THE NFL DRAFT REPORT PRESENTS

THE 2019 NFL DRAFT QUARTERBACK ANALYSIS -PART THREE

This article features The NFL Draft Report's scouting analysis on the six quarterbacks likely to hear their names called during the first two days of the NFL Draft. Part Four of the feature will look at the other signal-callers that should be selected during Day Three action, or pursued immediately after the draft as priority free agents.

For those that listened to the Scout's Honor Podcast at https://www.spreaker.com/episode/17291037

our staff has identified the teams likely to choose a quarterback in this draft by breaking them down into tiers;

1-Giants and Miami have placed a priority likely to be answered Day One

2-Arizona and Oakland-they both have "Simon & Garfunkel" eyes only for Kyler Murray, but where does that leave their current starting QB?

3-Denver, Jacksonville and Washington-even though they traded for a veteran, they can jump back in and draft a young arm, also

4-Saints, Patriots and the Chargers-aging QBs in place, can these teams look for young blood? A sleeper is linked to New England

5-Cincinnati, Tampa Bay and Tennessee-things have not worked out for their playoff hopes. Dalton does not fit the Zac Taylor mold, Winston needs to grow up fast for Arians to like him and Mariotta just can't stay healthy. Might these teams look to add another player for competition?

Below, we begin our examination of Kyler Murray, Dwayne Haskins, Drew Lock, Daniel Jones, Ryan Finley and Jarrett Stidham - all considered to be the top talents in their respective position's draft class;

THE DRAFT'S WILD CARD

Kyler Murray

University of Oklahoma Sooners

#1

5:10.1-207

Allen, Texas

Allen High School

Agility Tests

4.42 in the 40-yard dash…1.48 10-yard dash…2.47 20-yard dash…28 1/2-inch arm length…9 1/2-inch hands…69 1/2-inch wingspan.

2018 Statistics

In fourteen games, Murray completed 260-of-377 passes (69.0%) for 4,361 yards, 42 touchdowns and seven interceptions. He carried the ball 140 times for 1,001 yards (7.2 ypc) and 12 scores. He ranks seventh in the class with an average depth of target number of 11.06 and placed second while throwing under pressure, completing 37-of-66 tosses for a 103.3 rating that includes six touchdowns vs. two interceptions. He only placed 18th on his long ball attempts, connecting on 38-of-77 chances for 1,468 yards and sixteen touchdowns, but five of his seven interceptions came when trying to go deep. He only fumbled twice, as he was sacked 18 times for losses of 109 yards and had 32 pass attempts deflected.

2018 Best Performances

UCLA, Iowa, Baylor, Kansas State, Kansas, West Virginia, Texas

2018 Worst Performances

Texas Tech, Alabama

THE SCOUTING REPORT

Body Structure

Murray is shorter than ideal passer with a marginal wing span and adequate arm length, but he does have good-sized hands, with toned and developed legs, decent bubble and nice shoulder definition, but his frame might be at maximum growth potential and any additional bulk could affect his impressive quickness.

Athletic Ability

Murray shows very good foot speed and quickness getting back from center to his set point. He is a quick, mobile scrambler with above average balance and body control to make all the throws when on the move. He has that second gear needed to elude when rushing past the line of scrimmage and the vision to locate the cutback lanes. He is very smooth in his retreat from center to his throwing point, demonstrating the slide-&-adjust agility to step up in the pocket or roll out to avoid pressure. He shows very good knee bend and the ability to weave through traffic, making a good effort to provide ball security before heading up field.

Football Sense

Murray does a good job of retaining plays and is quick to improvise on the run. His natural football instincts are displayed with his ability to create when his targets are covered. He plays with good field savvy, vision and decision making. He puts in the extra hours studying film and his low interception ration indicates that he has a good feel for route progressions and locating secondary targets. He takes the plays from the chalkboard to the playing field easily and demonstrates above average instincts scanning the field. He is capable of handling the mental aspect of the game, as he makes all of the required reads and checks to excel in a pass-oriented offense. He is very alert to defensive coverage and not the type to force the throw, evident by his career interception percentage (2.70%; 14-of-519 attempts picked off).

Set Up

Murray has the body mechanics and athletic ability to get back quickly to his pass set point. He operates a lot in the shotgun, but shows the foot speed to instantly drive away from center. He is very effective throwing on the move and carries the ball chest-high, but needs to do a better job of setting his feet to generate more power behind his throws. He steps to his target point with good balance in his drop and helps put good velocity behind his tosses by keeping his feet under him. He will sometimes revert to a wind-up delivery, but still has the ability to get the ball off quickly.

With his body control, agility and hip flexibility, Murray is quick driving back from center, doing a nice job of setting his feet in either 3-step or 5-step drops. He gets to his throwing point fluidly and has the balance to make all the throws on the run. He is nimble and agile rolling out of the pocket and has the balance to step up and avoid pocket pressure. His speed to his throwing point allows him to surprise the lethargic defender.

Reading Defenses

Murray does a good job of laying the ball away from defenders and he does not eyeball his primary target for too long. He is alert to underneath coverage, as he does not have many of his passes tipped at the line of scrimmage. He needs to work on his timing a bit, but has the vision to scan the field and make good progression reads. His low interception ratio indicates that his vision and patience won’t get the team into trouble with costly turnovers. He will get a bit over-confident and fire the ball into tight coverage (see Texas Tech game), but knows how to get the ball to his deep targets over their outside shoulder without the receiver having to adjust (see Baylor, Texas, Kansas State games). While not always patient waiting for the plays to develop, he is not the type that will hold on to the ball too long and then try to force the action to make the play, as he knows when he needs to throw the ball away. One thing you quickly notice on film is that he is not only innovative, but quite creative with his feet when the pocket collapses, making him a dangerous threat when pressured to tuck the ball and run long distances.

Release

Murray needs to develop a higher release point, but he shows the ability to improvise on the move. There are times he will drop his elbow before throwing and the result was several of his passes spraying all over the field (see Texas Tech and Alabama games). He has the ability to throw across his body effectively, but he will revert to sidearm action at times, forsaking use of an over-the-top release to utilize low-angle tosses.

When Murray demonstrates the compact delivery and throwing motion, along with the wrist flick to get the ball out cleanly and quickly, he does so with a compact motion, holding the ball chest-high to execute a fluid ¾ release. He has the ability to get the ball through the throwing arc well and has a lively arm, but needs to learn how to vary his speed at times (puts too much zip on his short throws). He plants well to throw and the pass comes out with a tight spiral, but you'd like to see a better spin behind his long tosses.

Arm Strength

Murray has good arm strength, but when he fails to set his feet properly, his throws will wobble. He shows good ease of movement unleashing the ball and puts good velocity on his underneath throws, but needs to take a bit off those tosses to make it easier for the receiver to secure without having to adjust. He seems more comfortable airing the ball out, but he is best served in the short-to-intermediate area, as some of his deep throws will sail, even though he can put the ball on a rope when needed. He has very good ability to throw from the far hash (little bit more of a wind-up there on go & post patterns). Still, he has a lively arm with very good zip when he sets his feet.

Accuracy

Murray is very accurate throwing on the move. There, he is consistent setting his feet and shows good mechanics delivering the ball on time. He is a nice rhythm passer and not one that relies on hot streaks. He can drill the ball through the seam, but on short routes, he needs to vary the velocity of those throws so receivers only have to execute minimal adjustments.

The thing I like about Murray is his ability to change the speed on his short passes to insure it being completed. He shows solid timing and consistency moving the chains and excels at connecting with his receivers when on the move and on touch throws, doing a nice job of threading the needle when throwing into tight areas.

Touch

Murray appears to have very good ability when reading the defense and making proper adjustments at the line of scrimmage and the vision needed to scan the field. He looks off the defense and distributes the ball well, utilizing all of his receivers with effectiveness. He is quick to look off his primary target and go through progressions. He is good at hitting his receivers in stride and over his target’s outside shoulder. He is decent connecting on corner routes from the far hash, doing a nice job of making his receivers look good.

Poise

Murray remains confident on the field and has good presence on the move. In 2018 film review, you do not see him ever panicking, even after getting sacked three times in each of the Oklahoma State and Alabama clashes. It is not in his nature to throw the ball up when the pocket collapses, thanks largely to his uncanny feel for pressure and ability to elude once he decides to run with the ball.

He keeps his cool when “bullets are flying” and knows that when all else fails, he has the feet to step up and avoid the pocket pressure. He stands tough under duress and shows confidence in his ability to execute the play.

Pocket Movement/Scrambling Ability

Murray is the type that might not win a foot race with a racehorse, but he has the hip wiggle and juke ability that will make the initial tackler miss. He has good body control rolling out of the pocket and does a good job of avoiding on the move. He is best when attacking from the far hash, as he is a threat with both his feet and arm. He has very good accuracy throwing the intermediate pass when on the run. His ability to get to the outside and throw makes the opponents defend the whole field. Sometimes, he is more accurate throwing on the run than in his drops, making him an ideal West Coast offense candidate. He is an excellent open field runner with a good second gear to burst into the open and has the body control and change of direction agility to avoid and elude. His instincts to make big plays as a scrambler separates him from most college quarterbacks.

Compares To

Doug Flutie...Alright, everyone is pulling out the Russell Wilson card due to height, but look at their body structure - Wilson is much more muscular and thicker. He does defy the "football gods" logic for the position, but you have to admit, unless they catch him, he will hurt you on offense. I'm just not in tune with his mind-set and after walking away from baseball, he does not impress me that he is fully committed to the gridiron. Honestly, if things do not develop for him in the NFL, could he pull an Eric Cartman - screw you guys, I'm going home?

AFTER MURRAY, HASKINS GETS BIG DRAFT ATTENTION

Dwayne Haskins

The Ohio State University Buckeyes

#7

6:03.3-231

Potomac, Maryland

The Bullis School

Agility Tests

5.04 in the 40-yard dash…1.70 10-yard dash…2.85 20-yard dash…28.5-inch vertical jump…33 1/4-inch arm length…9 5/8-inch hands…79 1/2-inch wingspan.

2018 Statistics

In 2018, Haskins appeared in fourteen games, completing 373-of-533 passes (70.0%) for 4,831 yards, 50 touchdowns and eight interceptions. He ran for 108 yards and four scores on 79 rushing attempts (1.4 ypc). The Buckeye placed a lowly 46th among this quarterback crop in average depth of target (8.61), but improved to 13th under pressure, completing 55.1% of his attempts (59-of-107) with four touchdowns, but also tossed three interceptions. As for his long ball accuracy, he hit on 31-of-72 passes (43.06%) for 1,050 yards with seventeen touchdowns and only two thefts for a 118.1 passer rating. He was sacked twenty times for losses of 104 yards, turning the ball over twice on four fumbles, as the opposition deflected 43 OSU pass attempts (34 by Haskins).

2018 Best Performances

Oregon State, Rutgers, Indiana, Minnesota, Purdue, Michigan, Northwestern

2018 Worst Performances

Penn State, Nebraska

Body Structure

Haskins has a tall frame with adequate muscle definition and while he does not possess noticeable muscle tone, he is not frail-looking. He shows good leg thickness with good-sized calves. He has the long arms and large hands with impressive arm strength that you look for in an NFL-type quarter-back. He shows decent midsection development, but could improve his mobility if he drops a few pounds.

Athletic Ability

Haskins has just average quickness and he does not show smooth feet on the move in the backfield to be considered a threat to take the ball long distances. His upper body frame demonstrates the fluid range of motion to put all of his power behind his follow-through when passing. He has made very good strides in his timing and shows much better field vision than he did in the past. He displays solid throwing mechanics and precision in the intermediate and deep passing game, registering se3venteen touchdowns vs. two interceptions in long ball action.

Haskins has the size and the arm strength you look for in a pro quarterback. He lacks the foot speed and balance to be effective running with the ball and is a bit stiff in his hips when redirecting, but for a drop-back quarterback, he has the functional mobility to move in and out of the pocket to elude the pass rush. He is not effective rolling out to throw and is not effective on the QB draw. While he has enough agility to escape, he is not the type you would call fleet of foot, thanks to just adequate flexibility. He runs with a normal stride and shows just enough agility to adjust in the pocket and throw on the move, but is better when standing in the pocket. He does not have the sustained speed to run long distances, nor the acceleration to elude when rolling out of the pocket.

Football Sense

Haskins has shown improved ability to make proper reads and act instinctively on the field. He picks up coverage and schemes well, doing a nice job of reading the defense. He is quick to call audibles and generally makes good pre-snap judgment calls. His maturity on the field and his ability to read defenses has seen the coaching staff give him much more freedom calling his own plays. He will still make a few bad decisions, mostly when pressured (see fumbles vs. Nebraska and interceptions under pressure vs. Indiana) though and needs to show better ability converting drives in the red zone (Ohio State ranked 115th of 129 schools in this category in 2018). Coaches credit his willingness to do extra film work as a sign of his maturity, but at times, he does not adjust to changes during game situations as quick as a coach would like.

Set Up

While he will not win many foot races, Haskins is quick to get his feet set driving back from center, showing the back foot press to gain separation and get to his pass-set point. He is smooth and efficient when setting up to throw, but must be aware that he has to do it quicker than most quarterbacks in order to compensate for his long, deliberate throwing motion. He is fundamentally sound with his balance and agility when setting up. He still needs to refine his foot placement through his delivery (will throw off the wrong foot some), but he does a very good job of carrying out his fakes.

Reading Defenses

Haskins is a confident player, but over-confidence will see him make some bad reads (see Indiana game), more so in the intermediate area, when he fails to recognize second level coverage. He had a nice array of targets to work with, but he has to not lock on to his primary ones, especially when challenged by smart safeties in zone coverage.

Haskins has good vision, so it is strange he fails to recognize the blitz so much. He has to be quicker in making adjustments when flushed out of the pocket, as he is not the type that can just put the ball down and run with it. For a player with his intelligence, it is befuddling to see how much he just throws into coverage. He gets uncomfortable when pressured to bolt out of the pocket and does not do well throwing on the move, where he will tend to force the ball in order to make a play when he should just throw the ball away.

Release

Haskins shows good focus looking down field and has a tight circle with good wrist flick, but it is puzzling that he holds on to the ball so long, taking too much time to get rid of the pigskin. With that long, slow release, when he fails to follow through, it will cause some of his deep tosses to miss its mark. When he holds the ball at chest level, he comes off his hands much quicker, but when he drops it down to his hip, his arm slot reverts to ¾-sidearm, and that leaves his front side open, resulting in off-target throws (see Penn State game).

Haskins looked uncomfortable adjusting his release and delivery under pressure vs. the Nittany Lions and Nebraska, where it appeared that he just took too long to unleash the ball. His patience in waiting for his primary targets to get open can also be a detriment, as most of his sacks come from his slower than ideal progression reads, as he is not always instant in locating his secondary targets. He did show better check-down ability during the second half of 2018, but even though he has demonstrated marked improvement in seeing the pre-snap look and reacting to it, there are times he just has the wrong answer.

Arm Strength

Haskins can throw the deep outs with good consistency. Despite his wind-up motion, the ball comes out cleanly and smoothly due to his wrist action. He can get the ball down field effortlessly and has the strength to make his throws from the opposite hash. His arm strength lets him to control a secondary, more so on deep tosses than on intermediate routes.

Haskins has the arm strength to fire ropes down field, but he gets so confident in that power, he fails to vary the speed on his short throws and needs to develop better touch in that area. When he sets his feet, he can make all the NFL type throws, but he is too deliberate with his over-the-top motion, which takes too long for the ball to release from his hands. With his cannon for an arm, if a patient coach can rework his mechanics, he could unearth a find for a vertical passing attack.

Accuracy

Most quarterbacks tend to have more success moving the chains rather than living by the long ball, but the opposite holds true for Haskins. Yes, he does not anticipate linebackers dropping back in coverage when trying to attack the middle of the field, but most of those problems occur when firing along the boundaries. When he carries the ball too low, this results in him firing from his hip, causing more than a fare share of his underneath passes getting batted down by the defense at the line of scrimmage (34 of his passes were deflected in 2018).

When he throws from the outside hashes, he needs to refine his mechanics and start using a higher release point. He has good arm strength, but his accuracy and consistency with his intermediate throws are better when he stays in the pocket rather than throwing when flushed out. If he can put the ball into areas where his receivers can get more yards after the catch, the offense will be much more dangerous.

From the outside hash, he will sometimes over-lead too much and his receivers spend time having to adjust. With better zip, he could be more effective with the quick outs and post patterns. He has developed better touch on his deep throws, as he can feather the pass away from the defender and drop it into his receivers hands, but when he throws off his wrong foot, his passes lack touch.

Touch

As for touch, Haskins has to demonstrate a better feel when throwing the pigskin, especially going underneath, but he did a much better job of delivering the ball with timing when airing it out in 2018. He gets good deep ball placement thanks to his strong wrist flick and is efficient at getting the pass into the soft areas of the zone. Most of his deep ball success comes vs. Cover-2 defenses, as he can get the ball over the outside shoulder of the receivers operating along the perimeter. He underwent some mechanical revision during 2018 fall camp and the Buckeyes saw Haskins do a better job of throwing the fade effectively and he also knows how to time the receiver’s breaks better than in the past.

Poise

Haskins handles pressure okay and does not panic stepping up in the pocket, but he does not like getting flushed out, knowing his accuracy is going to suffer throwing on the move. It is not like he gets “happy feet” under pressure, but when he runs with the ball, the defense knows it does not have to worry about accounting for him. He could be a little impatient with the blitz and force the ball under pressure. When he is flushed out of the pocket, he will make some poor judgment calls and throw into coverage (see Penn State interception and six pass deflections in each of the TCU, Minnesota, Purdue and Michigan State games).

Pocket Movement/Scrambling Ability

Haskins is not a mobile passer. His accuracy suffers when flushed out of the pocket and more often than not, his twenty sacks and four fumbles last year resulted in him just running into spots. He is slow to get into gear and is never considered a challenge as a ball carrier. When he steps up in the pocket, he can make things happen with his arm strength, but he just lacks the loose hips to suddenly move laterally when flushed out. He is more of a pocket passer and does just an adequate job of sliding or stepping up in the pocket to avoid the rush. He lacks good lateral agility and but fails to keep his feet on the move.

Compares To

Byron Leftwich...Some scouts see "Big Ben" when they see the deep tosses by Haskins and others liken him to Jameis Winston. Like Leftwich was during his playing days, Haskins is a very accurate passer. I also think he has very good touch and will not have a problem picking up a pro offense, since he understands the game plan very well. I also like his leadership ability, as you saw when the Ohio State running game was erratic that Haskins had his teammates believing in him and knowing that during tough situation that their quarterback could get them through it. Still, he is not the most athletic or well-built signal-caller, more sort of a throwback type and he is never going to frighten a defender with his running ability. With a patient coach, you get a Leftwich type player. Toss him to the wolves and he becomes nothing more than Tony Banks.

THE TOP SENIOR PASSER IN THE 2019 DRAFT

Drew Lock

University of Missouri Tigers

#3

6:03.6-228

Lee's Summit, Missouri

Lee's Summit High School

Agility Tests

4.70 in the 40-yard dash…1.65 10-yard dash…2.64 20-yard dash…4.12 20-yard shuttle…7.03 three-cone drill...31-inch vertical jump…9'-04" broad jump…32 1/2-inch arm length…9-inch hands…77 1/8-inch wingspan.

2018 Statistics

In thirteen games, Lock led the Southeastern Conference in pass completions and attempts, as he hit on 275-of-437 chances (62.9%) for 3,498 yards, 28 touchdowns and eight interceptions. On the ground, he picked up 175 yards on 55 tries (3.2 ypc), scoring six times. Lock completed 72.1% of his passes vs. the blitz, but managed just one touchdown vs. three interceptions throwing 84 times with 39 completions under pressure. He recorded a passer rating of 126.3 on his long tosses, completing 30-of-64 attempts (46.88%) for 1,160 yards, fourteen touchdowns and only one interception. His receivers dropped 26 of his pass attempts (4.9%) and he had 45 other throws deflected by the opposition. He was sacked thirteen times for losses of 98 yards, turning the ball over twice via six fumbles.

2018 Best Performances

Tennessee-Martin, Wyoming, Purdue, Memphis, Florida, Oklahoma State

2018 Worst Performances

South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia

Body Structure

Lock has an NFL-sized quarterback's frame with broad shoulders, adequate overall muscle development, smooth tone and room to add more bulk. He looks the part of a pocket passer, with good arm length, big hands, decent chest thickness, good quadriceps and calves, but also has the quickness to avoid some pressure. His frame is such that he could add at least another ten-to-fifteen pounds without the additional bulk affecting his mobility.

Athletic Ability

Lock has a strong arm that allows him to deliver the long ball with touch and accuracy. He has the ability to put the ball where the receiver can catch it and shows good balance throwing on the move. He has the avoidance quickness stepping up in the pocket and the strength to pull away from pass rushers when pressured. He shows some elusiveness on the run with decent mobility, but won’t frighten any defense when having to carry the ball. He has functional change of direction agility and shows nice quickness to slide and move around the pocket. Despite good timed speed, he is not the type that can consistently make plays with his feet, but he does run with a normal stride and good balance.

He has functional playing speed and while he won’t win many foot races, he does show good balance to break arm tackles on the move. While not fast, he does show adequate change of direction agility and good strength. He runs with a normal stride and shows good movement retreating in the pocket. His balance and body control allow him to throw on roll-outs and he displays good lateral agility (4.12 shuttle), evident by the way he slides.

Football Sense

Lock is a good student of the game, showing the field vision and intelligence to recognize coverage on his pre-snap scan of the field and in his pass drop. He is field savvy, doing a very good job of making checks. He has no problems retaining plays, but it was uncharacteristic to see him make the mental mistakes that were exposed last year vs. South Carolina (two interceptions, eight pass deflections, five pressures), Alabama (two thefts, seven pressures, two fumbles lost) and Georgia (two fumbles on the center exchange, nine pass break-ups).

Generally, he plays with good awareness and is a quick decision maker with the ball in his hands, but he will disappear at times vs. top competition (threw seven interceptions vs. fourteen touch-downs in eight games vs. Southeastern Conference teams). When given time to scan the field, Lock reads coverage well and makes proper checks, showing football savvy and field smarts. He is quick to retain plays and takes the plays from the board to the field with no problems.

Set Up

Lock shows decent foot quickness in his set-up, keeping his feet under him while maintaining balance. He can reach his throwing point with a normal stride and has the body control and agility needed to drive back from center quickly. When he steps into his throws, he is ready to unleash in an instant, doing a nice job sliding in and out of the pocket.

Lock shows good body control driving back from center, displaying the quick feet to get into position to make all of his throws. He has good upper and lower body mechanics, as he also displays enough functional strength to break arm tackles on the move. While he can elude, he is more comfortable in a three-step drop when retreating from center, as he likes to get the ball out quickly (in five steps, he will usually lose poise, as pressure is generated on the pocket). He does a nice job of scanning the field and looks comfortable setting up in the pocket and executing his follow-through. He shows good fluidity and quickness when he sets up and is a pretty athletic mover.

Reading Defenses

Lock was sacked only thirteen times in 2018, but was pressured often, which does affect his poise, as he is then prone to forcing the issue and it results in ill-advised passing situations (see South Carolina, Alabama, Vanderbilt games). Usually, Lock is a quick decision maker and even when he makes the wrong move, he does not allow his mistakes to linger. He is a good field technician, knowing how to operate within the framework of the offense, which is predicated on him making quick reads and getting the ball out to his receivers even before his targets are able to break, as this prevents the opponents from getting into position to defend.

Still, when under pressure, you will see him force the ball into a crowd, or hold on to it too long that it leads to a costly sack. He is good at reading defenses and when he shows patience, he can pick apart zones. When he forces some into coverage, it is because he holds the ball too long (needs to learn to look for his secondary targets).

Release

Lock carries the ball medium/high and can flick it out either with a high ¾ delivery or over the head. He used to be a big long-gaited throwing the ball, but he has developed a compact release to unload the ball quickly and good mechanics when launching the ball long. As soon as he gets to his throwing point, he is ready to throw. His overall throwing mechanics are very good and he shows good quickness and snap in his release. Because of his solid mechanics, he can launch the ball with accuracy, even when he does not have his feet set. With his compact, quick delivery over the top and a smooth motion getting rid of the ball, defenses have little time to settle under his throws, as he excels at hitting his receivers before they come out of their breaks.

Arm Strength

Lock has very good arm strength, but will revert to dropping his arm slot while trying to throw under pressure, effecting his trajectory to result in 45 passes being deflected last year (10.3% of his 437 attempts). Given time to throw, his ball speed is excellent, as it comes off his fingertips easily and receivers don’t have to make too many adjustments, as he leads his targets well. He generates a lot of velocity and ball speed, doing a nice job of throwing the ball across his body while displaying good hip flexibility. He has very good accuracy going long (third-best in this draft class with a 126.3 passer rating on 30 completions for 1,160 yards for a 38.67-yard average, with fourteen touchdowns and just one interception) and a lively snap on the short tosses. He demonstrates good arc on his long outs, as receivers settle over those throws to effortless secure over their outside shoulder. The thing he does best is to generate velocity behind his long throws, as he has a very easy and smooth release.

Accuracy

Lock is like two different quarterbacks - confident with his arm strength while protected, but very inconsistent hitting his targets under pressure (went 39-of-84 under a rush). Generally effective at hitting his receivers in stride, he will misfire quite a bit on crossing patterns when he has to side-step the pass rush. In the short passing game, Lock puts the ball where the receiver can catch it. He throws a catch-able ball with zip or touch and does a nice job of keeping the receiver in the route. He will still sometimes force the receiver to adjust a bit on crossing patterns and needs to take something off his passes when dumping off, but can drop the ball over the top.

He showed better touch in 2017 on flares than he did as a senior, but he also had much less quality targets to work with in 2018 than in the past. He can also air it out well on his deep throws. When going long. Lock gets good velocity and timing behind his throws. He possesses that overpowering arm to lead the receivers going deep, and he can put good touch on those throws.

Touch

Like stated in his accuracy report, Lock gets into trouble when he puts too much "oomph" behind his short tosses, as it can result in the high amount of drops (4.9% of his attempts) by his receivers last year. He also gets too enamored with his arm power at times, resulting in more of a shot put performer. He has better timing when taking a three-step drop, but may hold the ball a little too long, resulting in interceptions or sacks when he takes a longer (five-step) drop.

In 2017, Lock was very effective at anticipating the receivers routes and knowing when they will come open. He has very good overall timing and knows when to throw the ball, but you saw in 2018 that he has yet to grasp the art of knowing when to take some heat off his short throws, resulting in better accuracy. His timing is good from the three-step drop backs, but when he holds on to the ball a little too long at times, it will result in a sack or costly interception.

Poise

Lock runs hot and cold here, as he has good avoidance skills, but seems too want to force the issue when under pressure. When he gets his feet too narrow, his production suffers on the move and he has to do a better job of squaring up before releasing. More often in 2018, he would hold on to the ball too long, resulting in either interceptions or a costly fumble on the sack.

Pocket Movement/Scrambling Ability

Lock can avoid pressure, but despite his timed speed and six touchdown runs last season, he will not make a great living as a ball carrier. He needs to square up better when on the move and must continue to work on ball security (six fumbles in 2018, see Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky games). Generally, he has the delivery timing needed to throw into windows and can keep the play alive by stepping up and finding lanes when avoiding the pass rush. One thing he does need to improve on is getting a better feel for pocket pressure, as it did not seem that he knew when to step up or escape when his protection broke down in contests vs. Alabama, Georgia and Kentucky last season.

Compares To

Matthew Stafford-Detroit Lions...Like Stafford, Lock can rip apart a defense one minute, then get flusters under pressure and the barn drops down on him. Like Stafford, he is quick to scan the field and go through his progressions and you can see similar arm strength. Lock can make all the throws and shows power and toughness getting the ball deep, except for when defenders are closing and making contact.

FROM WALK-ON TO DAY TWO DRAFT TALENT

Daniel Jones

Duke University Blue Devils

#17

6:05.1-221

Charlotte, North Carolina

Charlotte Latin School

Agility Tests

4.81 in the 40-yard dash…1.68 10-yard dash…2.79 20-yard dash…4.41 20-yard shuttle…7.00 three-cone drill...33 1/2-inch vertical jump…10'-00" broad jump…32 1/2-inch arm length…9 3/4-inch hands…78 1/8-inch wingspan.

2018 Statistics

In eleven appearances, Jones completed 237-of-392 passes (60.46%) for 2,674 yards, 22 touchdowns and nine interceptions. He ranked third on the team with 319 yards and three scores on 104 carries. Among the top quarterbacks in this draft class, his average depth of target ranked 40th (8.69 ypc), placing 37th within that group when throwing under pressure (47-of-114 passes, 41.2%, 53.9 pass rating with three touchdowns, four interceptions). As for his deep passing skills, he ranks 47, having hit on only 11-of-45 chances (24.44%) for 425 yards, six touchdowns and four interceptions (69.0 passer rating). He was sacked 28 times for losses of 172 yards, turning the ball over four times on five fumbles, as he saw 51 passes deflected by the opposition.

2018 Best Performances

Northwestern, Pittsburgh, North Carolina (passing yards and touchdowns), Temple.

2018 Worst Performances

Virginia, Miami, North Carolina (three sacks, two pressures, lost fumble, eight pass break-ups).

Body Structure

Jones has a tall frame with adequate upper body muscle definition, and his lower frame needs to develop better muscle tone. He has adequate thighs and calves, but displays good hand size and arm length that you look for in a pocket passer. His frame certainly has room for further bulk and muscle development.

Athletic Ability

Jones has good size and arm strength for the quarterback position, but despite average straight-ahead speed, he lacks athletic agility and looks stiff in his change of direction (4.41 20-yard shuttle). He can get some yardage off the bootleg, but seems to lack vision on the move, as he will run into spots or just toss the ball away with dire consequences (see fumbles vs. Army, Georgia Tech, Pittsburgh and North Carolina in 2018). He operates in a play-action scheme, but when he tries to work under a run-pass option format, he needs to be more conscious of protecting the pigskin.

Hones does have the arm strength that pro teams want him to display, but has had just “pedestrian” numbers in each of his three seasons, never cracking the 3,000 aerial yards or 25 touchdown level. He has adequate quickness dropping back from center, but lacks the feet to avoid the pass rush, as he tends to lose balance when flushed out of the pocket. His arm strength is his best asset, especially on short-to-intermediate tosses, but his long ball game suffers, having hit on just 11-of-45 of those attempts last season. He has enough ability to consistently put the ball where the receiver can catch it in the short areas, but when he attempts to go the distance, perhaps he would be better suited locating second and third option targets instead of just throwing the ball into a crowd (four of his 45 deep passes were intercepted, seven others were deflected).

Football Sense

Jones benefits from having one of the better quarterback coaches in the game of football (David Cutcliffe). The former walk-on is a quick learner who seems to know protections, but you would like to see him improve when it comes to recognizing coverage on the pre-snap and on his pass drops. He is effective at reading hot routes, but must become quicker in attempts to pick up the blitz. He is a three-time Academic All-Atlantic Coast Conference pick and graduated after just three years, so it is obvious that he will not have problems digesting a complicated playbook.

Still, this is a young player who needs to do a better job of reading zone coverage, at times, as he will throw into tight windows (See Virginia and Temple games) and he will force the ball into a crowd every so often. In order to increase his chances for starting at the next level, he must do a better job of looking off his primary targets and go through route progressions.

Set Up

As book smart as he is, Jones still looks like a neophyte when it comes to reading defenses. Having a coach call your plays eliminated much of his thought process, but he is not the type who will stand tall and absorb the sack, making poor choices trying to throw the ball into the crowd (51 pass break-ups included 18 at the line of scrimmage). While not alarming, his fumble issues seem to be the result of poor ball distribution when forced to improvise on the move.

He does not really have heavy feet, but there are times where he looks too methodical in his drops. Once his feet are set, he will stand and deliver, though. He has a decent throwing motion, but has a bit of a wind-up in his release. He has the body control to stand tall and be ready in the pocket, but he seems to lose some velocity on his tosses when throwing on the run. His quickness dropping back from center is good and he does keep his feet under him, playing with good balance in the pocket (does not translate when flushed out though).

Reading Defenses

Jones has to overcome his “love” for his primary target and do a better job of going through route progression to locate secondary targets. When he tries to force the issue too much when under pressure, it results in him firing the ball right into windows. While his interception rate was low (nine in 2018 on 392 attempts), the opponents go to deflect 13% of his passes (51) in 2018. He is prone to making some bad decisions, as he just seems to throw too much into double coverage (see at least eight passes deflected in each of the Virginia Tech, North Carolina and Clemson games). When he is quick to pick up the blitz, he knows where to go with the ball, showing good vision and judgment on his reads, but he tends to force the ball into coverage when his protection breaks down. He does show good timing and touch, but he has to stop forcing his throws into coverage.

He can be smooth driving back from center to his throwing point, but lacks the suddenness to avoid and slip tackles on the move. When he stands tall in the pocket, he is more accurate, but he needs to work on making all his throws from the outside hash (loses accuracy, especially when he doesn’t step into his passes).

Release

With that little hitch/wind-up, Jones will be inconsistent with his release. He locks on to his target, starts patting the ball waiting for it to open and fails to make progression reads as you would expect from a player with his intelligence level. In Mobile, he seems to show a high release on his throws. He sometimes reverted to a full wind up, but there were times that he showed the ability to deliver most of his throws with quickness. Even when he used a long throwing motion, he got the ball away in time. When he kept his delivery a little bit higher than ¾, he carried the ball properly to get a quick release.

In a recent report from one team with a quarterback need, they recognize that Jones is generally effective vs. man coverage, but does struggle quite a bit in attempts to recognize the zone coverage, where most of his costly mistakes (interceptions, pass break-ups) happen. He makes questionable decisions when flushed out of the pocket (see Georgia Tech, Pittsburgh, North Carolina games) and needs to do a better job of surveying and going through progressions rather than locking on to his primary target (does not look off well enough).

Arm Strength

There is no questioning his arm strength, but Jones needs to improve his touchdown to interception ratio. His short passes are generally on target, except when forced to throw on the move. He has good touch with accuracy on the short throws, putting the ball where the receiver can catch it. He just does not show great accuracy throwing long, as he will force several throws into coverage rather than toss the ball away. He needs to do a better job of reading defenders and coverage before he attempts to air it out.

Jones compensates for his adequate zone coverage reading skills with good power and snap in his release. He delivers the ball with good over-the-top mechanics and releases the ball with good quickness, coming straight back with the ball to generate more power behind his throws. He tends to generate a higher push in his delivery when throwing on the move, as some of those throws will wobble a bit, especially when he uses a big wind-up. Still, for a long-armed passer, he is conscious of not using a windmill motion much.

Accuracy

Jones shows adequate zip on his short to intermediate throws, but his long ball does float too much and he needs to get the ball away with a more consistent spiral (ball gets away from him when going deep). He can throw in the seam, but tends to feather the ball more than he should (has completed just 59.9% of his career passes). Jones won’t spray the ball all over the field, but when he tries to fire it at the numbers, he left more than a few passes behind in 2018 (see Virginia Tech, Virginia, Clemson, Wake Forest games). When he holds the ball too long waiting for his targets to break, he struggles. He shows very good touch and accuracy on the fade routes, but sometimes will hang it in the air of deep tosses.

Touch

Jones is a bit inconsistent throwing the deep comeback from the opposite end of the field. He shows better touch and accuracy throwing short and intermediate. He takes a little too much off the ball throwing long (ball floats). He has decent anticipation and timing on routes, but there are occasions where he needs to throw the ball quicker, especially when pressured. On most of his pass thefts, it seemed as if he was not taking a good enough pre-snap look to see coverage and make the adjustment.

Poise

Jones plays with good poise, as he will stand tall in the pocket and step into his throws. He can take a shot and stay composed in the pocket, but he will try to force some throws when trying to escape pressure. He has a presence standing in the pocket and is mechanically sound when not flushed out. He has good touch on short-to-intermediate throws and shows more than enough arm strength going deep (just inconsistent), but his long ball gets him in trouble when he does not properly read zone coverage, resulting in him forcing his throws when going deep (tends to float it up for grabs). He generally throws a nice, easy ball with very good placement standing or stepping up in the pocket, though (troubles happen on the move). When given time, he can get the ball off with a tight spiral and good arc, allowing the receivers to catch in stride rather than have to adjust in their routes.

Pocket Movement/Scrambling Ability

You would like to see Jones slide and avoid rather than try to run over defenders, as that led to injury issues early in the 2018 campaign. He seems to go through a long timing pattern before bailing on the pocket. He is only adequate when throwing the ball rolling out and scrambling, as he lacks great mobility and elusiveness in and out of the pocket. He moves around, but lacks the sudden burst to be effective running the ball. He will step up and buy time, but is not a threat with his feet. He does have decent timed speed, but perhaps due to his tall, lanky frame, he fails to sink his pads and looks awkward when he has to run with the ball.

Jones is more effective looking off and freezing a safety when standing in the pocket than when forced to roll out. He can move well enough to stay alive, but when he holds on to the ball too long, he then forces it into a crowd. If your offense is looking for Jones to scramble or get any yards running with the ball, that could be a problem. He is a productive quarterback in the pocket, but even with his timed speed, he is also a marginal open field runner. He squares his shoulders properly on delivery, but does not have the scrambling skills or avoidance ability to throw on the run, as he does not look natural doing this. He seems to be more productive throwing when running to his right than to the opposite field.

Compares To

Marc Bulger-ex-St. Louis Rams...Some think Jones is the second coming of Ryan Tannehill, but there is more polish in the Blue Devils game. While Jones has the pro size, he will need to add more bulk. He has good command in the huddle, but despite what some others feel, there seems to be too much inconsistency with him throwing long, especially on the move. He tries to force the ball too much between second level defenders and one look at the high amount of passes that have been picked off or deflected, he still needs a lot of coaching and tutoring.

RARE SIXTH-YEAR COLLEGIAN READY FOR THE NEXT LEVEL

Ryan Finley

North Carolina State University Wolfpack

#15

6:04.0-213

Phoenix, Arizona

Boise State University

Paradise Valley High School

Agility Tests

4.73 in the 40-yard dash…1.65 10-yard dash…2.72 20-yard dash…4.20 20-yard shuttle…7.20 three-cone drill...30 1/2-inch vertical jump…9'-08" broad jump…32 7/8-inch arm length…9 1/2-inch hands… 77 1/8-inch wingspan.

2018 Statistics

In thirteen games, the Boise State transfer completed 326-of-484 passes (67.4%) for 3,928 yards, 25 touchdowns and eleven interceptions, scoring once while gaining 21 yards on four carries. He was sacked eleven times for losses of 72 yards, turning the ball over four times via six fumbles while his opponents deflected 48 pass attempts. His average depth of target was 10.24, as he hit on 44-of-98 passes (44.9%) with four touchdowns and four interceptions under pressure. In the deep passing game, he connected on 31-of-71 attempts (43.66%) for 1,009 yards, six touchdowns and four interceptions, as his receivers averaged 32.55 yards per catch.

2018 Best Performances

James Madison, Georgia State, Virginia, Syracuse, Florida State, Wake Forest, Louisville, East Carolina

2018 Worst Performances

Boston College, Clemson, North Carolina

Body Structure

Finley has a tall, developing frame with good bone structure and average muscle tone. He can easily carry at least another ten pounds of bulk without the additional weight affecting his overall quickness. He has average-sized hands and good arm length, but needs further lower body development.

Athletic Ability

Finley is a mobile passer who shows good slide and escape agility, but lacks the second gear to run long distances with the ball. He demonstrates good balance throwing across his body and the loose hips to get to the outside hashes. He has just adequate acceleration past the line of scrimmage, but does a good job of squaring his shoulders to break arm tackles. He has good mobility and decent quickness, showing balance rolling out of the pocket, along with the change of direction agility to avoid pass rushers. While he looks lean, he has the strength to absorb punishment standing in against the rush.

Football Sense

Some liken Finley to Alex Smith - an efficient game manager, but some scouts were not pleased with his low touchdown rate. Still, you can see he is a student of the game - the type you might find sitting in on coaches’ meetings and has the work ethic to study and break down game film. He has a bit of a gambler in him on the field (will throw ill-advised passes under pressure, especially in the red zone), but does a good job of scanning the field. He is quick to make his decisions, calmly making his progression reads while showing alertness to zone coverage. There is no question that he can handle and digest a complicated playbook. He has very good football smarts and also does well in the classroom. When he's flushed out of the pocket, he's difficult to defend, because he's a good thrower who is also mobile, and he's one of those players who can make something out of nothing at times (just needs better targets to work with).

Set Up

Finley has the quick retreat skills from center to get to his drop point and sets his feet well to be ready to throw. He has the body control to throw off-balance and shows good ability to pass on the move. Whether off the sprint or in drop-back action, he can easily scan the field and demonstrates a smooth follow-through motion. He is usually operating out of the shotgun, but when he does line up under center, he shows decent set-up quickness. He has the foot speed to drive back from center and moves effortlessly in the pocket. He is ready to throw at the end of his drop. He shows a smooth release and gets to his set point with balance and agility.

Reading Defenses

Finley has a bit of gambler in him, but with his vision and patience in the pocket, he does a very good job of going through route progressions. There are times when you will see him force his throws under pressure. He can get into trouble with turnovers when he tries to throw long (had seven of his eleven interceptions on throws inside the red zone in 2018). He sees the entire field, whether standing in the pocket or on the sprint.

Finley has the ability to read the coverage and knows what is going on. However, when he locks on to his primary target he does not always locate his second and third receiver. He will make some bad decisions when flushed out or when pressured. That is when he might try to force the ball into tight areas. Still, he is a confident player, and when given time, he is effective when trying to read off on underneath throws.

Release

With his height and arm length, Finley’s over-the-top release gets the ball out with good quickness. He carries the ball chest high and is generally quick to get into position to throw. He has that quick wrist flick that gets the ball out effortlessly, but does need to improve his foot plant before throwing the deep ball. He gets rid of the ball on time and usually does so with a smooth motion. When he has time to throw, he will utilize a tight circle in his release that allows him to flick the ball out quickly.

Arm Strength

Finley is more effective when he keeps the ball in the short area, as he has much better velocity on his throws there (only completed 31-of-71 long tosses in 2018). He lacks the great arm strength to attack the deep secondary and most of his interceptions are the result of seeing his long tosses wobble or lose air. He will generally under-throw his targets when attacking the seam, but does show good zip working underneath. He can air the ball out if needed, but is better as an inside hash thrower. He has some power to play in the vertical game, but just has to pick his spots better. He likes to move around to get his throws off and is a dangerous short-to-intermediate passer from either hash.

Accuracy

Finley is quite effective throwing to the short-to-intermediate areas when on the move and knows how to hit his targets without having his receivers adjust much in their routes. He knows how to back-shoulder the ball to keep it away from defenders. When he operates in the short-to intermediate area, he shows much better timing on his attempts. He throws a tight spiral working underneath and does a good job of “threading the needle” when throwing into tight areas. He is precise throwing short on the move, as he does a good job of unleashing it across his body. He is also effective when passing off his back foot.

However, when attacking the deep zone, his long throws tend to spray some and if that long toss flutters, the defense can settle under it to make the interception (see Texas A&M, Boston College, Clemson games). He possesses good touch, doing a nice job of leading the receiver to the ball with minimal adjustment. He throws good fades and is effective on wide-open streaks. On his long throws, when provided protection, he has the ability to hit his receivers in stride and over the outside shoulder (gets in trouble when he forces the issue, though).

Touch

Finley shows better touch when he drills the ball into the short area. He can throw on the run and keeps his receivers in their routes with minimal adjustment when working underneath. He just runs hot and cold when trying to air the ball out. In the short passing game, he knows how to take something off his tosses and vary its speed. Once he works on his deep timing and shows more consistency with the 4-5 cut, he will be more effective delivering the ball in a seam. He has good touch and can lay it on a receiver in the short windows. The ball comes out fast from his release when he does not rush his throws. Rarely do his receivers have to adjust or break off their routes to get to his passes through the intermediate areas.

Poise

Ice water runs through Finley’s veins, reminding me a lot of Phil Simms (ex-Giants) with his calm demeanor on the field, even in pressure situations. He has the loose hips to side-step and avoids pressure well, doing a fine job of stepping up and standing tall in the pocket. It is rare to see him rush his throws, but when he does so, the ball will sail a bit when he does not set his feet. With his size and balance, he is hard to knock down in the pocket. He’s the type of hard-nosed player that can not be rattled, one that plays with injuries that would sideline most and one who hangs tough under the rush. He is cool rolling out of the pocket and has the strength to break arm tackles when forced to run with the ball.

Pocket Movement/Scrambling Ability

Finley is very alert to pressure and takes advantage of his hip swerve to avoid the pass rush. He does take a sack rather than throw the ball away at times, but he is effective throwing on the roll-out. He has that peripheral vision that lets him quickly sense backside pressure, doing a nice job of stepping up to avoid. Still, he needs to protect the ball better (see fumbles vs. Virginia, North Carolina, Texas A&M, Clemson), as he is prone to fumbling it when he rolls out. He has mobility and good poise in the pocket, with the ability to step and slide. When he does slide, he keeps looking down field for his targets to get open. He shows a keen sense for the pass rush and a good feel to avoid pressure. He can not be distracted by defenders and does a nice job of maintaining his composure in pressure situations.

Compares To

Ryan Fitzpatrick-Tampa Bay...Finley is just starting to come into his own. He can easily be groomed in a pro-style offense and while he might lack the game experience there, he does show a lot of moxie on the field, along with good timing and touch. He might not be effective in a strong vertical attack, as he does get into interception trouble when firing the ball deep. Still, you can see that with patient coaching, he has the "smarts" to anticipate his receivers before they come out of their breaks.

REGULAR SEASON? NO GOOD. POST-SEASON? STIDHAM RECOUPS

Jarrett Stidham

Auburn University Tigers

#8

6:02.3-218

Stephenville, Texas

McLennan Community College

Baylor University

Stephenville High School

Agility Tests

4.81 in the 40-yard dash…1.65 10-yard dash…2.76 20-yard dash…4.33 20-yard shuttle…7.28 three-cone drill...31-inch vertical jump…9'-02" broad jump…32-inch arm length…9 1/8-inch hands…76 1/2-inch wingspan.

2018 Statistics

In thirteen games, Stidham completed 224-of-369 passes (60.7%) for 2,794 yards, eighteen touch-downs and just five interceptions, a testament to him, despite playing for one of the most ill-prepared offenses in the college ranks last season. The Baylor transfer scored three times on 72 carries, but had just one net yard due to constant pressure. He was sacked 23 times for minus 168 yards, coughing the ball up twice on four fumbles. The opposition deflected 41 passes vs. the Tigers in 2018, as Stidham's average depth of target was 8.31. He hit on 30-of-98 passes (42.2%) under pressure, posting a 66.2 pass rating while throwing three touchdowns and two interceptions under duress. Among the 2018 draft eligible quarterbacks, he ranks fifth when going long, connecting on 18-of-51 deep tosses (35.29%) for 681 yards, eight touchdowns and no interceptions, as his receivers averaged 37.83 yards per catch.

2018 Best Performances

Washington, Southern Mississippi, Tennessee (long ball), Purdue

2018 Worst Performances

Louisiana State, Arkansas, Alabama

Body Structure

Stidham has an adequate sized frame, but needs to add more bulk and strength in order to absorb punishment at the next level. His arms are shorter than ideal and while he has decent mobility, he is not the type that needs to be accounted for running with the ball. He has adequate upper body muscle development with good shoulder and chest thickness to carry additional weight. His lower body frame shows decent thigh and calf thickness.

Athletic Ability

Stidham is a mobile passer with the nimble feet to make all of his throws when rolling out of the pocket. He has good arm strength and accuracy on sideline, screens, slants and crossing routes. He has the valid foot agility speed and balance to be a somewhat of a threat running with the ball, but is not the type that can separate or accelerate into the second level. He shows good body control in his pass set-up. When flushed out of the pocket, he has enough leg drive to break tackles, pull it down and run with the ball. He moves well in the pocket, where he can slide and avoid, showing enough escape-ability to be creative when on the move. He does whatever he can to stay alive in the pocket.

Football Sense

Stidham has a strong, lively arm, but he does not have exceptional timed speed and can be caught from behind when he tries running with the ball. He has decent upper body range of motion and enough footwork to slide and while he’s not really a statue, he’s never going to be a threat running with the ball. He moves effectively when not forced to go long distances and has an athletic throwing motion and quick release that compensates for a lack of great foot speed.

Set Up

Stidham has adequate quickness dropping back from center to his pass-set point. He is able to get good depth due to his fine balance and quick feet, but needs to stay in control and be more conscious of the center exchange to reduce his fumble totals. He carries the ball chest high and is nimble in his set-up. Because of his size and mobility, he is a threat to throw on the move, showing the body control to keep his feet under him and step into his throws properly.

Reading Defenses

It was uncharacteristic to see him force the ball into double coverage, as some felt he was too over-confident in his arm strength or because he seemed to lack patience waiting for his targets to get open, resulting in him taking costly chances. Behind the scenes, most of his struggles this season were due to poor game planning by the coaching staff. As frustration between player and coach set in, Stidham's problems throwing the ball away came when he threw it to dangerous spots on the field where there was no receiver in sight (see Louisiana State, Tennessee games). When he held on to the ball too long, he was forced to improvise and the results were generally not good.

Prior to 2017, he showed good ability with his progression reads and has the field vision to locate secondary targets (saw this return while QBing the South squad at the Senior Bowl). He is a good student who takes plays from the chalkboard to the field with minimal reps. He just seems to lack that innate instinct to recognize backside pressure and will get caught often in the backfield.

Release

The ball comes off Stidham’s hand with decent zip and good touch. He has a nice over-the-top release, but sometimes will wind up (no major issues though). When he uses a compact ¾ release and steps into his throws, his release is much more compact and natural. When he carries the ball too low, it slows down his delivery and gets him a bit off balance. He has enough body control and foot speed to step up in the pocket, but has shown ball security issues when he’s on the move and must do a better job of protecting the ball. He shows the feet needed to separate from under center with consistent back-foot pop-up. He will never be a threat running with the ball, but he generally gets himself into good position to make his deep throws. The thing you see on film is that he demonstrates the feet and balance needed to drive back from center, set up and be in position to unleash the ball in a timely fashion.

Arm Strength

Stidham has the arm strength to make all the throws, showing the power to fire the ball with ease on deep routes. He throws the long ball with decent touch and accuracy, zips the posts and even when he passes off his back foot, he is still able to generate enough velocity. He has a fluid motion throwing down field and can put the ball on a rope if needed. The thing you immediately notice is the way he zips the ball going long, but he needs to show more patience and scan the field better to locate his secondary receivers.

Accuracy

Stidham shows good accuracy with underneath tosses and above average velocity on his deep throws. He has decent touch on his passes and the timing and anticipation skills to hit his receivers in stride. He puts good air behind the short fade routes, knowing when to take something off those throws. He can zip the pass into tight coverage away from the defender, demonstrating good placement. He has adequate timing going over the middle and even better timing on out patterns. When pressured and forced to roll out, he had a little bit of a problem, as his receivers did have to adjust quite a bit (see Louisiana State, Mississippi State, Alabama games).

Touch

Stidham does a nice job of airing the ball out and makes it look easy attacking the deep part of the secondary. He has adequate touch on his deep ball and tries to put it on the outside shoulder of his target. He hits receivers in stride when he sets his feet properly and steps into the ball, but they do have to adjust some when he hurries his passes. He can throw the 30-yard strike with regularity, demonstrating good accuracy. He also shows fine touch on fade routes, screens and short throws. He is not the type that will lock on to just one target and goes through route progressions adequately, but needs to be more patient waiting for his targets to get open.

Poise

While he doesn’t get rattled under pressure, his lack of ball security (fumbles) and the confusing offensive game plan took Stidham out of his element in 2018, resulting in him rushing more than a fair share of throws, resulting in a career-high 41 passes being broken up. He can move the ball with his feet when flushed out of the pocket and will drive hard with his legs to break tackles. When he is given time to throw, he shows patience to allow his receivers to uncover. He is a tough cookie that will stand tall and take a hit, doing a nice job of carrying out fakes. Simply put, he is one of the stronger passers you will find standing in the pocket. He has good courage and confidence in his ability and if he ever gets the protection afforded most quarterbacks, his statistics would soar. He is not prone to panicking and bolting at the first sign of pressure (more out of frustration in 2018, see Arkansas, Texas A&M, Alabama games), and has the foot speed to be a dangerous runner in the open field.

Pocket Movement/Scrambling Ability

Stidham has good movement in the pocket. He is not prone to bolting too early, but at times, he should, as he stands in the pocket taking vicious hits trying to make the pass play because of poor protection throughout his career. But, when he holds on to the ball too long, bad things happen (23 sacks, 37 pressures, four fumbles in 2018). He generally shows good awareness and the ability to slide in the pocket and continue to scan down field. He can escape the rush due to his nimble feet and is instinctive knowing when he has to bail. The thing I like is his ability to maintain his focus under pressure. He can make things happen with his arm, if his offensive line can buy him time.

Compares To

Kirk Cousins-Minnesota Vikings...Like Cousins, Stidham does things good, just not great. Through his college travels (three stops), he has grasped a pro style offense, along with showing good experience in the shotgun and under center. When protected, he displays good accuracy on short and medium passes with good ball placement for the receiver to catch the ball. There is no wasted motion in his release when going long, and he works hard to keep the ball up, thanks to his high release point. It was uncharacteristic his frustrations under pressure last year, but at the Senior Bowl, he consistently kept his eyes down field going through his progressions.

SMALL COLLEGE STANDOUT COULD BE IN NEW ENGLAND'S FUTURE

Easton Stick-#12

North Dakota State University Bison

6:01.2-224

*Agility Tests*...4.62 in the 40-yard dash…1.64 10-yard dash…2.73 20-yard dash…4.05 20-yard shuttle…11.74 60-yard shuttle…6.65 three-cone drill…33 1/2-inch vertical jump…9'-10" broad jump…Bench pressed 225 pounds 20 times…32 1/8-inch arm length…9 1/4-inch hands…76 1/8-inch wingspan.

*Background...*Easton does not mind the comparisons to Carson Wentz, even though the Philadelphia Eagle is a bigger quarterback. Both have thrived because of their championship pedigree - Wentz was on four Bison title winners, starting the last two (2012-15). Stick has led NDSU to three championships, the first, in 2015, relieving an injured Wentz for eight games before the first rounder returned for the final two playoff appearances that year. Stick took the Bison to the finals in 2016, exacting revenge on James Madison by taking the championship away from the 2016 title winners in 2017.

Both Wentz and Stick remain close, with the injured Eagle even calling the junior team captain to offer encouragement after Stick had a three-interception game vs. South Dakota State last season. After the team recovered from a midseason slump, their quarterback played a vital role in the school capturing their sixth national title in the last seven years. Behind his pinpoint accuracy as a passer and slippery moves as a ball carrier, Stick accounted for eleven aerial touchdowns and three scoring scampers during the 2017 NCAA Football Championship Subdivision playoffs to be named National Performer of the Year.

With his third national title secured, Stick is being hailed as the best prospect among offensive skill position players from the FCS level. The NFL Draft Report, that scouting information service also regards the Bison team captain as a player with similar skills to Wentz, the only quarterback ever drafted out of his university and the only Bison to ever be selected in the first round. Barring injury, North Dakota State will have two featured alumni slinging passes in the National Football League next season.

The Bison fielded their first team in 1894 and were originally known as the North Dakota Agricultural College Farmers, later changing to the Aggies. As North Dakota State, they have won fourteen national championships; three as a member of the College Division (precursor of Division II), five as a member of Division II, and six as a member of Division I (FCS). The Bison have been the runner-up three times (1967, 1981, 1984) and have appeared in a total of fifteen national championship games.

The team has compiled a 49-3 record with Stick as a starter, an NCAA Football Championship Sub-division record. The four-time Missouri Valley Football Conference Honor Roll selection is also a three-time MVFC Commissioner's Academic Excellence Award. He boasts a grade point average of 3.91, as he was rightfully accorded 2017 FCS Athletic Directors Association Academic All-Star Team recognition.

He was named to the league's All-Newcomer Team after going 8-0 as a starter in 2015, but despite receiving NCAA Division I Championship Game Most Outstanding Player and CFPA FCS National Performer of the Year accolades, along with All-American recognition in 2017, he was only an All-MVFC honorable mention in 2017 - strange politics?

Prior to attending North Dakota State, Stick and split end R.J. Urzendowski were part of Creighton Prep head coach Chris Nizzi's team, with Stick manning the helm at quarterback the last two seasons. He threw for over 2,000 yards in each of those two seasons, compiling 39 touchdowns vs. just nine interceptions. The two-time team captain also scored 23 times while gaining over 950 yards on the ground.

He helped Creighton Prep advance to the state semifinals as a junior and quarterfinals as a senior.

During the 2013 regular season, he completed 115-of-205 passes (56.1%) for 2,011 yards, seventeen touchdowns and just four interceptions. He rushed 106 times for 481 yards (4.5 ypc), reaching the end zone seven more times. He was named the Offensive MVP of the 2014 Nebraska Shrine Game passing for 124 yards and rushing for 94 yards and a score.

Stick received first-team all-state and Super-State as a senior and was a two-time Academic all-state and all-district choice. The Super Six selection by Omaha World Herald, he finished his career holding the majority of the school's passing records. He was also a member of the baseball team and lettered in track and field.

On the recruiting trail, Stick received consideration from Iowa, Iowa State, Kansas State, Nebraska,

Ohio University, Purdue, South Dakota, South Dakota State, Stanford, Tulsa and Wisconsin before he decided to enroll at North Dakota State. He was part of the Bison travel squad in 2014, but the MVFC Honor Roll did not appear in any games.

Stick opened the 2015 campaign backing up All-American Carson Wentz, but he stepped into the starting lineup near midseason, compiling an 8-0 record before Wentz returned to action late in the playoffs. The Missouri Valley Football Conference All-Newcomer Team choice was also selected the league's Player of the Week after he became the first Bison to rush for over 100 yards during the 2015 schedule, accomplishing that feat in Week Nine vs. Indiana State. He finished with thirteen touchdowns and just four interceptions on 90-of-147 tosses for 1,144 yards, scoring five times on 85 attempts that generated 498 yards.

As a sophomore, Stick took over full-time quarterback duties, leading the team to the FCS title clash vs. James Madison. His 169-of-288 passes both tied for seventh on the school season-record list, tying for fifth with 2,331 aerial yards while holding sole possession of fifth place with nineteen touchdown tosses. His passing efficiency rating of 150.34 is the ninth-best recorded by a Bison in a season. He carried 113 times for 685 yards and seven touchdowns, as his average of 6.06 yards per rushing attempt was the best ever by a Bison quarterback.

The 2017 season was one where North Dakota State set out for revenge, led by their junior team captain. They recaptured the national championship from James Madison, as Stick had an outstanding season. His 28 touchdown tosses are the second-highest season total by a Bison, with his 2,466 aerial yards ranking fourth.

He set the school record and ranks second on the MVFC season chart with a passing efficiency rating of 169.52, 0.01 away from the league mark. He ran for 12 touchdowns on 112 tries, averaging 5.92 yards per attempt, as his forty touchdowns responsible for is the second-highest mark in school annals. His 3,129 yards in total offense holds third place on the Bison season list.

Stick added one more national title to his resume in 2018. He was All-American first-team, according to The NFL Draft Report and the Associated Press, earning second-team honors from the AFCA. The Walter Payton Award finalist was named Missouri Valley Football Conference Offensive Player of the Year and was selected the 2018 NCAA Division I Championship Game Most Outstanding Player.

The quarterback was named to the Allstate AFCA Good Works Team for his work on the field, in the classroom and in the community. He was also a finalist for the National Football Foundation William V. Campbell Trophy, recognizing the top scholar-athlete in college football. He was voted to the Google Cloud Academic All-America second team by CoSIDA, adding MVFC All-Academic first team recognition for the third straight season.

Through fifteen starting assignments, Stick led North Dakota State to its seventh NCAA Division I football national championship in eight years. He finished the season 175-of-281 passing for 2,752 yards and 28 touchdowns. He also rushed 117 times for 677 yards and 17 scores, posting a school-record 45 total touchdowns responsible for and an NDSU single-season record 172.4 pass efficiency rating. His 3,429 yards of total offense were second in team history.

In four NCAA playoff games, he completed 71 percent of his passes going 46 of 65 for 658 yards and six touchdowns. He also led the Bison in rushing attempts in the postseason, carrying 41 times for 275 yards and six scores, averaging 6.7 yards per carry. He accounted for 321 yards of total offense and four touchdowns in the win over Delaware, as he went 17 of 26 passing for 280 yards and rushed five times for 41 yards and two scores.

Stick led a comeback win at Northern Iowa completing nine passes for 179 yards and four touch-downs while running for two scores. He had a school record-tying five touchdown passes all in the first half of the win at Missouri State. He carried 16 times for 147 yards and three touchdowns in the semifinal win over South Dakota State while going 12 of 15 passing for 169 yards and one touchdown. He also rushed 18 times for 121 yards and three touchdowns in the championship win over Eastern Washington.

Through 55 games as a Bison, the dual-purpose quarterback completed 598-of-980 passes (61.02%) for 8,693 yards, 88 touchdowns and just 28 interceptions, as he's averaged 8.87 yards per pass attempt and 14.54 yards per pass completion. As a ball carrier, the senior carried 427 times for 2,523 yards (5.91 ypc) and 41 touchdowns, averaging 45.9 yards per game.

Stick has amassed 11,216 yards in total offense via 1,407 snaps, averaging 7.97 yards per touch and 203.93 yards per game. He has been responsible for 129 touchdowns and additionally, he's recorded four solo tackles, catching one pass for a 1-yard loss, as his lone punt attempt of 21 yards was downed inside the 20-yard line.

As a member of the Missouri Valley Football Conference, Stick's 2,523 yards rushing established a new league record, topping the previous all-time mark of 2,276 yards by DeAndre Smith of Missouri State (2,276; 1987-90). He is also one of twelve conference performers to throw at least sixty touchdowns during a career.

Stick finished as NDSU's career record holder for passing yards (8,693), passing touchdowns (88), total offense yards (11,216), yards per game (203.9), yards per play (7.97) and touchdowns responsible for (129). He ranks second in school history for passing attempts (980), completions (598) and efficiency rating (159.5). He is the MVFC career record holder for rushing yards (2,523) and rushing touchdowns (41) by a quarterback.

NORTH DAKOTA STATE AND THE NFL DRAFT

Since the inception of the draft in 1936, thirty-eight Bison have been selected, with three others chosen in the Canadian Football League phase. The team's only drafted quarterback happens to be their lone first round choice, as Stick's predecessor, Carson Wentz, was the second overall pick in the 2016 draft by the Philadelphia Eagles. Of the thirty-eight NDSU players to hear their names called on draft day, twenty-one never got to suit up in an NFL regular season game. Seven others failed to make a full season's schedule (sixteen appearances).

The first Bison to be drafted was defensive back Ernie Wheeler, a fifth round choice by the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1939. Before leaving for military service after the 1942 campaign, he appeared in ten games, making seven interceptions on defense while completing 5-of-17 passes in a brief audition at quarterback. In 1947, end Jerry Mulready was a 19th round pick by Pittsburgh, but that was his lone season as a pro. The next year, defensive tackle Clarence McGeary went to Green Bay as a 30th round selection (lowest round for a Bison player) in 1950, but he also left the game after twelve appearances that season.

From 1953-73, thirteen Bison players were drafted, but none made it out of training camp. The New England Patriots used the 34th pick to take linebacker Steve Nelson in the second round of the 1974 draft and he would enjoy great success throughout his career (1974-87), starting 171 of the 174 games he appeared in, recording seventeen interceptions in the NFL. From 1974-84, six more Bison were drafted, but the only one to play pro ball was 1981 Jets seventh rounder, Kevin Donnalley, who appeared for six snaps in one contest.

Stacy Robinson enjoyed some success in five NFL seasons. The receiver joined the New York Giants in the second round of the 1985 draft and gained 749 yards with seven touchdowns on 48 catches while appearing in 43 contests. Tyrone Braxton was a 12th round find by Denver in 1987 and until the defensive back hung up his helmet in 1999, he had started 132 of 181 games and tallied 36 interceptions. Tailback Chad Stark played two games in 1987 as a 12th round pick by the Giants, but never carried the ball. Running back Doug Lloyd played in one game for the Raiders as a 1991 sixth rounder, but he also never touched the pigskin.

Defensive end Phil Hansen joined Stacy Robinson and Steve Nelson as the only second round choices out of the Bison program. The 54th overall pick by Buffalo in 1991, he started 148-of-156 games until a back injury forced him to retire after the 2001 season. A third round pick by the Rams in 2002, tailback Lamar Gordon amassed 774 yards rushing while catching 62 passes over five campaigns. Linebacker Joe Mays played in 78 games from 2008-15 after Philadelphia chose him in the 2008 draft.

Billy Turner was also a third round choice, going to Miami in 2014, but the offensive tackle has led a journeyman's existence, joining several teams the last four years, but has appeared in only 24 games. Kyle Emanuel was recently elevated to the first unit after the linebacker was taken by the Chargers in the fifth round of the 2015 draft. In the same year that Wentz was the second overall pick, offensive tackle Joe Haeg was the 155th, taken in round five by Indianapolis and going on to start 29 of his 31 appearances.

*The Scouting Report*

*Athletic Ability*...Stick may lack the ideal height teams covet in tall quarterbacks, but he has an athletic frame built to absorb punishment while also dishing it out as a ball carrier. He displays good arm length with developed chest and shoulder muscle definition, good bubble with thick thighs and calves. Stick has a tight midsection and a good core, as he can easily carry more bulk with no loss of his impressive quickness.

Stick has good athletic skills. He is quicker than he is fast, but thanks to his flexibility and balance, he does a good job of avoiding the pass rush. He shows the vision to locate the cutback lanes when flushed out of the pocket and is a good open field runner with the leg drive to break tackles. He is more effective throwing on the move due to his lateral movement skills, making him an ideal candidate for a West Coast offense. He has good lower body explosion on the move to make the initial tackler miss and a fluid over-the-top throwing motion. He has average arm strength, but demonstrates good accuracy throwing on the roll-out. His coordination and balance makes him a threat with his feet, as he is capable of escaping the bull rush.

*Football Sense*...Stick has no problems digesting a complicated playbook. He has more than enough grasp of the system and takes the play from the chalkboard to the field with minimal reps. He will not force the ball into the crowd and with his quick feet, he is able to buy time in the pocket and scan the field to locate secondary targets. He is capable of making proper reads vs. zone coverage, but will get into trouble at times when he tries to create something out of nothing. His ability to recognize coverage and make hot reads has kept his interceptions to a minimum, but ball security could be a problem, as he has coughed up the ball, mostly on sacks and naked bootlegs, six times last year. His ability to learn, retain and execute plays results in big plays for the team, but you wonder what he can do vs. top level competition, as postseason all-star games will litmus test and will impact his overall draft status.

*Set Up*...Stick shows good footwork and body control once he receives the snap. He has good foot quickness and is very agility moving around the backfield. He is the type that will not look to run at the first sign of pressure, but he has the strength to absorb pocket punishment. He has a quick release and has worked hard to show more patience and locating his secondary targets better before bolting on his own. Even though he operates mostly in the spread offense, he has taken a good portion of snaps in the classic formation and shows that he has the ability to drive back from center quickly as a pocket passer. With his quickness, playing in either formation should not be a problems once he gets a few more reps and becomes comfortable doing so under center. He can reach his throwing point with a normal stride and has the body control and agility needed to drive back from center quickly. When he steps into his throws, he is ready to unleash in an instant, doing a nice job sliding in and out of the pocket.

*Reading Defenses*...Stick is a good decision maker, when given time to scan the field. Yes, he does like to tuck the ball and run with it more than he should, but he does a decent job with his check-downs and is quick to read safeties and go over the top of coverage to complete passes with regularity. He does a nice job of scanning and looking off to locate his secondary targets and he is the type that will run with the ball rather than throw it away when his targets are covered, but there are those times when you will see him force the pass into traffic rather than take the sack. He needs to be more alert to backside pressure and must do a better job of distributing the ball and keeping it away from the defender to avoid costly sacks moving around the backfield. He is just the type that will work within the coaching system and take whatever the defense gives him. He seems to be more effective in the team’s “dink-&-dunk” system, but has the ability when throwing long (34 completions were for twenty yards or longer), as his arm strength is an asset. He looks very effective reading off coverage and does a solid job on underneath throws, play action and when executing up the seam.

*Release*...Stick has a quick over-the-top delivery with enough trajectories to get the balls over the head of defenders without getting many passes batted down at the line of scrimmage. He shows solid arm whip, but you still want to see more attempts to see if he has the NFL caliber power needed to be consistent on his long tosses. His velocity is much better when throwing short, but he has good finesse when going underneath or on play action and is always alert to secondary targets in attempts to stretch the field. He throws a tight spiral, even when having to go deep. He is not the type that needs a big wind-up to deliver the ball and it is rare to see his long throws will wobble some. He has good quickness in his release and while he’s not a long-arm thrower, he is quick to load. Under pressure, he knows how to get the ball off with better quickness, showing fluidness and smoothness in his release with no wasted motion.

*Arm Strength*...Stick is good at moving the chains and when he sets his feet properly and steps into his long throws, the ball will feather into the receiver's hands without his target having to break stride. He has shown very good zip on his 12-to-15-yard throws also. He is comfortable throwing on the move, rarely getting off-balanced and is conscious of not throwing off his back foot. He can step into his tosses to get air behind his deep ball, but the system used at the school calls for him to work underneath more than to be in a vertical attack. He can put good zip on his intermediate tosses and his long ball has good touch and trajectory. He appears to have good deep out and comeback strength to put more “umph” when trying to attack the deep zone. His passes show good ball rotation in the short area and his long ball fires out fast enough to keep the receiver from breaking off the route. He is a good outside hash thrower, but you just wish the NDSU system would open it up more to see if he has the valid vertical arm strength NFL teams require. Still, if you break down his deep passing game, you can see that Stick does a nice job when throwing across the body and while the long ball is not used often (team was lacking receivers needed to stretch the field), he has more than enough arm strength to air it out, putting the desired zip on the ball to get the ball deep throwing from the opposite hash.

*Accuracy*...This is his best asset. In the short passing game, Stick puts the ball where the receiver can catch it. He throws a catch-able ball with zip or touch and does a nice job of keeping the receiver in the route. He is not the type that forces the receiver to adjust on crossing patterns and he knows how to take something off his passes when dumping off, as he can also drop the ball over the top. He showed better touch in 2018 on flares than he did in the past. He can also air it out well on his deep throws. When going long. Stick gets good velocity and timing behind his throws. He appears to have the valid arm power needed to lead the receivers going deep, as he can put good touch on those throws. When airing the ball out the last two years, Stick showed good improvement with his trajectory (in the past, when going long on the move, he did make his receivers adjust a bit). He has good touch on screen, along with zip on slants and hitches. He knows he has the arm power to lay it over the top deep down the seam and along the boundaries, but you'd just wish the coaches would let him go vertical more often.

*Touch*...Stick shows good anticipation and timing with the awareness, field smarts and athletic agility to slide or step up in the pocket to buy time. He has better timing when taking a three-step drop, but may hold the ball a little too long, resulting in sacks when he takes a longer (five-step) drop. He has developed a nice feel and awareness to anticipate when the receivers are coming out of their cuts. He makes good adjustments at the line of scrimmage. He was groomed on the short-to-intermediate passing game earlier in his career and that helped him develop a nice feel for fitting the ball into tight spaces. His deep throws do not hang in the air long, and he is becoming much more precise when leading the receiver on crossing routes.

*Poise*...Stick shows fine poise in the pocket and demonstrates the presence to stand tall in the pocket. He is confident in his passing mechanics and continued to improve throughout the last two seasons. He does a good job of scanning down field and shows enough pocket movement awareness to find the lanes when flushed out. In 2018, he was much more effective throwing the ball away when his targets were covered. In the past, he would hold on to the ball too long, resulting in either interceptions or a costly fumble on the sack. He now demonstrates a much better feel for the pass rush. With his athletic ability, he can easily slide and buy time, keeping his eyes down field rather than panic and bolt before the play can develop. His durability is off the charts, considering the high amount of sacks he’s taken, but even under fierce pocket pressure, he knows he has the ability to place accurate balls under the rush and stand there to take the hit.

*Pocket Movement/Scrambling Ability*...Stick can do a pretty decent job of avoiding the pass rush, but there are times that he will leave the ball too exposed when on the move. He can throw on the run, as his slight mechanical refinement has seen him do a much better job of squaring his shoulders when delivering the ball during his junior season. He plays on his feet and it is rare to see him lose even some of his accuracy when throwing on the move. He is to be considered a running threat with his feet, as he has more than enough avoidance skills to get out of the pocket. He has good body control, and throwing on the move has become his forte. Out in the open, he has enough elusiveness to gain positive yardage and is a valid running threat past the second level (gets yardage after initial contact and has a second gear). He can make the throw without setting his feet, thanks to his accuracy firing from the outside hash. He knows how to square his shoulders to his left or right and pass with accuracy. He can hurt an opponent with his mobility and throws with ease when on the move.

*Compares To*...Dak Prescott-Dallas Cowboys...Stick is respected by his teammates and praised by the coaching staff for his ability to work within the system. He knows he can make things happen with his feet and that makes the opponent account for him at all times. He is a good “soldier” on the field, but in the NFL, you want to see him go vertical more often than he has at NDSU, but you can see he has the valid arm to make those throws and he has a good feel for defensive schemes to make quick pre-snap adjustments.

RICHARD THOMAS "Trace" McSORLEY III-#9

The Penn State University Nittany Lions

6:00.1-204

*Agility Tests*...4.57 in the 40-yard dash…1.51 10-yard dash…2.55 20-yard dash…4.12 20-yard shuttle…10.91 60-yard shuttle…7.09 three-cone drill…33-inch vertical jump…9'-07" broad jump…Bench pressed 225 pounds 18 times…31-inch arm length…9 1/8-inch hands…72 3/8-inch wingspan.

*Background*...In a land where behemoth quarterbacks are what the football gods desire, you have to look at the long standing success of New Orleans' Drew Brees, the emergence of Seattle's Russell Wilson and the vast potential that has caused a rise in playing time for Cleveland's Baker Mayfield, that not every National Football League team buys into the thought that you need a six-foot, five-inch quarterback running your offense.

Don't call that trio a bunch of little guys, for they will show you their numbers on the field translate into success. Sure, it seems like they play with a bit of a chip on their shoulders, knowing that they have to prove each week that big things come in small packages. Still, if you ask around the league, most coaches would sacrifice their starters to receive one of the three mentioned above in a trade package.

Penn State has to thank McSorley, and his sensational performance, for actually improving his team's ranking after losses of so many players from the previous season. What McSorley is most proud of is the team's overall success, despite playing without such vital weaponry from the 2017 season that featured All-Americans Saquon Barkley and Mike Gesicki.

On offense, only three players were lined up for the 2018 season opener at the same position they played at to close the 2017 campaign. What makes their 9-4 record even more impressing in the fact that McSorley has had to perform wearing a cumbersome brace on his right knee the last five contests after he was injured vs. Iowa. He also played behind an offensive line that yielded 42 sacks, ranking 80th among 129 major colleges, when it comes to protecting their quarterback.

When one looks at the quarterback's body of work through his final season at Penn State, McSorley will be the first to tell you that this is a team effort, not one of individual success. Yet, he completed 192-of-361 passes (53.19%) for 2,530 yards, eighteen touchdowns and only seven interceptions, averaging 194.62 aerial yards per game - his lowest figures during his three seasons as a starter.

With so many fresh faces on offense and lacking the slew of All-Americans he had at his disposal in 2016-17, McSorley still managed to lead the Big Ten Conference, as the opportunistic quarterback led the league by averaging 13.18 yards per pass completion. He fell eight yards short of setting the school season rushing record for quarterbacks, gaining 798 yards, but his 1,697 yards on the ground established a position career record. His twelve touchdown runs in 2018 and thirty scoring scampers at State College also established new Nittany Lions marks.

Others might see a young team that sans the elite tools that McSorley had to work with during the 2016-17 campaigns, but the three-time team captain will have none of that talk - this is a team sport - he reminds anyone who asks. Throughout the season, he was their guiding light. Even though the team ranked 45th in total offense (423.23 ypg), McSorley got them to light up the scoreboards to the tune of 439 points, third in the league and 32nd nationally.

Inside the red zone is where he excelled, converting 50-of-54 drives into points, the second-best percentage (.9259) in the Big Ten and sixth in the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision ranks.

The offense placed 107th nationally with a pass completion percentage of .541, yet are just second in the Big Ten (32nd nationally with eight interceptions thrown.

What talent evaluators see are the "hidden numbers" produced by the senior quarterback this season, as 58.44% of McSorley's pass completions were good for first downs (112-of-192). 52.08% of his completions gained at least ten yards (100-of-192) and 26.04% of those successful tosses were for twenty yards or longer (50-of-192).

McSorley recorded a 21.88 vertical passing game ratio (amount of negative plays - 28 sacks, three fumbles, seven interceptions, 42 pass deflections vs. number of pass attempts - 79-of-361). He used his array of weapons, averaging a connection with 6.38 different Penn State players catching passes from him in a game (83 in thirteen contests).

The team captain accounted for 35.29% of the team's rushing touchdowns (12-of-34) and 26.50% of the rushing yardage (798-of-3,011). He also generated 60.49% of the offense's total yardage (3,328-of-5,502) in 2018. He compiled 89.24% of the team's passing yards (2,530-of-2,835) and 85.71% of the team's touchdown tosses (18-of-21). He was responsible for 59.68% of the offensive team's points (262-of-439) and was responsible for 54.55% of the squad's offensive touchdowns (30-of-55).

Those are the "hidden numbers" that speak volumes for McSorley's importance to his team, a young unit that features two new starting wide receivers, a different tight end and a three-year back-up now the featured tailback. Blocking for the quarterback were just two linemen returning to the same position they played during the 2017 campaign. As Dave Matthews sings in one of his songs, McSorley is taking advantage of "the best that is still around" from that squad he served as field general/traffic cop last season.

If records are made to be broken, McSorley certainly shattered most, if not all of the school's passing and total offense mark during his final campaign. The team captain also rode a 35-game streak where he threw for at least one touchdown, and yes, that is a school record. He also holds the Nittany Lions' all-time mark with 77 touchdown passes and 107 touchdowns responsible for through forty starting assignments in forty-seven contests at State College.

McSorley holds the distinction for being the only player in school history with multiple 3,000-yard passing games. That comes from back-to-back seasons where he set the annual record with 3,614 aerial yards in 2016, taking over the second spot on that record list with 3,570 yards as a junior. While his passing success is well recognized, he is also a dangerous threat with his feet, setting the season-record for quarterbacks by running into the end zone twelve times in 2018 after first tying the old record with eleven scoring scampers in 2017. He also leaves as the school's rushing yardage leader (1,697) for quarterbacks.

The consummate team leader, McSorley has proven time and time again that size does not matter. The six-foot ball of energy led his team to back-to-back eleven-win campaigns. For a school that began playing football in 1887, the Nittany Lions have reached that victory level in consecutive seasons just four other times - 1968/69; 1977/78; 1985/86 (twelve wins in '86); and 2008/09.

This pinpoint passer has proven that he is a valid NFL prospect, evident by his accomplishments during his three years as a starter. He holds the school career-record with a passing efficiency rating of 144.50 and attained a 153.7 rating in 2017, which rank third on the PSU annual chart. If you use the NFL Quarterback Ratings system, McSorley posted a mark of 104.44 in 2017 and boasts a 97.96 NFL rating for his college career. You might ask yourself how impressive that number is. Well, just thirty-nine NFL quarterbacks have ever recorded a higher number than McSorley attained in 2017. In fact, just one quarterback had a better rating in 2017 - Washington's Alex Smith (104.7).

Accomplishing a rare event is nothing new for the Auburn, Virginia youngster. Brian Woods High School, he was what the sports world calls a "unicorn" - a four year prep starter. Each year, he led the Falcons to the Virginia State Championship four times, going home the victors in three of those contests. He compiled a 55-5 record, amassing more than 12,000 yards of total offense and 150 career touchdowns. The two-time team captain also registered nearly one hundred tackles and eight interceptions during his junior and senior seasons.

Much like he is doing at Penn State, McSorley set almost all of his school’s passing records. Just a freshman, he guided the Falcons to a 13-2 record and a state title, throwing for 2,201 yards with nineteen touchdowns, in addition to scoring six times on the ground. The team captured another state title during his sophomore season, as the Falcons won all but one of fifteen contests and McSorley contributed 2,064 yards and 23 touchdowns passing, along with running for 264 yards and ten scores.

By his junior season, McSorley was seeing recruiters on an almost weekly basis. He guided the team to their third consecutive state title and was named the Virginia Division IV Class 5A Player of the Year. He was also chosen first-team and Region II Player of the Year, first-team All-Dulles District at quarterback and second-team all-district at defensive back. He connected on 67.7% of his passes (155-of-229) as he accounted for 2,605 aerial yards (2,294 during the regular season). He threw for 35 touchdowns vs. just five interceptions, adding 745 yards (559 on 80 carries during the regular season) with nine more scores. He also recorded 30 tackles, gaining 111 yards on six interception returns and also pooch-punted twice in 2012.

If recruiters were impressed by his junior prep season, McSorley dazzled them with his "can you top this" senior campaign. He was named Virginia Class 5A first-team all-state, All-Northern Region and All-Potomac District at quarterback and defensive back. He was also selected the Northern Virginia Region and Potomac District Offensive Player of the Year after throwing for 3,252 yards on 209-of-343 tosses that included 36 touchdowns, averaging 15.5 yards per pass completion. On the ground, the Chesapeake Bowl participant tallied 879 yards with thirteen scores on 115 carries (7.6 ypc). On defense, he was credited with 47 tackles, picking off two passes to go with three fumble recoveries. All three of his pooch punts were downed inside the 20-yard line and he advanced a blocked punt 13 yards.

The consensus three-star recruit decided to enroll at Penn State, where he was joined by one of his favorite targets at Briar Woods High, Brandon Polk. Rated one of the state's best gridiron players, McSorley added letters in basketball (team compiled an 18-7 record during the 2011-12 season) and lacrosse during his prep days.

As is the "rights of passage" at most universities, especially when it comes to quarterbacks, McSorley did not see the field for Penn State after he enrolled at the university for the 2014 season.

The coaches were impressed with his skills running the scout team and he also put forth that extra effort in the classroom, as he earned Dean's List accolades for the fall semester.

Through the first two games on the 2015 season schedule, the Academic All-Big Ten Conference selection had the cleanest uniform on the team, with "DNP" listed next to his name on the box scores. He would make his collegiate debut in the Nittany Lions' third contest, vs. Rutgers and would appear in seven games, completing half of his forty pass attempts for 185 yards and a pair of touchdowns, including his first career scoring pass to Geno Lewis in the TaxSlayer Bowl vs. Georgia.

When 2015 season starter, Christian Hackenberg, decided to leave the Penn State program as an early entry in the NFL Draft, it was McSorley who quickly seized the opportunity to play with the first unit. He would not only lead the team to an 11-3 record that included the Nittany Lions beat Wisconsin for the Big Ten title, but he also became the first Penn State quarterback to register three-straight games throwing four touchdown passes since Todd Blackledge accomplished that feat in 1982, with Temple, Maryland and Rutgers falling victim to the new starting quarterback.

McSorley's ball distribution was astounding, as he threw touchdown passes to ten different receivers, marking the first time since 1971 a Penn State quarterback found ten-plus pass catchers for scores. His seven rushing touchdowns were the most by a Penn State quarterback since Daryll Clark had seven in 2009. His 365 rushing yards in 2016 were the most by a Penn State quarterback since Michael Robinson (806 yards) in 2005.

McSorley led all NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision passers in yards per completion (16.13 ypc). He also paced the Big Ten and was 13thn the FBS in passing efficiency (156.9). His 3,614 yards that included 29 touchdowns set school season-records, as he completed 57.9% of his attempts (224-of-387). He was named to the ESPN.com Big Ten All-Bowl Team and earned the Grange-Griffin Most Valuable Player award as MVP of the Big Ten Championship Game. He also became the first Penn State quarterback since Daryll Clack in 2009 to be named to the All-Big Ten Conference team.

Serving as team captain in 2017, McSorley set the school season record with 284 completed passes, attempting to throw 427 times (third on the season chart), as his 3,570 yards took the second spot on PSU's annual record chart, also placing second with 28 touchdowns. He established a new position record with eleven touchdown runs and broke the old annual record by becoming the first Nittany Lion to register 4,000 yards in total offense (4,061).

While McSorley received All-American consideration and was named a finalist for the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award and Manning Award, along with being selected a semifinalist for the Davey O'Brien Award, it was the team's remarkable success converting third-down plays that is a true testament to his ability to engineer a multiple offensive scheme.

In 2016, PSU ranked 117th of 129 major colleges, converting just 56-of-172 third downs (32.56%). In 2017 the team finished fifth in the nation and second in the Big Ten Conference with a 47.95% success rate (82-of-171). The finished 49th in the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision ranks in total offense during the 2016 campaign (432.6 ypg), but in 2017, they improved to 19th nationally with an average of 460.31 yards per game, second in the conference.

In 2017, 58.10% of McSorley's pass completions were good for first downs (165-of-284). 44.71% of his completions gained at least ten yards (127-of-284). 16.55% of those successful tosses were for twenty yards or longer (47-of-284) He recorded a 17.56 vertical passing game ratio (amount of negative plays - sacks, fumbles, interceptions, break-ups vs. number of pass attempts - 75-of-427).

McSorley has appeared in 47 games for Penn State, starting his last forty contests. He completed 720-of-1,215 passes (59.26%) for 9,899 yards, 77 touchdowns and 25 interceptions, adding 1,697 yards and thirty scores on 473 rushing attempts (3.59 ypc). He has participated in 1,688 plays that generated 11,596 yards in total offense (210.62 ypg), as he was responsible for 107 touchdowns and compiled a passing efficiency rating of 144.50, along with a quarterback rating (NFL scale) of 97.96.

In his forty games as a starter, McSorley led the Nittany Lions to a 31-9 record (.775 winning percentage, hitting on 700-of-1175 attempts (59.57%) for 9,714 yards, 75 touchdowns and only 25 interceptions, averaging 242.85 aerial yards per game for the first unit. He also collected 1,654 yards with thirty touchdowns on 460 rushing attempts, averaging 41.35 yards on the ground as a starter, along with compiling 11,368 yards on 1,635 offensive snaps (284.2 yards per game).

McSorley was one of five league passers to ever record a passing efficiency rating of 150.0 or better, ranking fifth with a 150.79 rating. The record is 157.1 by Ohio State's Troy Smith (2003-06), followed by Northwestern's Dan Persa (155.0; 2009-11) and Scott Tolzien of Wisconsin (153.2; 2008-10). Joe Germaine of Ohio State round out this group (151.0; 1996-98).

With a 6-yard touchdown pass in the second quarter of the Rutgers game, McSorley reached the 100 touchdowns-responsible-for mark, becoming the third player in Big Ten Conference history to go over the "century" mark, joining Purdue's Drew Brees and Ohio State's J.T. Barrett. His career total to 77 passing touchdowns moved him past Chuck Long of Iowa (74; 1981-85) for fourth in Big Ten annals behind J.T. Barrett of Ohio State (104; 2014-17), Drew Brees of Purdue (90; 1997-2000) and Chad Henne of Michigan (87; 2004-07).

McSorley's career passing total to 9,899 yards ranks seventh in league annals, surpassed by Drew Brees of Purdue (1026-of-1,678 passes for 11,792 yards; 1997-2000), Curtis Painter of Purdue (987-of-1,648 attempts for 11,163 yards; 2005-08), Adam Weber of Minnesota (909-of-1,594 for 10,917; 2007-10), Brett Basanez of Northwestern (913-of-1,584 for 10,580; 2002-05), Chuck Long of Iowa (782-of-1,203 for 10,461; 1981-85) and Mark Herrmann of Purdue (772-of-1,309 for 9,946; 1977-80).

*The Scouting Report*

*Athletic Ability*...McSorley is short in stature, but possesses an athletic frame with adequate arm length. He has enough room on his frame to increase his bulk by ten-to-fifteen pounds, but any more weight might impact his impressive quickness. He has lean muscular structure, but good shoulder width and developing thigh and calf muscles.

McSorley is an outstanding athlete for his position when operating from the spread. He might not have the blazing speed of a Michael Vick or the size of Vince Young, but his feet and strong throwing arm make him a viable threat to score on the ground or throwing the ball. He has good foot quickness and agility to throw on the move, showing the body control and balance to break tackles or avoid the defender with his explosive second gear to accelerate into the second level.

His ability to scramble allows him to stay alive rolling out of the pocket, as well as put the ball away and run with it when his targets are covered (see Appalachian State, Kent State, Ohio State, Indiana games). He is an above average option quarterback with good arm strength when scrambling. He shows good flexibility and burst running with the ball, displaying excellent ease-of-movement to get to top speed in an instant.

*Football Sense*... McSorley has very good field savvy, vision and decision making. He puts in the extra hours studying film and his low interception ration indicates that he has a good feel for route progressions and locating secondary targets. He takes the plays from the chalkboard to the playing field easily and demonstrates above average instincts scanning the field. He is capable of handling the mental aspect of the game, as he makes all of the required reads and checks to excel in a pass-oriented offense. He is very alert to defensive coverage and not the type to force the throw, evident by his career interception percentage (2.08%).

*Set Up*...With his body control, agility and hip flexibility, McSorley is quick driving back from center, doing a nice job of setting his feet in either 3-step or 5-step drops. He gets to his throwing point fluidly and has the balance to make all the throws on the run. He is nimble and agile rolling out of the pocket and has the balance to step up and avoid pocket pressure. His speed to his throwing point allows him to surprise the lethargic defender, but there are times where he gets too flat-footed stepping into his tosses, which were quite noticeable beginning with the Indiana game.

He might need to improve his lower body technique, as his stride length can get a bit too long and he must be alert to making sure it falls just outside of the target line. The short stride that he keeps allows him to remain upright and over the top in his delivery, but there are times when he has a problem keeping their elbow above his shoulder and this can prevent him from having the nice high release.

One solution could be to shorten his stride by one-half of the length of his foot to start and see if that raises his release point. Another point two concerning the stride deals with landing the stride just outside of the target line and McSorley must show consistency in attempts to clear his hips and point them at the target while keeping the front hip from blocking the torso. This blocking of the torso inevitably causes his arm to slide away from the shoulder and body. To keep the flight of the football on a consistent line a more over-hand release is preferred.

*Reading Defenses*...McSorley is confident in his ability to make all of his throws. He needs to work on his timing a bit, but has the vision to scan the field and make good progression reads. His low interception ratio indicates that his vision and patience won’t get the team into trouble with costly turnovers. He will get a bit over-confident and fire the ball into tight coverage, but knows how to get the ball to his deep targets over their outside shoulder without the receiver having to adjust (see Pittsburgh, Kent State, Illinois games). While patient waiting for the plays to develop, he is not the type that will hold on to the ball too long and then try to force the action to make the play, as he knows when he needs to throw the ball away. One thing you quickly notice on film is that he is not only innovative, but quite creative with his feet when the pocket collapses.

*Release*...McSorley demonstrates the compact delivery and throwing motion, along with the wrist flick, to get the ball out cleanly and quickly. He has a compact motion, holding the ball chest-high to execute a fluid ¾ release. He gets the ball through the throwing arc well and has a lively arm, along with the ability and sense to know when to vary his speed. He plants well to throw and the pass comes out with a tight spiral, putting a nice spin behind his long tosses. He displays very good quickness in his delivery, rarely showing even a hint of a wind-up. He is effective at planting his feet before throwing, but will throw off his back foot at times, taking some velocity off his passes. He is quick to load and while he does not appear to be a long-ball thrower, he is very efficient at moving the chains.

*Arm Strength*...Maybe this scout needs a new pair of glasses, as I do not see an issue with his long ball execution, as the sphere rarely is feathered or hangs too long for the defender to get under. While I would not call his arm strength his most impressive trait, especially considering his lack of ideal size, I feel that McSorley can easily make every NFL throw, showing the ability to drive the football to the sideline on a line from the opposite hash. While that play is not called often, when it is, you can see he can send the ball 40-50 yards downfield with a flick of his wrist. He shows a tight spiral and the precision to get the ball through tight spaces when he sets his feet and does not stand flat-footed.

He generates good velocity on his mid-range throws and has a really nice feel on those intermediate routes. When he does fail to put better zip behind his deep outs, the ball can hang when going long, but noticing him in practice, he can easily throw 50 yards downfield without putting too much “umph” behind his tosses. He shows very good ball rotation and solid strength behind his comeback routes. Most NFL teams vision him as a West Coast-type of passer, as he excels when working on moving the chains with short patterns, and he has good mechanics, as his spiral is tight on most deep throws and he can generate good air behind his fades.

*Accuracy*...Perhaps due to new targets or the mid-season knee injury, but McSorley is not as accurate with his deep ball like he was the previous two seasons. He likes to air the ball out more than stay underneath, as he knows how to get the ball to his targets in stride rather than have them wait or come back for it, as he shows outstanding placement that allows him to zip his throws through tight coverage. He shows solid timing and consistency moving the chains and takes what the defense gives him rather than going for the “home run” ball at every opportunity. He has nice touch throwing in the short-to-intermediate areas and threads the needle well. He is very good connecting with his receivers when on the move and on touch throws, doing a nice job of threading the needle when throwing into tight areas.

*Touch*...McSorley flashes good touch and accuracy, even when going deep (more inconsistent on long throws though). The offense is more designed for the short-to-intermediate game, but he has confidence in his arm strength to make all the throws. He appears to have good ability when reading the defense and making proper adjustments at the line of scrimmage and the vision needed to scan the field. He looks off the defense and distributes the ball well, utilizing all of his receivers with effectiveness. He is quick to look off his primary target and go through progressions. He is good at hitting his receivers in stride and over his target’s outside shoulder.

He is effective connecting on corner routes from the far hash, doing a nice job of making his receivers look good. He can throw on the move with ease and shows the touch to make soft and accurate tosses, especially when laying the ball over the top. His placement and accuracy with the short and intermediate throws is what separates him from most of this draft crop. He is just not going to look pretty in attempts to go long. He throws a lot from the outside hash, as he has the lateral agility to avoid and is usually flushed out of the pocket anyway behind a suspect offensive line.

*Poise*... McSorley has good field awareness and does not bail, unless necessary, despite having good confidence in his feet. He maintains good poise under pressure stepping up in the pocket and shows good patience, taking the punishment in order to allow his receivers to uncover. Simply put, he finds ways to win and move the team. He remains confident on the field and has good presence on the move. In game film review, you do not see him ever panicking, despite facing heavy pressure behind a mediocre offensive line. It is not in his nature to throw the ball up when the pocket collapses, thanks largely to his uncanny feel for pressure.

*Pocket Movement/Scrambling Ability*... McSorley is not the type that panics in the pocket. Even though he will bolt too much to suit most people, it is usually because of protection breakdowns. He might not have great timed speed, but his balance and body control let him be productive when he decides to tuck the ball and run with it. He will not be able to win foot races into the second level, but has enough leg drive to break arm tackles to gain some positive yardage. He does show quickness in his slide and to reset, but sometimes throws flat-footed.

He is not the type that will sit too long at the X’s, as he somehow finds a way to adjust on the move, but he just does not look pretty doing this. He can sense the pocket collapsing and will keep his head up and step up and sacrifice his body to make the completion. He continues to look down field and is good at eluding pressure. It is very hard for the defender to lock on to McSorley due to his natural awareness and he poses a real threat for the opponent with his quick feet when flushed out. He can avoid the sack and buy a second chance, showing the ability to create out of a complete breakdown in protection.

*Compares To*...Russell Wilson-Seattle Seahawks...Maybe it is because he lost some valuable tools to work with (Mike Gesicki, Saquon Barkley), McSorley has seen a dip in his accuracy this year, but he's a gutsy performer, like Wilson, evident by his recent performances while wearing a cumber-some brace to protect a right knee injury. He can be a stellar passer, as he shows arm strength and accuracy when he is able to deliver the ball without a hitch. He has outstanding football intelligence, but at his height teams, will have concerns whether or not he can see to make the throws at the next level.

McSorley is a mechanical mover who has strong technique and leadership qualities. He has been a bit inconsistent in his drop step, but he thoroughly understands how to move within the pocket and evade when the pocket collapses. He is an athlete who can torque his body to make any sort of throw on the run, but must be more accurate in this setting. He shows command of the offense. He has the needed arm strength to make the deep throws and the touch to put it on a receiver in stride, but is more effective when scrambling.

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