tools that a pass rusher will need, but has to get stronger and better at shedding blocks. Has a lot of versatility, as he can play both the DT and DE positions. Does a really nice job of getting hands up in passing lanes, when the pass rush lanes aren't there. Has some explosive burst and violent hands, but needs to learn how to really use them to set up future moves. I see him being a bit of a project and get drafted somewhere in 3rd to 5th rounds. - Winstead

DFF Consensus Ranks

Defensive End: 12

Overall: 73

Projection: DE3

Kylie Fitts

**Defensive End
Utah**

Height: 6'4" **DOB: 10/11/94**
Weight: 263 lb. **Class: Senior**

Career Statistics

Games: 22	FF: 5
Solos: 37	FR: 0
Assists: 31	INT: 0
Tot Tackles: 68	PD: 11
TFL: 14	TDs: 0
Sacks: 11.5	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.69s	Broad Jump: 117"
Bench Press: 31r	3 Cone Drill: 6.88s
Vert Jump: 32.5"	20 yd. Shut: 4.19s

Strengths

Feet: Good footwork off the snap and speed.

Pass Rush: Uses quickness and hands to get by lineman well.

Hands: Gets his hands in passing lanes to knock down passes.

Weaknesses

Health: Played just 12 games in the last 2 seasons

Power: Gets taken out of the play and has problems disengaging from blockers.

Summary

He would fit best as an OLB in the NFL. The bottom line for me is I would not be comfortable drafting him. Durability concerns aside, he struggles to win at the point of attack to often and would be a liability. Could he carve out a role in a pass rush package? Maybe. Better options around for my taste I'm afraid.
-Orr

DFF Consensus Ranks

Defensive End: 13

Overall: 75

Projection: Taxi Squad



DEFENSIVE TACKLES



IDP ROOKIE ROUNDUP RANKINGS

DEFENSIVE TACKLES

dynasty FOOTBALL
FACTORY
BUILDING DYNASTIES ONE PLAYER AT A TIME

1. Maurice Hurst Jr., Michigan

2. Vita Vea, Washington

3. Harrison Phillips, Stanford

4. Da'Ron Payne, Alabama

5. Derrick Nnadi, Florida State

6. Taven Bryan, Florida

7. Poona Ford, Texas

8. Trenton Thompson, Georgia

9. Tim Settle, Virginia Tech

Maurice Hurst Jr.

Defensive Tackle
Michigan

Height: 6'2" **DOB: 5/9/95**
Weight: 292 lb. **Class: Senior**

Career Statistics

Games: 41	FF: 2
Solos: 67	FR: 1
Assists: 63	INT: 0
Tot Tackles: 130	PD: 3
TFL: 32	TDs: 0
Sacks: 13.5	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: N/A	Broad Jump: N/A
Bench Press: N/A	3 Cone Drill: N/A
Vert Jump: N/A	20 yd. Shut: N/A

Strengths

Pressure: Quick burst off the snap and puts tremendous pressure on offensive lines.

Movement: Good speed for a DT, changes direction easily and reads plays well.

Strength: Pushes lineman backward and uses bull rush and leverage to generate pass rush.

Weaknesses

Discipline: His aggressiveness causes him to jump off-sides occasionally. Needs to work on that as pro QBs will expose.

Shedding Blocks: Strength is good, but will have to work on getting blockers off of him at the next level.

Summary

Players of his talent are highly sought after and have premium value. He should step in and start right away and have an immediate impact for the team that drafts him. He can be a dominant force as a DT in a 4-3 or kick to DE if needed, in a 3-4. A 4-3 scheme would be his best fit and maximize his skill set. I have him projected as a 1st round pick, probably somewhere in early teens. He missed the combine due to a heart condition, but has since participated in his pro day at Michigan. –Winstead

DFF Consensus Ranks

Defensive Tackle: 1
Overall: 20
Projection: DT1

Vita Vea

Defensive Tackle Washington

Height: 6'4" DOB: 2/5/95
Weight: 347 lb. Class: Junior

Career Statistics

Games: 37	FF: 2
Solos: 65	FR: 0
Assists: 34	INT: 0
Tot Tackles: 99	PD: 5
TFL: 15	TDs: 0
Sacks: 9.5	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 5.1s	Broad Jump: N/A
Bench Press: 41r	3 Cone Drill: N/A
Vert Jump: N/A	20 yd. Shut: N/A

Strengths

Power: He has freakish power, uses his hands well and moves well for his size.

Run Stopper: Takes up running lanes and holds his ground despite double teams.

Pass Rush: Good understanding of blocking schemes and uses power to apply pressure.

Weaknesses

Upright: Can be stood up due to his size and pushed because he stands too upright at times.

Quickness: Doesn't have a quick burst off the line and relies on his power moves too often.

Summary

Depending on who you ask, or what scheme your team is running, he is ranked as the top 1 or 2 defensive tackles. He can play Nose Tackle or Defensive End in a 3-4 scheme or Defensive Tackle in a 4-3. He is going to be a day one starter and will instantly improve the d-line. He's a day one draft selection, possibly going as high as 7-10. - Winstead

DFF Consensus Ranks

Defensive Tackle: 2
Overall: 21
Projection: DT1

Harrison Phillips

Defensive Tackle Stanford

Height: 6'4" DOB: 1/25/96
Weight: 307 lb. Class: Senior

Career Statistics

Games: 31	FF: 3
Solos: 62	FR: 2
Assists: 91	INT: 0
Tot Tackles: 153	PD: 2
TFL: 29	TDs: 0
Sacks: 16.5	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 5.21s	Broad Jump: 103"
Bench Press: 27r	3 Cone Drill: 7.28s
Vertical Jump: 32"	20 yd. Shut: 4.5s

Strengths

Pressure: Slips through the line and routinely gets pressure on the QB.

Negative Plays: Forces the offense into a lot of negative plays either himself or plugs up the line to allow others to make them.

Wrestling Background: Mauler that understands leverage and does the dirty work.

Weaknesses

Upright: Plays upright too much.

Speed: Below average speed and more of a plodder.

Secondary Rush Moves: Needs to develop more than just power moves.

Summary

Coaches and teammates will love the effort and drive he showcases. His relentless play will wear down o-lineman. He plays with a workman-like approach. While he has many qualities that are to be desired, he just isn't as skillful as the elite DTs in this draft. I project him to be drafted somewhere in the 3rd or 4th round. -Winstead

DFF Consensus Ranks

Defensive Tackle: 3
Overall: 34
Projection: DT2

Da’Ron Payne

Defensive Tackle

Alabama

Height: 6’2” **DOB: 5/27/97**
Weight: 311 lb. **Class: Junior**

Career Statistics

Games: 35	FF: 1
Solos: 39	FR: 2
Assists: 63	INT: 1
Tot Tackles: 102	PD: 0
TFL: 5	TDs: 1
Sacks: 3	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.95s	Broad Jump: 107”
Bench Press: 27r	3 Cone Drill: 7.58s
Vert Jump: 28.5”	20 yd. Shut: 4.71s

Strengths

Pressure: Uses a variety of pass rush moves to get pressure all game.

Plugging Lanes: Gets into running lanes and forces double-teams and attention.

Stamina: Rarely comes off the field and helps others make plays.

Weaknesses

Strength: He was driven out of the play at times and won’t be able to push around NFL lineman like he may have in college.

Big Plays: He is very disruptive, but doesn’t have many big plays to back that up. Needs to capitalize on his pressure.

Summary

Payne is highly coveted by NFL teams. He will be best suited for a 4-3 scheme, but has shown he can play end in a 3-4. He will instantly make those around him better. He will see a lot of playing time early, if not as a starter, then at least in a heavy rotation until he gets established. I look for his stock to rise as we draw closer to draft day and he could end up being a mid/late 1st round pick. He has the talent to justify that, so we’ll see which team pulls the trigger on him. –Winstead

DFF Consensus Ranks

Defensive Tackle: 4

Overall: 40

Projection: DT2

Derrick Nnadi

Defensive Tackle

Florida State

Height: 6'1" DOB: 5/9/96
Weight: 317 lb. Class: Senior

Career Statistics

Games: 44	FF: 3
Solos: 75	FR: 2
Assists: 90	INT: 0
Tot Tackles: 165	PD: 3
TFL: 24.5	TDs: 0
Sacks: 12	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 5.38s	Broad Jump: 96"
Bench Press: 25r	3 Cone Drill: 8.15s
Vertical Jump: 27"	20 yd. Shut: 5.02s

Strengths

Run Stopper: Big and strong, elevates game in short yardage and red zone situations.

Pass Rush: Bull rush is best move and gets his hands up into passing lanes .

Play Recognition: Good job identifying where the ball is headed to make the stop.

Weaknesses

Inconsistent: Plays to level of competition and can disappear during games.

Shedding Blocks: Trouble shedding blocks, and doesn't have a very quick first step.

Summary

Teams looking for a two down run stopper to add to a rotation will take a close look at Nnadi. It will be his inconsistency, that will be picked over the most. He has somethings to work on but, overall he would be a solid addition to any d-line. I think he will be a day three selection, probably going in the 4th-5th rounds. -Winstead

DFF Consensus Ranks

Defensive Tackle: 5

Overall: 41

Projection: DT3

Taven Bryan

Defensive Tackle
Florida

Height: 6'4" **DOB: 3/11/96**
Weight: 295 lb. **Class: Junior**

Career Statistics

Games: 30	FF: 1
Solos: 30	FR: 3
Assists: 32	INT: 1
Tot Tackles: 62	PD: 1
TFL: 10.5	TDs: 0
Sacks: 5.5	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.98s **Broad Jump: 119"**
Bench Press: 30r **3 Cone Drill: 7.12s**
Vertical Jump: 35" **20 yd. Shut: 4.48s**

Strengths

Motor: Determined player who can be counted on to give his all and chase down plays to the whistle.

Quickness: Has nice initial burst off the line and can slither through gaps to cause disruption in the backfield.

Versatility: Has the body, size, talent and athleticism to play inside or outside.

Weaknesses

Instincts: Has only started 13 games at Florida, which hampered his feel/awareness on the field.

Redirection: Has a hard time escaping blocks and loses balance when a play changes direction quickly.

Summary

Taven Bryan has starter level talent and athleticism to make it at the NFL level. Bryan is still quite raw, which may scare away some organizations from selecting him in the draft. However, with the right scheme/coaches helping him improve his feel for the game, we see Bryan's ceiling as quite high, and expect to see good results out of him after a year or two of grooming. In IDP terms, if you can afford to wait a few years for Bryan to develop, we see DT3 production from the expected late 1st or early 2nd round selection. -Osterloh

DFF Consensus Ranks

Defensive Tackle: 6
Overall: 42
Projection: DT3

Poona Ford

Defensive Tackle
Texas

Height: 5'11" **DOB: 11/19/95**
Weight: 303 lb. **Class: Senior**

Career Statistics

Games: 42	FF: 3
Solos: 90	FR: 2
Assists: 43	INT: 0
Tot Tackles: 133	PD: 2
TFL: 20.5	TDs: 0
Sacks: 4	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: N/A	Broad Jump: N/A
Bench Press: N/A	3 Cone Drill: N/A
Vert Jump: N/A	20 yd. Shut: N/A

Strengths

Leverage: Wins the leverage game by getting low. Takes on double teams due to disruptiveness.

Run Stopper: Gets to ball carriers and brings them down routinely.

Penetration: Has good burst off the line to get into the backfield.

Weaknesses

Pass Rush: Mainly a two-down player. Has limited pass rush moves.

Recognition: Recognizing where a play is going and pushing to get to the play.

Summary

He will mostly play 2 downs, and short yardage situations. His height is a bit of concern, but it gives him an advantage in winning leverage against most instances. He routinely shows flashes or quick burst into backfield, but doesn't possess many secondary moves. He had an impressive Senior Bowl in which he recorded 4 tackles, 1 TFL, 1 FF and a sack. He does show potential to be much more than average. Effort in weight room will be beneficial. - Winstead

DFF Consensus Ranks

Defensive Tackle: 7
Overall: 66
Projection: DT3

Trenton Thompson

Defensive Tackle
Georgia

Height: 6'4" **DOB: 7/27/96**
Weight: 288 lb. **Class: Junior**

Career Statistics

Games: 28	FF: 0
Solos: 57	FR: 0
Assists: 70	INT: 0
Tot Tackles: 127	PD: 3
TFL: 15.5	TDs: 0
Sacks: 5.5	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 5.06s	Broad Jump: 111"
Bench Press: N/A	3 Cone Drill: 7.86s
Vert Jump: 32.5"	20 yd. Shut: 4.56s

Strengths

Talent: He was a top 10 national recruit.

Athleticism: Top 18% in vertical jump and Top 37% in the 20 yd. shuttle at the combine

Hustle: Works hard throughout the game without taking plays off.

Weaknesses

Injuries: Has had ankle, MCL, and shoulder injuries in college.

Balance: Not the best with body control and keeping his pads square.

Summary

Trenton Thompson has the tools, athleticism, and size to be an every down player in the NFL. Unfortunately, the former Bulldog has an unrefined game with a history of injuries to contend with. We see Thompson as a solid 3-4 DE or a rotational 4-3 DT with some upside with the right coaching and grooming. He'll be selected on day three of the draft and should only be considered for an IDP roster as deep depth or a taxi squad asset. - Osterloh

DFF Consensus Ranks

Defensive Tackle: 8
Overall: 69
Projection: DT3

Tim Settle

Defensive Tackle
Virginia Tech

Height: 6'3" **DOB: 7/11/95**
Weight: 335 lb. **Class: Junior**

Career Statistics

Games: 23	FF: 0
Solos: 28	FR: 0
Assists: 25	INT: 0
Tot Tackles: 53	PD: 1
TFL: 19.5	TDs: 0
Sacks: 4	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 5.37s	Broad Jump: 96"
Bench Press: N/A	3 Cone Drill: 7.95"
Vert Jump: 23.5"	20 yd. Shut: 4.83s

Strengths

Disruptor: Effects the run game by getting penetration or moving line-man.

Pass Rush: Gets a good pass rush and has a variety of moves.

Leverage: Often wins the leverage battle and is very good one-on-one.

Weaknesses

Pursuit: Doesn't chase the play down. Plays what's in front of him.

Tackling: Tends to dive instead of getting there and wrapping.

Strength: Needs to improve upper body strength and hands.

Summary

Settle uses his quickness, leverage and uncanny ability to shoot gaps and slip through, to consistently disrupt plays in the backfield. Provides a decent pass rush from the interior. He can play both schemes well, but is best suited as a Nose Tackle in a 3-4. He will play a pivotal part on early downs as a run stuffer, but has enough pass rushing skills to be a three down guy. He would be a great addition to a 3-4 team, that needs a NT to build around. I currently have him projected as a day two or three selection. -Winstead

DFF Consensus Ranks

Defensive Tackle: 9

Overall: 72

Projection: Taxi Squad



LINEBACKERS



IDP ROOKIE ROUNDUP RANKINGS

LINEBACKERS

1. Roquan Smith, Georgia
2. Tremaine Edmunds, Virginia Tech
3. Rashaan Evans, Alabama
4. Leighton Vander Esch, Boise State
5. Lorenzo Carter, Georgia
6. Darius Leonard, South Carolina St.
7. Josey Jewell, Iowa
8. Tegray Scales, Indiana
9. Malik Jefferson, Texas
10. Fred Warner, BYU
11. Genard Avery, Memphis
12. Shaun Dion Hamilton, Alabama
13. Shaquem Griffin, Central Florida
14. Uchenna Nwosu, USC
15. Nick DeLuca, North Dakota St.
16. Frank Ginda, San Jose St.
17. Jack Cichy, Wisconsin
18. Dorian O'Daniel, Clemson
19. Jason Cabinda, Penn State
20. Jerome Baker, Ohio State
21. Skai Moore, South Carolina
22. Ogonnia Okoronkwo, Oklahoma
23. Keishawn Bierria, Washington
24. Christian Sam, Arizona State
25. Oren Burks, Vanderbilt
26. Micah Kiser, Virginia
27. Matthew Thomas, Florida State
28. Peter Kalambayi, Stanford
29. Azeem Victor, Washington
30. Chris Worley, Ohio State

Roquan Smith

Linebacker
Georgia

Height: 6'1" DOB: 5/27/97
Weight: 236 lb Class: Junior

Career Statistics

Games: 38	FF: 3
Solos: 146	FR: 3
Assists: 106	INT: 0
Tot Tackles: 252	PD: 3
TFL: 20.5	TDs: 0
Sacks: 6.5	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.51s	Broad Jump: N/A
Bench Press: N/A	3 Cone Drill: N/A
Vert Jump: N/A	20 yd. Shut: N/A

Strengths

Three-Down Potential: Smith has shown the agility and toughness to pressure the QB as well as hold up pass coverage.

Play Recognition/Football IQ: He is very quick to diagnose the play and positioning himself to disrupt it.

Versatility: Smith would likely excel as an outside backer in the NFL (if asked). His ability to go from speed to power with ease is so juicy.

Weaknesses

Block Shedding: Smith struggles to get around or off taller blockers. He will need to develop a counter punch or be more explosive through his hips when engaged.

Summary

Smith is a very solid player who should have long and decorated NFL career. He is one those sideline to sideline chompers that every defense needs to be successful. A former high school WR Smith runs like a beautiful gazelle and he has stamina for days. It would be shocking see Smith not pan out as elite IDP player. However with such surety comes a hefty price tag. I would fully expect Smith to come of the board as early as 1.08. Smith should surely be gone by 2.04. - Johnson

DFF Consensus Ranks

Linebacker: 1

Overall: 1

Projection: LB1

Tremaine Edmunds

Linebacker
Virginia Tech

Height: 6'5" **DOB: 5/22/98**
Weight: 253 lb **Class: Junior**

Career Statistics

Games: 32	FF: 3
Solos: 112	FR: 1
Assists: 101	INT: 1
Tot Tackles: 213	PD: 5
TFL: 33	TDs: 0
Sacks: 10	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.54s	Broad Jump: 117"
Bench Press: 19r	3 Cone Drill: N/A
Vert Jump: N/A	20 yd. Shut: N/A

Strengths

Tackling: Edmunds looks fundamentally sound and he can get to the ball FAST!

Shooting Gaps: Gets through cleanly. Meets the running back in the backfield and brings him down quickly.

Speed: Sideline to sideline player who can recognize the play and chase down ball carriers.

Weaknesses

Getting Stuck: At times he can get stuck in traffic, granted he also has shown the ability to separate.

Edge Work: Not much to see of him coming off the edge so we will have to wait and see on this. I will list it as a weakness but it could be viewed more at an opportunity waiting to be developed.

Summary

He really looks like he will be a special LB. The LBs who can play any LB position in a 4-3, or step into a 3-4 will be a player who gets drafted early. The closing burst he has on the ball is something NFL teams will covet. RBs and TEs will not run away from him, and he will be a weapon defenses can count on all 3 downs. I personally would be vocal to my front office on drafting him. He is the hands down best sideline to sideline LB in this draft. Once he locks onto the ball carrier he comes like a missile and explodes on the ball. -Orr

DFF Consensus Ranks

Linebacker: 2
Overall: 2
Projection: LB1

Rashaan Evans

Linebacker
Alabama

Height: 6'3" **DOB: 11/8/96**
Weight: 232 lb **Class: Senior**

Career Statistics

Games: 42	FF: 2
Solos: 84	FR: 2
Assists: 66	INT: 0
Tot Tackles: 150	PD: 5
TFL: 23.5	TDs: 0
Sacks: 15	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: N/A	Broad Jump: 116"
Bench Press: N/A	3 Cone Drill: 6.95s
Vert Jump: 30"	20 yd. Shut: 4.36s

Strengths

QB Pressure: Evans can get to the QB and make plays in the back-field.

Big Hitter: Evans drives through ball carriers with solid contact.

Great Hands: Uses his hands to shed blocks and fight past blockers.

Weaknesses

Goes for Glory Plays: Tries to make big hits and sometimes doesn't wrap up to make tackle.

Man Coverage: Can't keep up with quicker running backs or receivers. Better in zone coverage.

Summary

Fluid player who is a tone setter for the defense. He will be able to hold his own in zone coverage and be able to blitz when needed. I would love to see him owning the middle in a 4-3 defense where he can anchor his unit. You can see from his stats as well he plays down hill in enemy territory. This kid will be a fantasy stud. - Orr

DFF Consensus Ranks

Linebacker: 3

Overall: 4

Projection: LB2

Leighton Vander Esch

Linebacker
Boise State

Height: 6'4" **DOB: 2/8/96**
Weight: 256 lb **Class: Junior**

Career Statistics

Games: 28	FF: 4
Solos: 128	FR: 1
Assists: 60	INT: 4
Tot Tackles: 188	PD: 6
TFL: 13	TDs: 0
Sacks: 5	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.65s	Broad Jump: 124"
Bench Press: 20r	3 Cone Drill: 6.88s
Vert Jump: 39.5"	20 yd. Shut: 11.5s

Strengths

Run Defense: Defends the run well. Finds the running back and makes the tackle.

Versatile: Can play any LB position. Can rush the QB or cover.

Change of Direction: Can stop quickly and change direction without losing much momentum.

Weaknesses

Experience: Only a 1 year starter for Boise St. Played sparingly before this season.

Taking on Blocks: Needs to improve using his hands to separate from blockers.

Summary

I love watching LBs who explode towards the ball to blow up the play. Versatility is big and he will offer a team his ability to play anywhere. When you can rush the QB, cover and stop the run game you will get the call on draft day. The more he learns and studies the game the quicker he will make a difference in the NFL. I would love to see New England take him as he would offer help rushing the QB and would be able to handle all the extras the Patriots like to do. - Orr

DFF Consensus Ranks

Linebacker: 4

Overall: 6

Projection: LB2

Lorenzo Carter

Linebacker
Georgia

Height: 6'6" DOB: 12/10/95
Weight: 250 lb. Class: Senior

Career Statistics

Games: 48	FF: 6
Solos: 83	FR: 6
Assists: 83	INT: 0
Tot Tackles: 166	PD: 1
TFL: 21.5	TDs: 1
Sacks: 14	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.5s	Broad Jump: 130"
Bench Press: N/A	3 Cone Drill: N/A
Vertical Jump: 36"	20 yd. Shut: N/A

Strengths

Pursuit: Carter does not give up on a play. Goes full speed until the whistle.

Arm Strength: Wraps up tacklers and goes for the ball once tackle is secure.

Blitzing: Quick moves to the QB with stunts and late blitzes.

Weaknesses

Run support: Does get blocked in run plays and pass rush and can be taken out of the play.

Ball Skills: Sticks close to assignments, but doesn't make many plays on the ball.

Summary

Carter can be an effective OLB in a 3-4 or a 4-3 DE in the NFL. He plays at full speed on every play and always seems to be in the mix at the end of a play, even 30 yards down the field after rushing the QB. He could play DE at the NFL level, but spent a majority of snaps as a stand-up linebacker. He blitzes effectively when asked, but also does well in coverage. He rips at the ball when the tackle is secure and is a solid hitter. -Cook

DFF Consensus Ranks

Linebacker: 5
Overall: 11
Projection: LB2

Darius Leonard

Linebacker
South Carolina St. (FCS)

Height: 6'2" **DOB: 7/22/95**
Weight: 234 lb **Class: Senior**

Career Statistics

Games: 42	FF: 7
Solos: 264	FR: 0
Assists: 117	INT: 6
Tot Tackles: 381	PD: 13
TFL: 48	TDs: 4
Sacks: 20	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.7s	Broad Jump: N/A
Bench Press: 17r	3 Cone Drill: N/A
Vert Jump: N/A	20 yd. Shut: N/A

Strengths

Coverage: Stays will TEs, RBs and will even be solid in the slot.

Speed: Can start and go and cover a lot of ground.

Blitzer: Can get after it from different positions and is good.

Weaknesses

Gets Blocked: Gets stuck on blocks in the box.

Zone Coverage: Gets thrown off by the QB easily in coverage.

Summary

This is a solid cover LB! Sticks to the TEs and RBs and makes it look easy. I really love a LB who can tackle and cover as its a quick road to being a 3 down player. Showed well getting after the QB and has a complete skill set. My only fear is the move into the NFL after playing in the MEAC. If he adjusts he will prove a great steal in rookie drafts.
-Orr

DFF Consensus Ranks

Linebacker: 6

Overall: 12

Projection: LB2

Josey Jewell

Linebacker
Iowa

Height: 6'1" DOB: 12/25/94
Weight: 234 lb Class: Senior

Career Statistics

Games: 49	FF: 3
Solos: 211	FR: 2
Assists: 222	INT: 6
Tot Tackles: 433	PD: 26
TFL: 28	TDs: 1
Sacks: 10	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.82s	Broad Jump: 117"
Bench Press: 18r	3 Cone Drill: 6.8s
Vertical Jump: 33"	20 yd. Shut: 4.27s

Strengths

Finds the Ball: Always around the ball: The tackle numbers, the pass-defenses, speak for themselves.

Thumper: Makes good contact with every tackle.

Big Play: Knack for making big plays. 10 sacks, 6 INTs, 28 TFL, and 3 FF.

Weaknesses

Athleticism: Struggles in chasing down faster players in space.

2-Down LB: Jewell may only be a two-down LB which may limit his ceiling for IDP.

Summary

Jewell is not an A+ athlete but his instincts are Kuechly-esque. Yes I actually mean that. Where he lacks in speed and wiggle he makes up for with football IQ and play recognition. He averaged 9.8 tackles in three seasons as a starter for the Hawkeyes. -Johnson

DFF Consensus Ranks

Linebacker: 7

Overall: 13

Projection: LB2

Tegray Scales

**Linebacker
Indiana**

Height: 6'0" **DOB: 5/10/96**
Weight: 230 lb **Class: Senior**

Career Statistics

Games: 46	FF: 1
Solos: 217	FR: 2
Assists: 107	INT: 8
Tot Tackles: 324	PD: 6
TFL: 46	TDs: 1
Sacks: 17	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.77s	Broad Jump: N/A
Bench Press: 27r	3 Cone Drill: N/A
Vert Jump: N/A	20 yd. Shut: N/A

Strengths

Short Burst: Quick to the QB with speed and acceleration.

Hands: Uses hands to punch and move off of blocks well.

Run Stopper: Cuts off run lanes instantly.

Weaknesses

Avoids Blocks: May seem like a strength, but leaves run lanes open trying to avoid contact.

Reading plays: Size may impact ability to read and react. At times takes a moment to see what's happening next.

Summary

Best fit would be inside LB in a 3-4 or OLB in a 4-3. His ability to play in a few roles helps his draft stock. Overall I like him as a tackler even though when in space he looked a little out of place at times. Landing spot will be big in his final ranking for me. He does have traits and skills to be a 3 down player. It seemed like he was in on every play meaning he will have chances for tackles. Looking over his stat sheet he confirms the tape, gets after it in all areas. -Orr

DFF Consensus Ranks

Linebacker: 8

Overall: 14

Projection: LB3

Malik Jefferson

Linebacker
Texas

Height: 6'3" **DOB: 11/15/96**
Weight: 236 lb **Class: Junior**

Career Statistics

Games: 34	FF: 2
Solos: 160	FR: 1
Assists: 71	INT: 0
Tot Tackles: 231	PD: 5
TFL: 26	TDs: 0
Sacks: 13	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: .52s	Broad Jump: 125"
Bench Press: 27r	3 Cone Drill: N/A
Vertical Jump: 36"	20 yd. Shut: N/A

Strengths

Pass Rush: Effective blitzer who can rush from the edge to get to the QB.

Acceleration: Good short area burst that can help stop the run.

Coverage: Can stay with tight ends and can stay with running backs out of the backfield.

Weaknesses

Read and React: Over thinks and has trouble figuring out his reads.

Tackling: Falls off tackles at times and does not seem to use technique consistently that causes him to miss tackles.

Summary

I would prefer to see him play like a man on fire and hungry for more action. His ability to cover along with that speed burst to close will be something NFL teams want. Personally, I would see him best as a OLB with a clear attack role where he will not have to think as much. - Orr

DFF Consensus Ranks

Linebacker: 9

Overall: 15

Projection: LB3

Fred Warner

Linebacker
BYU

Height: 6'3" DOB: 11/19/96
Weight: 236 lb Class: Senior

Career Statistics

Games: 48	FF: 3
Solos: 158	FR: 5
Assists: 104	INT: 7
Tot Tackles: 262	PD: 13
TFL: 33	TDs: 2
Sacks: 6.5	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.64s	Broad Jump: 119"
Bench Press: 21r	3 Cone Drill: 6.9s
Vert Jump: 38.5"	20 yd. Shut: 4.28s

Strengths

Tackling: Solid tackler and he shows some "pop" on his hits. When he is near the ball he makes the tackle.

Football Smart: Understands what is unfolding in front of him. Especially in the passing game.

Acceleration: Long strider who can get going from stop to full speed quickly.

Weaknesses

Run Defense: Looks for the plays in the pass game, not always focused on run defense

Getting off Blocks: Has trouble separating from blocks when dealing with physical lineman.

Man Coverage: Not necessarily a weakness, but played mostly in zone coverage in college.

Summary

Coverage LB in college who will be a nice role player in a pass-happy NFL. Sideline to sideline speed is good. He can get outside to hold the flats. Gets swallowed up in the run game but can handle himself better on the edge in the run support. Played WILL LB at the Senior Bowl and looked comfortable on the line. An interesting defender who could also get snaps as an S. Looking at his stats, he makes plays in the secondary and can get to the QB meaning he can be used in matchups in a creative defense. - Orr

DFF Consensus Ranks

Linebacker: 10

Overall: 16

Projection: LB3

Genard Avery

Linebacker
Memphis

Height: 6'1" DOB: 4/26/95
Weight: 248 lb. Class: Senior

Career Statistics

Games: 45	FF: 3
Solos: 168	FR: 1
Assists: 62	INT: 2
Tot Tackles: 230	PD: 5
TFL: 44.5	TDs: 2
Sacks: 21.5	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.59s	Broad Jump: 124"
Bench Press: 26r	3 Cone Drill: 6.9s
Vertical Jump: 36"	20 yd. Shut: 4.36s

Strengths

Speed: Good stop and go with change of direction. 93rd percentile on his 40 yard dash time.

Run Support: Controls the edge and keeps the run contained or makes the play.

Tackling: Finds the ball quickly, gets to the spot and makes the tackle.

Weaknesses

Coverage: Not strong with coverage. Loses track of the ball in the air. Rarely asked to cover.

Gets Blocked: Big offensive lineman keep him occupied and he's not able to free himself.

Summary

He will help any defense! One thing that really stands out is his speed and ability to know where to go. This is the player who holds the edge and understands his responsibility. I am not sold on him in coverage but could be coached up in the NFL. He can walk into a 4-3 defense and help from either OLB spots. With a the ball in sight he stalks it and meets it in the hole. Love his style and fun he brings to a team. When I see a LB who can rush the passer and play the run, I get pumped. -Orr

DFF Consensus Ranks

Linebacker: 11

Overall: 17

Projection: LB3

Shaun Dion Hamilton

Linebacker
Alabama

Height: 6'0" **DOB: 9/11/95**
Weight: 228 lb. **Class: Senior**

Career Statistics

Games: 33	FF: 2
Solos: 65	FR: 0
Assists: 69	INT: 2
Tot Tackles: 134	PD: 4
TFL: 16	TDs: 1
Sacks: 4.5	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: N/A	Broad Jump: N/A
Bench Press: 20r	3 Cone Drill: N/A
Vert Jump: N/A	20 yd. Shut: N/A

Strengths

Closing Speed: Once he has acquired his target, he is quick to catch them.

Extreme Athleticism: If healthy Hamilton would have wowed us with his speed and agility.

Three-Down Potential: Run stopper that won't need to come off the field in subpackages.

Weaknesses

Injuries: Tore his ACL in his junior year. Lost the final 4 games in his senior year to a broken kneecap.

Experience: Never the featured LB in a defense. Highest single season tackle numbers were 64.

Summary

Hamilton has the ability to play both ILB and WLB. He has also shown enough speed to be on the field in sub-package. When fully healthy he stand a chance at seeing many snaps. That kind of opportunity will certainly depend on the depth chart of his eventual NFL team. However you cannot underestimate what he can be given a chance. Don't forget the name Hamilton in the closing rounds of your rookie draft. – Johnson

DFF Consensus Ranks

Linebacker: 12
Overall: 19
Projection: LB3

Shaquem Griffin

Linebacker
Central Florida

Height: 6'1" **DOB: 7/20/95**
Weight: 227 lb. **Class: Senior**

Career Statistics

Games: 40	FF: 4
Solos: 122	FR: 5
Assists: 73	INT: 3
Tot Tackles: 195	PD: 16
TFL: 33.5	TDs: 1
Sacks: 18.5	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.38	Broad Jump: 117"
Bench Press: 20r	3 Cone Drill: N/A
Vert Jump: N/A	20 yd. Shut: N/A

Strengths

Speed: Combine was fast. Tape was fast. He can close on QBs and ball carriers quickly.

Spin Move: Uses the spin move to get around blockers and keep their hands off him.

Versatility: Played multiple positions and roles at UCF. Could be an effective three-down OLB.

Weaknesses

Zone Coverage: His eyes don't normally come off the QB and receivers can slip behind him in between zones.

Going for Big Hit: Sometimes tries to make the big hit and can fall off runners.

Getting Blocked: Can get blocked when pass rushing or in run support.

Summary

Shaquem Griffin has been one of the biggest stories of the 2018 NFL Draft. His blazing combine 40 yard dash, and putting up 20 reps while using a prosthetic on his left arm to hold the bar brought even more attention to this player. Many people would have listed the fact that he doesn't have a left hand as a weakness, but he wraps his arms, has great strength in both arms and is just a playmaker. He will probably be an OLB in the NFL, but given the right spot he can collect sacks and turnovers at the next level. -Cook

DFF Consensus Ranks

Linebacker: 13

Overall: 25

Projection: LB3

Uchenna Nwosu

Linebacker
USC

Height: 6'3" DOB: 12/28/96
Weight: 251 lb. Class: Senior

Career Statistics

Games: 44	FF: 1
Solos: 94	FR: 1
Assists: 75	INT: 1
Tot Tackles: 169	PD: 19
TFL: 20.5	TDs: 0
Sacks: 12.5	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.65s	Broad Jump: 119"
Bench Press: 20r	3 Cone Drill: N/A
Vertical Jump: 32"	20 yd. Shut: N/A

Strengths

Jumping: Nwosu gets into passing lanes and leaps to knock down passes effectively. Good timing and hands to disrupt the path of the ball.

Speed Rush: Very quick off the ball. When timed right can meet the QB at the third step of his drop.

Run Support: Good off the edge in run support and makes plays in the backfield to disrupt running lanes.

Weaknesses

Tackling: Nwosu has a tendency to tackle high, which causes him to miss tackles and grab facemask/head area. Also at times will dive at feet. Needs to work on wrapping up ball carriers.

Timing: Pro QBs will draw him off-sides often. He will need to work on patience at the professional level.

Summary

Nwosu is a very good disrupter of the QB. He will force QBs to notice him. As far as IDP future prospects go, he could develop into an OLB in a 3-4 that gets his hands near the ball often. For somebody who touches the ball as often as he does with deflections, I would expect more turnovers from Nwosu, but many of his deflections turned into opportunities for his teammates. As an NFL prospect, I like his game. He would need to capitalize on more of his deflections and QB hits to create turnovers to be IDP relevant. -Cook

DFF Consensus Ranks

Linebacker: 14
Overall: 35
Projection: LB3

Nick DeLuca

Linebacker

North Dakota State (FCS)

Height: 6'3" DOB: 1/27/95
Weight: 251 lb. Class: Senior

Career Statistics

Games: 59	FF: 5
Solos: 173	FR: 0
Assists: 156	INT: 7
Tot Tackles: 329	PD: 17
TFL: 26	TDs: 1
Sacks: 9.5	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.85s	Broad Jump: 112"
Bench Press: 18r	3 Cone Drill: 7.09s
Vert Jump: 29.5"	20 yd. Shut: 4.23s

Strengths

Versatility: Can play ILB and OLB. Three-down LB. Can cover, blitz, and help in run support.

Play Recognition: Excellent see it and go hit it player.

Coverage: Sideline-to-sideline linebacker that is a very good deep ball defender.

Weaknesses

Aggressiveness: Can overpursue the play or guess where the play is going.

Strength: Needs to improve upper body strength to help get off of blocks.

Competition: FCS player who will need to improve against higher level competition.

Summary

He's a three down linebacker. A lot of his weaknesses are easily correctable, but my biggest concern is if he can have same success at pro level. His draft grades are all over the place right now, but I feel he's an easy day three 3rd round pick. He has starting ILB skills and on the right team, he can be a star. A polarizing, intriguing player that if a team feels he can produce highly at this level, then they will pull trigger in 3rd. -Winstead

DFF Consensus Ranks

Linebacker: 15

Overall: 36

Projection: LB3

Frank Ginda

Linebacker
San Jose State

Height: 6'0" **DOB: 5/26/97**
Weight: 245 lb. **Class: Junior**

Career Statistics

Games: 35	FF: 6
Solos: 185	FR: 2
Assists: 166	INT: 11
Tot Tackles: 351	PD: 4
TFL: 29	TDs: 1
Sacks: 9.5	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: N/A	Broad Jump: N/A
Bench Press: N/A	3 Cone Drill: N/A
Vert Jump: N/A	20 yd. Shut: N/A

Strengths

Play Recognition: Excellent at reading and flowing to the ball

Run Support: Reacts well and makes plays in the backfield

Play Speed: Sideline-to-sideline linebacker that rarely takes bad angles.

Weaknesses

Getting Blocked: Athletic lineman that get out in run blocking can give him trouble.

Coverage: Can lose track of his receiver in coverage.

Summary

A really solid ILB who can play the OLB as well. Has good sideline to sideline flow and is very disruptive in the backfield. Great form and wrap up tackler, who takes great angles to the ball and is rarely caught out of position. Needs to improve overall strength but has very good speed. His ability to read and go, makes him an excellent see it and hit it player. Somewhat concerned if he can have same success versus elite competition. - Winstead

DFF Consensus Ranks

Linebacker: 16

Overall: 37

Projection: LB3

Jack Cichy

**Linebacker
Wisconsin**

Height: 6'2"
Weight: 234 lb.

DOB: 5/5/95
Class: Senior

Career Statistics

Games: 20	FF: 2
Solos: 78	FR: 0
Assists: 43	INT: 0
Tot Tackles: 121	PD: 6
TFL: 15	TDs: 0
Sacks: 6.5	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: N/A	Broad Jump: N/A
Bench Press: 18r	3 Cone Drill: N/A
Vert Jump: N/A	20 yd. Shut: N/A

Strengths

Speed: Sideline to sideline line-backer.

Leadership: Team captain on defense. Could be future green dot play caller on defense

Zone Coverage: Does well in coverage and is not a liability.

Weaknesses

Getting Blocked: Can get blocked out of the play.

Man Coverage: Can lose track of his receiver in coverage.

Strength: Needs to add some muscle and weight to his frame for the next level.

Summary

Solid LB who will be at his best as a weak side LB in a 4-3 defense. Capable of tracking and chasing and would not need to fight off the blocks in that scheme. He would do fine dropping into coverage but do not ask him to go man. One of the best LBs at stop and go in short areas in the class. Team captain last season speaks volumes to his leadership. I believe he would be a walk on starter in the NFL. -Orr

DFF Consensus Ranks

Linebacker: 17

Overall: 38

Projection: LB3

Dorian O'Daniel

Linebacker Clemson

Height: 6'1" DOB: 9/4/94
Weight: 223 lb. Class: Senior

Career Statistics

Games: 50	FF: 1
Solos: 129	FR: 2
Assists: 76	INT: 3
Tot Tackles: 205	PD: 7
TFL: 28	TDs: 2
Sacks: 8.5	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.61s	Broad Jump: 119"
Bench Press: 21r	3 Cone Drill: 6.64s
Vert Jump: 32"	20 yd. Shut: 4.07s

Strengths

Coverage: O'Daniel was asked to play slot corner by Clemson in their zone schemes and held his own.

Setting the Edge: Dorian reads the outside run and forces it back inside or makes the play himself.

Three-Down Linebacker: He lines up off the ball, but can blitz well, help in run support and his coverage skills should keep him on the field.

Weaknesses

Speed: Casual observers will remember him getting burnt by Calvin Ridley in the playoff game. He should cover backs and tight ends well, but speedy receivers he should avoid.

Pursuit: Doesn't always get to the play quickly. He doesn't chase many runners from behind.

Summary

O'Daniel is a jack of all trades linebacker that does a lot of things, but doesn't necessarily do anything at an elite level. He does a lot of things well though and his coverage skills make him a versatile piece for an NFL defense. He also makes sure to get a jam on receivers releasing into their routes, before patrolling his zone, which can disrupt timing of quick plays. Defending against crossing patterns isn't a strength, but in the flats he does a good job of attacking when the ball is thrown.. -Cook

DFF Consensus Ranks

Linebacker: 18

Overall: 39

Projection: LB4

Jason Cabinda

Linebacker
Penn State

Height: 6'1" **DOB: 3/17/96**
Weight: 239 lb. **Class: Senior**

Career Statistics

Games: 40	FF: 2
Solos: 116	FR: 1
Assists: 169	INT: 1
Tot Tackles: 295	PD: 11
TFL: 17.5	TDs: 0
Sacks: 7	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: N/A	Broad Jump: N/A
Bench Press: 19r	3 Cone Drill: N/A
Vert Jump: N/A	20 yd. Shut: N/A

Strengths

Leadership: He was the defensive captain for Penn State and has experience in leading a defense.

Shedding Blocks: Gets off of blocks well to get to the running back.

High Motor: Doesn't give up on plays and keeps working to get to the ball carrier.

Weaknesses

Space Plays: Does well in running lanes and within the tackles. When out in space, ball carriers can get around him.

Coverage: Doesn't stay with backs or tight ends well enough to be left alone with them.

Summary

For a player who is good at getting off blocks, I Was Surprised at how many times he would need help to get the tackles. He needs help or someone to slow a runner down for him to get in on the play. Playing a passing down would be trouble as he does not have the ability to stay with a RB or a TE. I hope he can care out a role but I believe he will struggle on special teams which would leave him off a team. -Orr

DFF Consensus Ranks

Linebacker: 19

Overall: 44

Projection: LB4

Jerome Baker

Linebacker
Ohio State

Height: 6'1" DOB: 12/25/96
Weight: 229 lb. Class: Junior

Career Statistics

Games: 29	FF: 1
Solos: 90	FR: 3
Assists: 69	INT: 2
Tot Tackles: 159	PD: 4
TFL: 17.5	TDs: 2
Sacks: 7	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.53s	Broad Jump: 126"
Bench Press: 22r	3 Cone Drill: N/A
Vert Jump: 36.5"	20 yd. Shut: N/A

Strengths

Versatility: Baker can play any LB position.

Coverage: He can cover RBs well in the pass game. He can finesse along with more athletic TEs.

Three-Down LB: Has the movement skills to stay on the field all three downs to cover and play the run.

Weaknesses

Tackling: He needs to learn to wrap up better and use his lower half to collapse the ball carrier.

Aggression: Too often he lets the play come to him. This could be a responsibility thing but he needs to force the issue while the play is unfolding.

Summary

Baker's limitations do not outweigh his athletic prowess. His skills are not universal but he can play a speed backer role. While Baker is a freak athlete, he often looks very hesitant to attack. He also does not have the upper body power to shed most offensive linemen. His size is also worrisome considering he is mostly a player OLB/WLB. That might not be ideal with many schemes. He also lacks the instincts to play solo as 4-3 MLB. -Johnson

DFF Consensus Ranks

Linebacker: 20
Overall: 47
Projection: LB4

Skai Moore

Linebacker
South Carolina

Height: 6'2" **DOB: 1/8/95**
Weight: 226 lb **Class: Senior**

Career Statistics

Games: 50	FF: 3
Solos: 212	FR: 3
Assists: 139	INT: 14
Tot Tackles: 351	PD: 6
TFL: 20	TDs: 1
Sacks: 5	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.73s **Broad Jump: 117"**
Bench Press: N/A **3 Cone Drill: N/A**
Vertical Jump: 36" **20 yd. Shut: N/A**

Strengths

Awareness: Great feel for what is going on around him.

Coverage: Will get to the outside to take away the screen game and capable of holding his zone responsibilities.

Run Support: Hunts the RB and can get to him even when blocked.

Weaknesses

Reaction: Slow at the snap at times.

Man Coverage: If locked onto an RB or TE, could have difficulty keeping with them.

Summary

Will find it hard to fit into the NFL. Limitations in coverage and being undersized will hurt his stock. Putting up solid numbers means something and should get him drafted as a reserve. He came back strong from a neck fusion surgery he had in 2015. I look at each player and ask myself how I would integrate them into my defense, it would be a challenge here, I would pass on him in my fantasy drafts. -Orr

DFF Consensus Ranks

Linebacker: 21

Overall: 48

Projection: Taxi Squad

Ogbonnia Okoronkwo

Linebacker
Oklahoma

Height: 6'1" **DOB: 4/24/95**
Weight: 253 lb. **Class: Senior**

Career Statistics

Games: 35	FF: 5
Solos: 105	FR: 2
Assists: 57	INT: 0
Tot Tackles: 162	PD: 5
TFL: 33	TDs: 0
Sacks: 20	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.77s	Broad Jump: 121"
Bench Press: 27r	3 Cone Drill: N/A
Vertical Jump: 38"	20 yd. Shut: N/A

Strengths

Spin Move: Uses spin move to get outside and inside to avoid getting blocked.

Speed Moves: Uses fakes to set up rush move either inside or outside effectively.

Stays Home: Doesn't overpursue the play. Plays QB spy well and watches for reverses.

Weaknesses

Strength: Gets blocked often and taken out of the play. If lineman get their hands on him, he isn't able to get off the blocks.

Tackling: Spends a lot of time on the ground. Dives at feet often to make tackles instead of wrapping up and tackling.

Summary

Okoronkwo shared the Big 12 defensive player of the year award, but will have to make gains in the weight room and his pass rushing moves to become an effective outside rusher. As an IDP asset he could be a spot start or bye week fill in with the hope that he gets a couple sacks. He may be drafted highly in the NFL draft, but I wouldn't draft him highly in your rookie draft. He will probably be designated as an OLB in the NFL as he ran with the linebackers during the combine. - Cook

DFF Consensus Ranks

Linebacker: 22

Overall: 49

Projection: Taxi Squad

Keishawn Bierria

**Linebacker
Washington**

Height: 6'2" DOB: 7/26/95
Weight: 230 lb. Class: Senior

Career Statistics

Games: 50	FF: 4
Solos: 154	FR: 7
Assists: 86	INT: 0
Tot Tackles: 240	PD: 4
TFL: 19.5	TDs: 1
Sacks: 7.5	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.79s	Broad Jump: 117"
Bench Press: 21r	3 Cone Drill: 7.26s
Vert Jump: 30.5"	20 yd. Shut: N/A

Strengths

Run Defense: Gets out of reach of the guards to stop run plays.

Play Recognition: Quick to figure the play out and head to the lane.

Fumbles: Identifies the ball and has a knack for recovering and forcing fumbles.

Weaknesses

Speed: Not very athletic. Not a sideline-to-sideline guy.

Tackling: If he is not squared up on the ball carrier can miss some tackles.

Plays Tall: Needs to get lower to use leverage more.

Summary

I liked him in pass coverage. The way he had control of what was happening was good. The major thing I saw was a lack of game speed. I did like his ability to stay in front of a run play but if he needs to make the tackle and he is not facing the RB he will miss more tackles than he can make. This kid is always around the play though, which leads to fumble recovery chances as well as some assists on tackles. Speed wins at his position and he just will not be a starting option. – Orr

DFF Consensus Ranks

Linebacker: 23

Overall: 54

Projection: Taxi Squad

Christian Sam

Linebacker
Arizona State

Height: 6'2" **DOB: 6/2/96**
Weight: 237 lb. **Class: Senior**

Career Statistics

Games: 35	FF: 3
Solos: 166	FR: 0
Assists: 74	INT: 3
Tot Tackles: 240	PD: 4
TFL: 17	TDs: 0
Sacks: 7	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.75s	Broad Jump: 114"
Bench Press: 28r	3 Cone Drill: 7.03s
Vert Jump: 32"	20 yd. Shut: 4.25s

Strengths

Power: He's got a broad chest, big arms and put up 28 reps at the combine.

Coverage: Former coaches thought he might be able to play cornerback before he grew bigger.

Production: When healthy, Sam averaged 8.9 tackles per game.

Weaknesses

Game Speed: On film, he seemed to be a step slower and certain blocking schemes confused him.

Motivation: Not a leader and not a hard worker in practice.

Summary

Sam put together a successful college career at ASU, amassing major tackle stats throughout his time in school. The ILB will be chosen on day three of the NFL draft, and depending on his landing spot, could be in line for snaps early in his career. In today's pass first NFL, Sam's skills in coverage will be coveted by plenty of teams, thus giving him a leg up on other LBs in the draft. If selected by a team thin at ILB, Christian Sam becomes an IDP asset, with a chance to eventually become a three down linebacker in the NFL. -Osterloh

DFF Consensus Ranks

Linebacker: 24

Overall: 55

Projection: Taxi Squad

Oren Burks

**Linebacker
Vanderbilt**

Height: 6'3" **DOB: 3/21/95**
Weight: 233 lb. **Class: Senior**

Career Statistics

Games: 42	FF: 1
Solos: 129	FR: 2
Assists: 99	INT: 5
Tot Tackles: 228	PD: 21
TFL: 15.5	TDs: 2
Sacks: 4.5	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.59s	Broad Jump: 131"
Bench Press: 18r	3 Cone Drill: 6.82s
Vert Jump: 39.5"	20 yd. Shut: 4.15s

Strengths

Tackling: Can make tackles in the open field well.

Speed: Playing outside the hash marks he can get to outside runs quickly and stop the run.

Two-Down Linebacker: More of a run stuffer and edge setter than coverage LB.

Weaknesses

Caught in Traffic: When plays are in the middle gets caught up in traffic and blocked.

Pass Coverage: Not strong in the pass game.

Physicality: Needs to improve fighting off blockers and aggressiveness to the ball.

Summary

While Burks made a number of plays at the Senior Bowl and garnered the eyes of scouts, when you go back and look at his game filed, there is still a lot to be desired. One of his biggest strengths is stopping outside runs and passes in the flat. He will get unfairly compared to Zach Cunningham, a former Vandy teammate, But they are not the same type of player. He will be a solid OLB at next level with starting potential, but not a star. I have him as a day three pick, probably getting drafted in the 4th-5th rounds. - Winstead

DFF Consensus Ranks

Linebacker: 25

Overall: 56

Projection: Taxi Squad

Micah Kiser

Linebacker
Virginia

Height: 6'2" DOB: 1/25/95
Weight: 238 lb. Class: Senior

Career Statistics

Games: 47	FR: 6
Solos: 189	INT: 1
Assists: 219	PD: 12
Tot Tackles: 408	TDs: 0
TFL: 33.5	
Sacks: 19	
FF: 8	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.66s	Broad Jump: 121"
Bench Press: N/A	3 Cone Drill: 7.05s
Vert Jump: 35.5"	20 yd. Shut: 4.24s

Strengths

Pursuit Angles: When he can keep the play in front of him, Kiser is able to chop down the runner or at least angle them towards the sideline.

QB/RB Spy: He may not be the quickest player sideline to sideline but he shows up a ton as the play is coming to an end.

3 Year Starter: Quality experience versus many pro-style schemes in the ACC.

Weaknesses

Penalties: Kiser took some poor penalties as a Junior, but seemed to improve in 2017

Stiff Running: He runs very stiff in the hips and lower. This might limit him at the next level when it comes catching ball carriers from behind.

Summary

Kiser possesses many traits that will make solid impressions on the NFL teams that dig into him. However his limitations may scream two-down backer. He is an old school thumper that can be reliable versus the run. Best case scenario he eventually grows into 80 tackle per season for three to five years type of player. -Johnson

DFF Consensus Ranks

Linebacker: 26

Overall: 57

Projection: Taxi Squad

Matthew Thomas

Linebacker
Florida State

Height: 6'3" **DOB: 7/21/95**
Weight: 232 lb. **Class: Senior**

Career Statistics

Games: 34	FF: 1
Solos: 117	FR: 1
Assists: 74	INT: 1
Tot Tackles: 191	PD: 4
TFL: 25.5	TDs: 1
Sacks: 4	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.58s	Broad Jump: 131"
Bench Press: N/A	3 Cone Drill: 6.85s
Vert Jump: 41.5"	20 yd. Shut: 4.28s

Strengths

Quickness: He can jump into the backfield to make a play before the QB can adjust.

Footwork: Able to backpedal like a safety and he covers ground quickly.

Recovery Speed: He has the ability to give chase or make a tackle from behind.

Weaknesses

Off-Field: Has a team rules violation (6 game suspension) and was academically ineligible following the death of his mother in 2015.

Patience: He doesn't stand his ground or hold the edge when the play is going in his direction.

Summary

Thomas is an impactful hitter who can play both inside and outside. He made 77 tackles and 11 TFLs in his first season as a starter for the Seminoles. Just four career sacks doesn't mean he can't rush the passer, the 'Noles just don't require that of their LBs. He sometimes hits a little too high but he always leaves an impression on those he tackles. Pre-Combine he was a late day three guy but now I could see him possibly go at the end of day two. -Johnson

DFF Consensus Ranks

Linebacker: 27

Overall: 58

Projection: Taxi Squad

Peter Kalambayi

Linebacker
Stanford

Height: 6'3" **DOB: 6/26/9?**
Weight: 252 lb. **Class: Senior**

Career Statistics

Games: 53	FF: 1
Solos: 116	FR: 0
Assists: 73	INT: 1
Tot Tackles: 189	PD: 7
TFL: 27	TDs: 0
Sacks: 18.5	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.57s	Broad Jump: 121"
Bench Press: 19r	3 Cone Drill: 7.13s
Vert Jump: 34"	20 yd. Shut: 4.36s

Strengths

Getting off Blocks: Good at shedding blockers and getting past them.

Quickness: Has good speed and can get to the edge on run plays to the outside.

Zone Coverage: Covers his zone well when in coverage.

Weaknesses

Reaction: Slow to react to plays and move toward the ball.

Pass Rush Moves: Not a variety of pass rush moves.

Summary

He was consistent but his pass rush moves never seemed to really take off. I see him only being successful in a 3-4 defense on the outside. This is where he can help set the edge and he does play well in space. I see him playing well in zone to the point he will not be a liability. With his ability to hold the edge and play the run he would be an early down player and is good enough to stay in on passing downs. If he gets drafted to a 3-4 team I am drafting him. -Orr

DFF Consensus Ranks

Linebacker: 28

Overall: 59

Projection: Taxi Squad

Azeem Victor

**Linebacker
Washington**

Height: 6'1" DOB: 8/19/95
Weight: 240 lb. Class: Senior

Career Statistics

Games: 34	FF: 3
Solos: 130	FR: 2
Assists: 68	INT: 1
Tot Tackles: 198	PD: 10
TFL: 14	TDs: 1
Sacks: 3.5	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.72s	Broad Jump: 115"
Bench Press: 19r	3 Cone Drill: 7.2s
Vert Jump: 32.5"	20 yd. Shut: 4.4s

Strengths

Blitzing: Uses his speed to get to the QB on blitzes.

Speed: Has good speed when blitzing or running down ball carriers.

Tackling: If he isn't blocked, his tackling is good.

Weaknesses

Coverage: Can lose track of the receiver in his area.

Play Recognition: Not quick at reacting to the play developing in front of him.

Hand Usage: Difficulty getting off of blocks once engaged.

Summary

I prefer a LB who can make a play by fighting off a block and with a little mean streak. This kid needs beefy linemen in front to keep him clean. With a weakness in the run game teams would look to run at him and it would be a problem. Where he wins is in a package role where he can use his speed to make plays. Getting after the QB and his coverage skills would make for a nice movement player for any defense. Special teams star I think. With his speed and energy he would be a impact player on this unit. -Orr

DFF Consensus Ranks

Linebacker: 29

Overall: 68

Projection: Taxi Squad

Chris Worley

Linebacker

Ohio State

Height: 6'2" DOB: 9/15/95
Weight: 230 lb. Class: Senior

Career Statistics

Games: 37	FF: 3
Solos: 99	FR: 0
Assists: 54	INT: 1
Tot Tackles: 153	PD: 6
TFL: 11	TDs: 0
Sacks: 2	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.86s	Broad Jump: N/A
Bench Press: 15r	3 Cone Drill: N/A
Vert Jump: 29.5"	20 yd. Shut: N/A

Strengths

Character: He is a great locker room guy with a strong work ethic.

Tackling: Only missed four tackles in the full 2017 season.

Special Teams: Has played special teams throughout career. Could help him win a spot.

Weaknesses

Coverage: Major liability in pass coverage when targeted.

Speed/Athleticism: Ran a 4.86 forty yard dash and lacks burst to meet the play quickly.

Summary

Worley was a four season contributor for the Buckeyes. Unfortunately, Worley has never had NFL level production, size, speed or athleticism, which has us thinking he may not be selected in the draft. If not, he'll have an opportunity to pick his camp as a preferred free agent, and should make a roster for his special teams aptitude and his run stopping capabilities. We don't see him creating much IDP value anytime soon, but if injuries were to open up a spot for him to take snaps, he may be a waiver wire option for ILB tackles. -Osterloh

DFF Consensus Ranks

Linebacker: 30

Overall: 71

Projection: Taxi Squad



CORNERBACKS



IDP ROOKIE ROUNDUP RANKINGS

CORNERBACKS

1. Joshua Jackson, Iowa

2. Jaire Alexander, Louisville

3. Denzel Ward, Ohio State

4. Isaiah Oliver, Colorado

5. Jalen Davis, Utah State

6. Tavarus McFadden, Florida St.

7. Carlton Davis, Auburn

8. Christian Campbell, Penn St.

Dynasty FOOTBALL
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IDP



Joshua Jackson

Cornerback
Iowa

Height: 6'1" **DOB: 4/3/96**
Weight: 192 lb **Class: Junior**

Career Statistics

Games: 29	FF: 1
Solos: 52	FR: 0
Assists: 14	INT: 8
Tot Tackles: 66	PD: 21
TFL: 1.5	TDs: 2
Sacks: 0	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.56s **Broad Jump: 123"**
Bench Press: 18r **3 Cone Drill: 6.86s**
Vertical Jump: 38" **20 yd. Shut: 4.03s**

Strengths

Size: At 6'1", Jackson can match up with any top outside WR in the NFL.

Man Coverage: Had 18 pass breakups, 24 forced incompletions and just 4 TDs allowed on 94 targets.

Clutch: Jackson had 3 INTs against Ohio St., 2 against Wisconsin (both for TDs), and 1 in the bowl game against Boston College

Weaknesses

Zone Coverage: Jackson had a habit of playing casual in zone, leaving gaps for QBs to attack.

Tackling: Has a tendency to attempt tackles without using his arms and hands to wrap up the runner.

Summary

Jackson has playmaker written all over him. He flashed outstanding cover skills, solid press coverage technique, and strong hands when targeted. In his final season as a Hawkeye, Jackson secured 8 INTs, including 2 TDs against Wisconsin. In terms of an IDP asset, Jackson has developed the ability to defend passes and create turnovers, which will give him an advantage over "coverage only" corners in this draft, thus giving him value in CB required leagues as a rookie. - Osterloh

DFF Consensus Ranks

Cornerback: 1

Overall: 26

Projection: CB1

Jaire Alexander

Cornerback
Louisville

Height: 5'11" **DOB: 2/9/97**
Weight: 192 lb. **Class: Junior**

Career Statistics

Games: 29	FF: 1
Solos: 58	FR: 1
Assists: 19	INT: 7
Tot Tackles: 77	PD: 15
TFL: 2	TDs: 0
Sacks: 0	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: .38s	Broad Jump: 127"
Bench Press: 14r	3 Cone Drill: 6.71s
Vertical Jump: 35"	20 yd. Shut: 3.98s

Strengths

Physical Corner: Gets physical on the line and has speed to stay with them.

Return Potential: Didn't return much in 2017, but averaged 9.9 yards on punt returns and a TD.

Footwork: Shows good stop and go quickness and technique.

Weaknesses

Penalties: Got flagged often for holding and could be highly penalized.

Tackling: Weaker as a tackler. Bigger players may be able to shrug off of him.

Summary

Alexander plays tough and in your face which I love from my corners. He is a dual role player which also help on draft day. This kid stops on a dime and bursts back onto a route and makes plays on the ball. Between the numbers he plays so strong and can muscle the ball away, but...this was not part of his red zone game. Maybe it's mental? He can be dominated and allows to many TDs. He would project as a nickel defender in a pass happy NFL. -Orr

DFF Consensus Ranks

Cornerback: 2

Overall: 30

Projection: CB2

Denzel Ward

Cornerback
Ohio State

Height: 5'10" **DOB: 4/28/97**
Weight: 191 lb **Class: Junior**

Career Statistics

Games: 29	FF: 0
Solos: 47	FR: 0
Assists: 20	INT: 2
Tot Tackles: 67	PD: 15
TFL: 2	TDs: 0
Sacks: 0	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.32s **Broad Jump: 136"**
Bench Press: 16r **3 Cone Drill: N/A**
Vertical Jump: 39" **20 yd. Shut: N/A**

Strengths

Coverage: Sticks to WRs locking them down.

Footwork: Uses technique to stay in good position.

Strength: Doesn't get pushed around by receivers and fearless on the field.

Weaknesses

Size: At only 5'11" he may have a difficult time with pro WRs and their size.

Ball Skills: Doesn't make as many plays on the ball as you'd like.

Summary

Ward will be a lock down shut them down corner in the NFL. Plays taller than he is with his strength and can hold his own against taller and physical players. This past season we saw him really take charge of himself. He had 37 tackles and 15 passes defended. Most impressive for me was his ability to stop the WR at the line before getting to his route. This can disrupt an offense and gives a little more time for the pass rushers to work. -Orr

DFF Consensus Ranks

Cornerback: 3

Overall: 32

Projection: CB2

Isaiah Oliver

Cornerback
Colorado

Height: 6'0" **DOB: 9/30/96**
Weight: 201 lb. **Class: Junior**

Career Statistics

Games: 31	FR: 0
Solos: 61	INT: 3
Assists: 21	PD: 25
Tot Tackles: 82	TDs: 1
TFL: 0	
Sacks: 0	
FF: 1	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.5s	Broad Jump: N/A
Bench Press: N/A	3 Cone Drill: N/A
Vert Jump: N/A	20 yd. Shut: N/A

Strengths

Pass Breakups: Attacks the catch point and breaks on passes well.

Return Potential: Didn't return much in 2017, but averaged 10.5 per return and a touchdown as a sophomore.

Speed: Nice burst and acceleration to recover when beaten.

Weaknesses

Penalties: Was penalized often for grabbing receivers.

Coverage: Loses track of receiver and ball at times and polished route runners give him problems.

Summary

An extremely talented corner, who has experience as a return man and was also a track star in college. He is very good at making open field tackles. Makes very good reads on QB and breaking to ball. He also can round his breaks at times, allowing polished route runners, to get separation. Physical receivers give him trouble at the line, so he could improve his physicality. An excellent deep ball defender, but needs to convert more of his pass breakups into interceptions. - Winstead

DFF Consensus Ranks

Cornerback: 4

Overall: 45

Projection: CB2

Jalen Davis

Cornerback
Utah State

Height: 5'10" **DOB: 2/2/96**
Weight: 185 lb. **Class: Senior**

Career Statistics

Games: 48	FF: 4
Solos: 123	FR: 0
Assists: 58	INT: 4
Tot Tackles: 181	PD: 37
TFL: 17	TDs: 0
Sacks: 8	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: N/A	Broad Jump: N/A
Bench Press: N/A	3 Cone Drill: N/A
Vert Jump: N/A	20 yd. Shut: N/A

Strengths

Tackling: Can tackle in open space and when receivers catch the ball.

Ballhawk: Not a ton of interceptions, but makes reads on the ball and reacts to passes well.

Speed: Good speed and quickness. Uses speed when blitzing from the edge.

Weaknesses

Size: Only 5'10" and small build. Good for speed. Needs more strength.

Aggressiveness: He is too aggressive at times and in the NFL could draw penalties.

Summary

After only receiving one major college offer, he had a great career at Utah St and garner All-American honors. A smart and mature player who is very confident in his abilities... A physical and competitive corner with great speed. While his small size will be off putting to some, it will be the team that can look past that and see just how good he is, that will reap the benefits. I think he will be a mid round choice , but has talent to be drafted higher. There are a number of teams that can use him. -Winstead

DFF Consensus Ranks

Cornerback: 5

Overall: 53

Projection: CB2

Mike Hughes

Cornerback
UCF

Height: 5'10" **DOB: 2/11/96**
Weight: 189 lb. **Class: Junior**

Career Statistics

Games: 23	FF: 1
Solos: 47	FR: 0
Assists: 13	INT: 4
Tot Tackles: 60	PD: 14
TFL: 0.5	TDs: 4
Sacks: 0	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: .53s	Broad Jump: 127"
Bench Press: 20r	3 Cone Drill: 6.7s
Vert Jump: 35.5"	20 yd. Shut: 4.13s

Strengths

Physical: Press off the line is done well to disrupt the route.

Speed: Plays fast and is able to keep with receivers in man.

Return Skills: Punt and kick return skills will keep him on rosters. Averaged 31.7 on 24 kick returns and 16.6 on 14 punt returns. Three total returns for touchdowns as well.

Weaknesses

Experience: Only one full season of experience. Transferred from North Carolina after his freshman season.

Tackling: Needs to improve technique.

Zone Coverage: Needs to work on reading and breaking on the plays.

Summary

One of the more electric players with the ball in his hands in the draft. When returning punts he is a game changer. Love him at the snap of the ball. He attacks the route before it develops as he slows the WR out of the gate. The lack of games played shows in his ability to understand what he is seeing and that slows his reactions down. He will need to watch and learn before he can be counted on. This is not a solid slot cover man so he may not be a fantasy starter to start the year, unless you play in return yard-age leagues. -Orr

DFF Consensus Ranks

Cornerback: 6

Overall: 63

Projection: CB2

Tarvarus McFadden

Cornerback
Florida State

Height: 6'2" **DOB: 1/28/97**
Weight: 198 lb. **Class: Senior**

Career Statistics

Games: 28	FF: 1
Solos: 41	FR: 1
Assists: 12	INT: 8
Tot Tackles: 53	PD: 16
TFL: 3	TDs: 0
Sacks: 0	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.67s	Broad Jump: 121"
Bench Press: N/A	3 Cone Drill: N/A
Vert Jump: 38.5"	20 yd. Shut: N/A

Strengths

Size: Perfect length and frame for the position.

Burst: Short area speed is great.

Hands: Shows good stop and go quickness and technique.

Weaknesses

Consistent Play: Staying on top of his game on every snap.

Run Support: Tackling is not his strong suit and hasn't racked up many.

Summary

McFadden is a skilled corner who knows how to disrupt a WR in his route with subtle uses of his hands. This distracts the WR and allows McFadden to stay locked on target. With his size and speed he can handle the larger WRs in the NFL. I swear he has a fifth sense when the ball is in the air and he turns on it quickly. Great reaction to the ball. He needs to improve or be more willing to make the tough tackles moving into the big league. -Orr

DFF Consensus Ranks

Cornerback: 7

Overall: 64

Projection: CB3

Carlton Davis

Cornerback
Auburn

Height: 6'1" **DOB: 12/31/96**
Weight: 206 lb. **Class: Junior**

Career Statistics

Games: 37	FF: 3
Solos: 101	FR: 1
Assists: 35	INT: 4
Tot Tackles: 136	PD: 28
TFL: 3	TDs: 0
Sacks: 5	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: .53s	Broad Jump: 124"
Bench Press: 16r	3 Cone Drill: N/A
Vertical Jump: 34"	20 yd. Shut: N/A

Strengths

Physical Corner: Gets physical on the line and disrupts the pattern.

Tackling: Not afraid to tackle once the receiver catches the ball.

Football IQ: Makes plays on the ball knocking it away at the right time.

Weaknesses

Playing in Space: Receivers can beat him when they have room to get around him.

Coverage Time: If QBs have time, they can beat him and accurate QBs will find spots where he isn't looking.

Summary

He will not back down and tackles well. When he plays best he is playing tough at the snap and disrupts the receiver's ability to get out into his pattern. Unfortunately, he gets a little sloppy in space and has issues turning once the ball is released from the QB. If the QB has time to throw it could lead to a catch against him, but he would thrive in the right defense. One stat that jumps out is his passes deflected, he can break up passes and that can lead to some turnovers. He has my attention in fantasy. -Orr

DFF Consensus Ranks

Cornerback: 8

Overall: 67

Projection: CB3

Christian Campbell

Cornerback
Penn State

Height: 6'1" **DOB: 11/27/95**
Weight: 195 lb. **Class: Senior**

Career Statistics

Games: 37	FF: 1
Solos: 61	FR: 1
Assists: 41	INT: 4
Tot Tackles: 102	PD: 19
TFL: 5	TDs: 0
Sacks: 1	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: N/A	Broad Jump: N/A
Bench Press: 14r	3 Cone Drill: N/A
Vert Jump: N/A	20 yd. Shut: N/A

Strengths

Breaking on Ball: Takes away passing lanes and defends slant well.

Speed: Good speed and can stop on a dime.

Footwork: Good foot movement and positioning.

Weaknesses

Staying with Receivers: Good route runners will get him to bite on moves.

Double Moves: Receivers can beat him with double moves.

Summary

Campbell has the height to hang with the taller WRs and that would be very helpful in the red zone. This perhaps is his greatest strength. Showing well on crossing routes and the quick hitting slant would make him a good fit for an aggressive defense. Using his long reach he breaks up passes that others would not get to. I like his instincts when in man coverage and believe he gets a chance to become a shut-down corner in the NFL. -Orr

DFF Consensus Ranks

Cornerback: 9

Overall: 74

Projection: CB3



SAFETIES



IDP ROOKIE ROUNDUP RANKINGS

SAFETIES

- 
1. Derwin James, Florida State
 2. Minkah Fitzpatrick, Alabama
 3. Ronnie Harrison, Alabama
 4. Justin Reid, Stanford
 5. Quin Blanding Virginia
 6. DeShon Elliott, Texas
 7. Marcus Allen, Penn State
 8. Armani Watts, Texas A&M
 9. Jordan Whitehead, Pittsburgh
 10. Siran Neal, Jacksonville St.
 11. Trayvon Henderson, Hawaii
 12. Kyzir White, West Virginia
 13. Jesse Bates III, Wake Forest
 14. Terrell Edmunds, VA Tech

Derwin James

Safety
Florida State

Height: 6'3"
Weight: 215 lb.

DOB: 8/3/96
Class: R-Sophomore

Career Statistics

Games: 26	FR: 2
Solos: 110	INT: 3
Assists: 76	PD: 15
Tot Tackles: 186	TDs: 1
TFL: 15	
Sacks: 5.5	
FF: 2	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.47s	Broad Jump: 132"
Bench Press: 21r	3 Cone Drill: N/A
Vertical Jump: 40"	20 yd. Shut: N/A

Strengths

Leadership: He shows up early, stays late, studies hard, and when he speaks teammates listen

Versatility: He can be used in multiple settings: man-to-man coverage, run support and blitzing.

Athleticism: Has a unique blend of size, speed, power, technique, and range.

Weaknesses

Anticipation: He will wait too long to support deep coverage.

Injuries: Has already missed a full season with an ACL tear.

Summary

James will be a solid starting safety in the NFL for a long time. His ideal role is as an in-the-box strong safety, gobbling up tackles all game long. Additionally, he has the coverage skills available to keep him on the field in almost every scenario. Some project the FSU stud to put on some weight and become a WILL LB similar to what Mark Barron did. If that happens, his value in IDP takes a hit. However, right now James is the top safety in the 2018 NFL draft, and will be a solid S1 or S2 in any IDP format once he's situated in the pros. -Johnson

DFF Consensus Ranks

Safety: 1

Overall: 7

Projection: S1

Minkah Fitzpatrick

Safety/DB
Alabama

Height: 6'1" DOB: 11/17/96
Weight: 201 lb. Class: Junior

Career Statistics

Games: 42	FF: 2
Solos: 110	FR: 0
Assists: 61	INT: 9
Tot Tackles: 171	PD: 24
TFL: 16.5	TDs: 4
Sacks: 5	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.46s	Broad Jump: 121"
Bench Press: 14r	3 Cone Drill: N/A
Vertical Jump: 33"	20 yd. Shut: N/A

Strengths

Ball Skills: He plays the flight of the ball very well.

Football IQ: He is 100% committed and has an understanding of how to play whatever position he is asked to play.

Closing Speed: He can jump up from any position (even high safety) to be a part of a tackle.

Weaknesses

Pass Coverage: He is very handsy in coverage. He mostly plays the slot and too often will allow the receiver to gain inside leverage.

Quickness: His footwork is not always the best and will sometimes over pursue the play.

Summary

He was basically asked to run around and make plays which may be a sign of immature coverage abilities. He did role a key role as a true freshman for the Crimson Tide which is very rare. So he could play a key role as a rookie. Look for him to be an explosive special teamer regardless. He is very likely to be a top 15 pick in the actual NFL draft. That means he will get more snaps than most rookie DBs. He is also a dangerous edge presence for someone who just 200 pounds. - Johnson

DFF Consensus Ranks

Safety: 2

Overall: 8

Projection: S1

Ronnie Harrison

Safety
Alabama

Height: 6'3" **DOB: 4/18/97**
Weight: 214 lb. **Class: Junior**

Career Statistics

Games: 42	FF: 1
Solos: 110	FR: 2
Assists: 64	INT: 7
Tot Tackles: 174	PD: 17
TFL: 7	TDs: 1
Sacks: 3.5	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: N/A **Broad Jump: 120"**
Bench Press: N/A **3 Cone Drill: N/A**
Vertical Jump: 34" **20 yd. Shut: N/A**

Strengths

Closing Speed: He flies to the ball like a bolt of lightning shooting across the landscape.

Nickname: Alabama teammates call him "Savage." You do not get called something like that at Alabama, which produces stud defensive players without being elite.

Quick Reaction: Reads and reacts to the play like a pro. Also covers tight ends well.

Weaknesses

Size: Gets caught up in traffic and has difficulty shedding blocks in run defense.

Angles: Doesn't always take the best angles to the ball carrier which leads to some missed tackles.

Summary

Played both ways in high school. Threw for 2,000 yards and ran for another 1,000 yards as a senior in high school. Therefore he is a super all-around athlete who understands how offenses work. Like most of the recent Crimson Tide safeties (Landon Collins, HaHa Clinton-Dix, Eddie Jackson) to make the NFL jump he rangy and intuitive. His tape is not overly awesome but you see potential building. His tackling is strong but it could use some work as well. - Johnson

DFF Consensus Ranks

Safety: 3
Overall: 10
Projection: S1

Justin Reid

Safety
Stanford

Height: 6'1" **DOB: 2/15/97**
Weight: 204 lb. **Class: Junior**

Career Statistics

Games: 36	FF: 0
Solos: 104	FR: 1
Assists: 66	INT: 5
Tot Tackles: 170	PD: 14
TFL: 10.5	TDs: 0
Sacks: 1	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.4s	Broad Jump: 128"
Bench Press: 16r	3 Cone Drill: 6.65s
Vert Jump: 36.5"	20 yd. Shut: 4.15s

Strengths

Football IQ: He shows poise and patience on film. He understands what the scheme asks of him.

Versatility: He has played and excelled at both safety positions.

Efficient Tackler: He tackles right away almost every time he is able. He also knows when to wrap his arms.

Weaknesses

Size: He needs to add more muscle to play strong safety in the NFL.

Football Speed: More quick than fast. He makes up ground quickly. Gets beat deep though.

Summary

He exploded for 94 total tackles in 2017 (14 games) after just a 55 total tackle 2016 (13 games). Six career INTs and 14 passes defended speak to tracking ability. Very stealthy tackler and super crafty in-the-box. Has above average range and he excels in zone coverage. Very calculated at reading the QBs eyes and movements. He can also jump with great effectiveness. - Johnson

DFF Consensus Ranks

Safety: 4
Overall: 18
Projection: S2

Quin Blanding

Safety
Virginia

Height: 6'2" **DOB: 5/1/96**
Weight: 215 lb. **Class: Senior**

Career Statistics

Games: 49	FF: 1
Solos: 259	FR: 2
Assists: 233	INT: 10
Tot Tackles: 492	PD: 16
TFL: 9	TDs: 1
Sacks: 1	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: .63s	Broad Jump: 122"
Bench Press: N/A	3 Cone Drill: N/A
Vert Jump: 31.5"	20 yd. Shut: N/A

Strengths

Tackling: He is a fearless "get your nose dirty" kind of player.

Coverage: He is big enough to play bump and run with big bodied receivers and tight ends.

Ball Skills: Ten INTs and 16 PDs are solid numbers for a box safety.

Weaknesses

Athleticism: He will never play deep safety or be on an island by himself.

Aggressiveness: Tendency to bite on pump fakes and misdirection plays.

Summary

Quin is a tackling machine but he is not an elite athlete. That may actually work to his IDP advantage as he is likely going to be cast as a box safety. He will have to go somewhere with a clear need at the position if he is to produce as a rookie. You cannot argue against that kind of elite production. -Johnson

DFF Consensus Ranks

Safety: 5
Overall: 22
Projection: S2

DeShon Elliott

Safety
Texas

Height: 6'2" **DOB: 4/21/97**
Weight: 205 lb. **Class: Junior**

Career Statistics

Games: 26	FF: 3
Solos: 84	FR: 3
Assists: 21	INT: 9
Tot Tackles: 105	PD: 13
TFL: 11.5	TDs: 2
Sacks: 2.5	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: .58s	Broad Jump: 121"
Bench Press: 15r	3 Cone Drill: N/A
Vertical Jump: 36"	20 yd. Shut: N/A

Strengths

Instincts: His play recognition and understanding of the route tree are off the charts for a true Junior

Versatility: He can be trusted at FS, SS, single high, double high, slot DB, or as a roving LB.

Tackling Radar: He knows where to hit and how to make the most effective impact.

Weaknesses

Recovery Speed: While his game speed seems fine, he does not have across the field quickness. He does much better when the play is in front of him.

Upper Body: He is either lacking in strength or does not have the power moves to get past bigger blockers.

Summary

Elliott was used as a shutdown player 2017. Whatever the opponent strength was Elliott was there to challenge it. He usually succeeded with flying colors. After just 42 tackles in his first two years at Texas, Elliott wasn't really on to many people's radar. Then in his junior season (2017) he exploded for 63 tackles 8.5 TFL, 6 INTs (2 vs Sam Darnold & 2 pick sixes) 9 PD and 3 FF. Born in 1997 Elliott is young but he is far from raw. -Johnson

DFF Consensus Ranks

Safety: 6

Overall: 24

Projection: S2

Marcus Allen

Safety
Penn State

Height: 6'2" **DOB: 8/7/96**
Weight: 202 lb. **Class: Senior**

Career Statistics

Games: 49	FF: 5
Solos: 181	FR: 2
Assists: 139	INT: 1
Tot Tackles: 320	PD: 10
TFL: 17	TDs: 0
Sacks: 3	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: N/A	Broad Jump: 127"
Bench Press: 15r	3 Cone Drill: N/A
Vertical Jump: 37"	20 yd. Shut: 4.32s

Strengths

Powerful Hitter: Opponents usually go airborne or straight down when they collide with Allen.

Instincts: Quickly figures out where the play is going and gets there.

Game Speed: He is always around the ball or flying to the ball.

Weaknesses

Tackling Technique: He often goes for the big hit and hits high. That may be less effective or lead to flags in the NFL.

Length: His long frame might be useful to an NFL team in the back end rather than an in-the-box safety.

Summary

In 49 college games he averaged 6.5 tackles per game! Just 1 career INTs, only 10 career PDs but he force 5 fumbles. He also displays tremendous footwork as he does not wastes steps. This enables him to always keep the play in front of him. He could get some Kam Chancellor comps when people address his ceiling. He may have to make his money as nickel linebacker to gain the trust of the coaches, as well as a little weight. -Johnson

DFF Consensus Ranks

Safety: 7
Overall: 28
Projection: S2

Armani Watts

Safety
Texas A&M

Height: 5'11" **DOB: 3/19/96**
Weight: 205 lb. **Class: Senior**

Career Statistics

Games: 46	FF: 7
Solos: 213	FR: 5
Assists: 111	INT: 10
Tot Tackles: 324	PD: 17
TFL: 24	TDs: 0
Sacks: 1.5	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: N/A	Broad Jump: 120"
Bench Press: 13r	3 Cone Drill: 7.25s
Vertical Jump: 35"	20 yd. Shut: 4.37s

Strengths

Anticipation: He will jump a route and almost never guesses wrong. He will also fly to the line of scrimmage and produce negative plays

Speed: His game speed is wicked fast.

Jumping: He times his leaps very well and he has explosive thigh power.

Weaknesses

Instincts: He has good instincts, but transitioning into the NFL they may not translate immediately.

Shedding Blocks: When engaged has trouble shedding longer blockers like tight ends and offensive tackles.

Summary

He is an undersized gamer that plays free safety but he hits like a quality strong safety. Very calculated tackler who usually leads with the shoulder below the belt. Although he needs to wrap his arms more often to avoid missed tackles. He has elite range and quality coverage instincts. He could be a sensational special teamer as a rookie if ends up somewhere with a crowded safety depth chart. There is a whole of potential with Watts and some very little nit picky weaknesses. -Johnson

DFF Consensus Ranks

Safety: 8
Overall: 29
Projection: S2

Jordan Whitehead

Safety
Pittsburgh

Height: 5'11" **DOB: 3/17/97**
Weight: 195 lb. **Class: Junior**

Career Statistics

Games: 31	FF: 2
Solos: 162	FR: 3
Assists: 73	INT: 3
Tot Tackles: 235	PD: 12
TFL: 8.5	TDs: 2
Sacks: 0.5	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: N/A	Broad Jump: N/A
Bench Press: 21r	3 Cone Drill: N/A
Vert Jump: N/A	20 yd. Shut: N/A

Strengths

100% Every Play: He plays "with his hair on fire." He is a wrecking stunner in pursuit

Speed: His game speed should translate, he was a Nationally Ranked CB out of high school.

Tackling: Pitt played him at safety as a true freshman because his tackling was too good not to be in-the-box.

Weaknesses

Size: Some teams may have an issue playing a safety that is under 200 lb. He could be moved to CB in the NFL.

Coverage: Pitt used him mainly in run support, so his coverage skills may need to be worked on in the pros.

Summary

This former high school dual threat RB/CB has exceptional natural athleticism. He will remind many of Eagles safety Rodney McLeod. He is a little undersized but NFL weight training could help that in major way. He is also very young and that could mean he will be able to add some muscle/weight and not sacrifice any of speed. -Johnson

DFF Consensus Ranks

Safety: 9
Overall: 31
Projection: S3

Siran Neal

Safety
Jacksonville St. (FCS)

Height: 6'0" **DOB: 8/4/94**
Weight: 199 lb. **Class: Senior**

Career Statistics

Games: 51	FR: N/A
Solos: 112	INT: 3
Assists: 79	PD: 24
Tot Tackles: 191	TDs: 0
TFL: 10.5	
Sacks: 5	
FF: 3	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.56s	Broad Jump: 122"
Bench Press: 17r	3 Cone Drill: 7.0s
Vert Jump: 40.5"	20 yd. Shut: 4.28s

Strengths

Tackling: He uses solid technique and quality balance to stop ball carriers in their tracks.

Instincts: He understands how to run support and which gaps to shoot.

Football IQ: He knows the route tree and does a great job of keeping his man in front of him.

Weaknesses

Small School Pedigree: Playing lesser competition will mean proving himself and working extra to gain playing time.

Sell Ability: When blitzing from the slot he does not disguise his look. Pro QBs will pick up on the stances and audible.

Size & Speed: His size may be more beneficial as an NFL CB.

Summary

He can play in-the-box or in the slot. Pro comp Malcolm Jenkins. He is a devastating thigh powered hitter. He will be 24 in August. The former high school WR hits with elite power. He flashed at the Senior Bowl as the first Jacksonville State representative since 1994. With one year twin daughters at home he is highly motivated to succeed in a major way. -Johnson

DFF Consensus Ranks

Safety: 10
Overall: 33
Projection: S3

Trayvon Henderson

Safety
Hawaii

Height: 6'0" **DOB: Unknown**
Weight: 200 lb. **Class: Senior**

Career Statistics

Games: 47	FF: 1
Solos: 181	FR: 2
Assists: 56	INT: 9
Tot Tackles: 237	PD: 13
TFL: 18	TDs: 2
Sacks: 5	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: N/A	Broad Jump: N/A
Bench Press: N/A	3 Cone Drill: N/A
Vert Jump: N/A	20 yd. Shut N/A

Strengths

Big Hitter: Plays bigger than he is and hits hard.

Coverage: He has shown the ability to cover all types of receivers.

Versatility: He has the speed to play deep safety and cover people in the slot. He can also be an in the box safety.

Weaknesses

Injuries: He tore an ACL in his 3rd year. Was able to play a 5th year.

Play Recognition: Jumps up into the play too early at times, but has adequate speed to recover.

Tackling: Needs to refine some things. Leads with his shoulder and doesn't extend his arms. Hits high often.

Summary

He has the qualities that an NFL safety should have speed, elite burst, ball-hawking skill, range and he is a vicious hitter. Production has eluded him as he has only had one full healthy season in 5 years at Hawaii (which included a medical red-shirt season in 2015). He bounced back in 2016 to dropped 90 tackles, and 10.5 TFLs, 2 sacks, 3 INTs and 7 PDs. He flashed at the Senior Bowl and assuming his medical checks out he could be an IDP mainstay. He may have to make his money in sub packages or on special teams as a rookie. - Johnson

DFF Consensus Ranks

Safety: 11
Overall: 60
Projection: S3

Kyzir White

Safety
West Virginia

Height: 6'2" **DOB: 3/24/96**
Weight: 218 lb. **Class: Senior**

Career Statistics

Games: 25	FF: 4
Solos: 113	FR: 2
Assists: 39	INT: 3
Tot Tackles: 152	PD: 9
TFL: 14.5	TDs: 0
Sacks: 4	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: N/A	Broad Jump: 113"
Bench Press: 21r	3 Cone Drill: N/A
Vert Jump: 35.5"	20 yd. Shuttle N/A

Strengths

Versatility: Plays safety, outside linebacker and can play corner-back.

Blitzing: High number of tackles and sacks from his safety position.

Game Speed: Quick short area speed. Also uses it to blitz and get to the ball quickly.

Weaknesses

Coverage: Needs to improve man coverage.

Speed: Didn't run at the combine, but doesn't have elite speed.

Summary

I love his willingness to bring the big hits. He is a good tackler and gets to the ball quickly. One of those players that need to get drafted into a perfect landing spot. The best role is one where he can play in the box and be used in a zone defense. It's a cross between S and OLB where he would be a solid starter. Getting locked onto a rb in coverage would be a weakness as he can't handle good route running rbs, thus the need to be in a zone defense. With his tackling upside and good closing burst, he will be a solid option in the right scheme. Add in his ability to rush the passer and you have a gifted chess piece for a good coordinator. -Orr

DFF Consensus Ranks

Safety: 12
Overall: 61
Projection: S3

Jessie Bates III

Safety
Wake Forest

Height: 6'1" **DOB: 10/11/96**
Weight: 200 lb. **Class: Junior**

Career Statistics

Games: 24	FF: 2
Solos: 119	FR: 0
Assists: 58	INT: 6
Tot Tackles: 177	PD: 10
TFL: 9.5	TDs: 3
Sacks: 0	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.5s	Broad Jump: 117"
Bench Press: N/A	3 Cone Drill: 6.78s
Vert Jump: 35.5"	20 yd. Shut 4.26s

Strengths

Speed: Good speed and contributed in the return game.

Coverage: Strong in coverage, and can come down and play the slot corner role.

Football IQ: Reads and reacts to the play. He knows what he is seeing and plays it.

Weaknesses

Tackling: Not exactly what you want to hear from a safety in IDP.

Not Strong in the Box: Doesn't offer strong run support. More of a Free Safety.

Summary

What he brings to the table is coverage. You can toss him into a slot cover role or ask him to cover the deep field. This allows a defense to get aggressive with the other players. He can get across the field in a hurry and cover ground to get in on plays. Speed wins and he has plenty of that. In Fantasy he will get the pass break ups and need the big plays like interceptions for you, not one to count on to make tackles. - Orr

DFF Consensus Ranks

Safety: 13

Overall: 62

Projection: Taxi Squad

Terrell Edmunds

Safety

Virginia Tech

Height: 6'0" **DOB: 1/20/97**
Weight: 217 lb. **Class: Junior**

Career Statistics

Games: 35	FF: 1
Solos: 101	FR: 2
Assists: 95	INT: 6
Tot Tackles: 196	PD: 14
TFL: 8.5	TDs: 3
Sacks: 1.5	

Combine Stats

40 yd. Dash: 4.47s	Broad Jump: 134"
Bench Press: N/A	3 Cone Drill: N/A
Vert Jump: 41.5"	20 yd. Shut: N/A

Strengths

Speed: Good stop and go quickness.

Teammate: Doesn't mind taking on blocks so other teammates can make the play.

Man Coverage: Plays tight ends with physicality especially in the red zone.

Weaknesses

Aggressiveness: Plays the receiver's first move hard, so double moves are liability.

Tracking the Ball: Loses the ball in the air when he turns to pursue the play in the air.

Tackling: Not a strength in the open field.

Summary

Terrell would be good to stop TE's in the red zone with his physical coverage. When he is out in the open you hold your breath as he goes for a tackle. Not good! I think he wins on special teams, which keeps him on a roster as he works on his coverage and tackling skills. More of a taxi squad player for me in fantasy this season. -Orr

DFF Consensus Ranks

Safety: 14

Overall: 65

Projection: Taxi Squad

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