THE NFL DRAFT REPORT PRESENTS

THE TOP PERFORMERS IN THE 2019 OFFENSIVE TACKLE CLASS

THE CONSENSUS FROM SCOUTS IS THIS GATOR IS THE BEST TACKLE IN THE DRAFT

Jawaan Taylor-#65

University of Florida Gators

6:05.0-312

*Agility Tests*...5.46 in the 40-yard dash…1.83 10-yard dash…3.07 20-yard dash…4.68 20-yard shuttle…7.67 three-cone drill…Bench pressed 225 pounds 24 times…35 1/8-inch arm length…10-inch hands…85 1/8-inch wingspan...Note-A hamstring issue prevented Taylor from working out at the NFL Scouting Combine. Figures are from 2018 spring camp.

*Background*...A teammate of current Florida defensive back Chauncey Gardner-Johnson at Cocoa High School, Taylor was his own worst enemy in his battle of the bulge. Despite being a Florida Class 4A first-team All-State pick as a senior and leading his team to a 10-3 record, as they reached the Class 4A State Semifinals, recruits were worried that his health could be affected.

Tipping the scales at over 380 pounds when he hit the recruiting trails, Taylor first committed to the University of Miami, but later enrolled at Florida. Soon down to 347 pounds by the end of 2016 fall camp, Taylor went on to started all but one of thirteen games at right tackle that year, becoming the only freshman lineman to start a game for the Gators that year.

Taylor would garner Freshman All-American honors by ESPN.com, FWAA and Pro Football Focus. He was also selected to the Southeastern Conference's All-Freshman team by the league's coaches. He participated in 819 total snaps, including 412 pass plays, allowing six sacks, fourteen quarter-back pressures and three QB hits while being penalized five times.

Due to early season weather issues forcing a game cancellation, Taylor appeared in eleven contests in 2017. He started the first nine games at right tackle before shifting to the left side for the final two games on the schedule. Florida suffered through a losing campaign, missing the bowl season, as their front wall allowed 37 sacks, 73.0 tackles behind the line of scrimmage and 44 pressures. In 716 plays, 336 for the ground game, Taylor was penalized five times, yielding three sacks, two quarter-back hits and fifteen pressures.

Despite the scouts love for Taylor in 2018, it was a penalty-plagued season for the now 328-pound right tackle, as the second team All-SEC pick and conference Academic Honor Roll student was flagged twelve times. Yet, he allowed just one of the eighteen sacks given up by the Gator front wall, a figure that placed Florida third in the league and 20th in the nation. He was also charged with eight pressures, but no Gators quarterback was hit behind Taylor's blocking that consisted of 805 snaps for the season.

Taylor would later declare for the draft, having started 36-of-37 games at Florida. Each year, he was conscious of his weight, going from 347 at enrollment to 340 as a freshman, 334 as a sophomore and 328 last season. Despite his hamstring strain that prevented him from participating in Combine drills, he impressed teams when he stepped on to the scales in Indianapolis at 312 pounds.

The junior finished his career by participating in 2,340 offensive plays - 1,141 in pass protection and 1,137 for the ground attack. He was penalized 22 times, giving up ten quarterback sacks and 37 pressures while allowing Gators passers to be hit just five times from his right tackle spot.

*The Scouting Report*

*Athletic Ability*...Taylor is a long-limbed athlete with wide hips, very big bubble, thick thighs and calves, broad shoulders and adequate muscle definition. He is big-boned type who has to be conscious of his weight, as he did play at 380 pounds at one point, yet showed up at the Combine close to seventy pounds under his freshman reporting weight.

Still, Taylor shows very good agility and balance for a player his size. He has functional foot speed and quickness getting out of his stance and runs with a normal stride, showing a strong concept for angling when working into the second level. He demonstrates the body control to make hits on the move and on contact, as he delivers the strength and hand punch to shock and jolt his opponent. He might not have fluid change of direction agility, but he does a nice job of using his long arms effectively to pinch the defensive line back inside. He has enough straight-line speed to surprise a lethargic defender and has become a power-oriented blocker who has developed an aggressive nature. He maintains balance on the move and is efficient when having to redirect and recover working in-line.

*Initial Quickness*...Taylor has marginal timed speed, but displays good initial quickness to fire off the snap and get into a lethargic defender. He shows good adjustment skills on the move, but while he can accelerate and finish, he needs to continue improving on his ability to keep his pad level down (in the past, he would get too tall in his stance, resulting in a narrow base that saw him get walked back into the pocket at times, along with a high amount of penalties for false starts).

His level of play in 2018 saw that he was hardly ever in a position of disadvantage. He has good balance taking on seven-tech types and has made a very good effort to mirror when challenging defenders on the edge. Even with his lack of foot speed, he shows good explosion off the snap, getting into the defender with force and suddenness. He is quick to gain advantage, displaying proper knee bend to unwind out of his stance with ease. With his 5.48 clocking in the 40-yard dash, he is never going to be confused for the quicker-twitch left tackles, making his current college position at right tackle his likely home in the pros.

*Balance/Stays on His Feet*…Taylor’s initial quickness lets him gain position and on contact. He has the hand punch, long reach and strength to adjust, sustain and finish. He uses his size and upper body strength well to absorb smaller defenders. He works hard to stay on his feet, but must maintain a low pad level to be effective (will get pushed back when he gets too tall in his stance). He is rarely on the ground, doing a solid job of using his hands to tie up his opponent. Some teams might want to look at him as an offensive guard, but he is better playing on an island, as he still bends at the waist a bit and leans into interior defenders trying to maintain contact when moving laterally (can be tugged and tossed when he narrows his base and gets too erect in his stance).

*Explosion/Pop…*Taylor can easily roll his hips, when he keeps his pads down, which allows him to generate good explosion on contact. He is a very physical striker on the move, but must do a better job of adjusting to recover when beaten by an edge rusher. He has worked hard to generate a stronger hand punch and can accelerate to finish, but because of his lack of foot speed, he is not as explosive as a cut blocker as one would expect. When he sinks his hips, you can see much better sudden force with a surge to sustain. He has also improved his upper body strength in order to consistently steer his man and hold and widen the rush lanes, but can still use more training room programming.

*Run Blocking*…Taylor has made a remarkable improvement in attempts to push the defense inside, and the result has been the team generating very good success bouncing outside with their running game (73.8% of their power runs came over the right side of the line in 2018). He has become much more aggressive with his hand punch as a senior, but still has issues with his false starts. Still, he has done a much better job of working the combo block, thanks to improved body control.

He gains position well when he keeps his pads down, doing a nice job of walling off and widening the rush lanes. He has better agility shuffling and moving his feet to sustain as a junior than in previous seasons, perhaps due to his weight loss (played at 347 as a freshman, but was at 328 last year). His balance and body control when stationary really stand out on film. With the weight loss, he seemed to be taking better angles to screen and gain good movement upon contact. He also shows the ability to be an adequate cut and reach blocker when he plays with alertness and does not narrow his base (in the past, he would sometimes get hesitant, making him look slow to engage).

*Pass Blocking*…Taylor shows the ability to recover and redirect in his pass set when he maintains proper pad level. In the past, he was walked back when he narrowed his base. A wider stance saw him yield just one sack and no QB hits last year after yielding nine sacks the previous two seasons. He now has better ability to sink his hips and while he can sometimes get a little inconsistent with his punch (took lazy sets early as a junior, leading to six of eight pressures allowed the first four games), he gets to the collision point very effectively.

He also shows he can shuffle on the move when having to mirror edge rushers or retreat to protect the pocket. As a junior, you can see the marked improvement when he sets with quickness and a good base to anchor. He has much better hand usage in 2018 than during his sophomore year (gave up fifteen pressures in 2017) and knows how to extend his long arms to adjust to counter moves. With his weight loss and improved foot work, he should have no problems sliding and reaching his set point at the next level (his kick and slide is much more fluid than in the past).

*Pulling/Trapping Skills*…This might be the one area that Taylor will have to continue to work on. He has marginal timed speed and does get tall in his stance, which sees him then narrow his base when blocking into the second level. He shows adequate body control on the move, but must be quicker adjusting in the open field. In order to become a more effective space blocker, he will need to improve his foot movement when working down the line of scrimmage.

*Use of Hands/Punch*...This is one area of improvement that has resulted in great success for Taylor in 2018, as he reduced his sack yield totals to one. Perhaps more comfortable in his role and with his improved strength and weight loss last season, the right tackle was much more aggressive in putting the defender on the ground. He has finally developed confidence in his reach and upper body strength and is using his hands much better in attempts to shock and jolt. He now flashes a strong punch and lock-out ability.

He has adequate quickness to recoil and recover inside and brings his hands up properly, especially when in tight areas or working in combination with his offensive guard and tight end. With his authority to control and adjust to his defender, he has had great success in widening rush lanes as a junior. Now that he has confidence in his hand punch, you can see his ability to use his strength to generate good separation, especially with that long reach and big “mitts” he possesses. His ability to get good placement when trying to sustain and extend is the result of being so much more active with his hands now than in the past.

*Reactions/Awareness*...This past season, Taylor did a nice job of keeping his head on a swivel, evident by his dominance in handling the speedier edge rushers. He has shown the ability to slide and adjust to in-line movement. When he keeps his pads down and shuffles his feet on contact, he is much more effective sliding to movement. You can see on film that he has confidence using his reach to cut off and his improved hand quickness allows him to readjust when working inside. In the past, he would play with some hesitation, especially when he missed the early counter moves.

*Compares To.*..Jammal Brown-ex-New Orleans Saints...Taylor is likely to be the first offensive lineman drafted, with the New York Giants, Jacksonville and Detroit targeting a right tackle in the early stages of the draft, among other pressing needs. He has the hand punch to immediately shock the defender, but needs to be more sudden when redirecting and recovering inside. He still works more on instinct and needs to grasp the mental aspect of the game better (twelve penalties in 2018, mostly for false starts), but he has made steady progress.

NFL TEAMS NEEDING PASS PROTECTION ARE READY TO POUNCE ON THIS COUGAR

Andre Dillard-#60

Washington State University Cougars

6:05.0-315

*Agility Tests*...4.97 in the 40-yard dash…1.70 10-yard dash…2.86 20-yard dash…4.40 20-yard shuttle…7.44 three-cone drill…29-inch vertical jump…9'-10" broad jump…Bench pressed 225 pounds 24 times…33 1/2-inch arm length…10-inch hands…80 3/8-inch wingspan.

*Background*...Despite a solid prep career, even the Cougars coaching staff had doubts that Dillard would succeed at the college level earlier in his tenure at WSU. The Washington native attended Woodinville High School, where he was named All-King County first-team and King County 4A Crest Division Offensive Lineman of the Year as a senior.

Dillard added Seattle Times All-Area honors, yet only received a two star recruit rating from ESPN.com, Rivals.com and Scout.com. That star rating was a bit puzzling, as ESPN also had selected him as the sixth-best overall prospect in the state. At least the Seattle Times pegged it right, choosing the lineman for red chip prospect honors after naming him one of Washington’s top-16 prospects.

Enrolling at Washington State seemed like a natural. After all, his father, Mitch, had also toiled on the Cougars' offensive line as a center, lettering in 1986. It took three seasons for Mitch to earn his first letter and his son appeared heading for the same path. Andre was red-shirted after enrolling in 2014 and was limited to three contests during the 2015 campaign. Still, he made a lasting impression on the coaches after he debuted vs. UCLA, starting at left tackle in the Colorado and the Apple Cup clash vs. in-state rivals, Washington. Dillard would never come off the bench again as a Cougar.

Opponents soon notice that Dillard was a load to handle, despite playing on an island at left tackle. The All-Pac-12 second-team selection started all thirteen games that season. It was a bit of adjustment for the youngster, but despite being flagged fourteen times and giving up seven of the thirty sacks yielded by the front wall, he helped the offense throw for forty touchdowns while averaging 362.5 aerial yards per game. Through 1,074 snaps, he finished with 118 knockdowns.

Twice named Player of the Game for his blocking vs. USC and Oregon State, Dillard only received All-Pac 12 honorable mention in 2017. He participated in 1,034 offensive plays and proved to be an invaluable performer for an offense that ranked 27th in the nation with 5,012 total yards (455.64 ypg), placing third in the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision ranks and first in the Pac-12 Conference with an average of 375.27 aerial yards per game.

With Dillard lowering his sack yield total to just two and reducing his penalties to only five flags, the Cougars would be accorded enough pass protection to rank seventh in the FBC while placing second in the Pac-12 with a pass completion percentage of .676.

The media began to recognize Dillard's talents, as he was named All-American first-team by The NFL Draft Report, second-team by SI.com and third-team by the Associated Press in 2018. The All-Pac 12 first-team choice added player of the game honors vs. San Jose State, Oregon State, Oregon, California and Arizona.

Dillsard allowed only one sack via 677 pass plays, grading 98.9% for blocking consistency, as he posted 134 knockdowns. He was penalized just four times through 985 snaps and was a major reason the Cougars led the nation in passing, averaging 373.8 yards per game. They also totaled 451.5 yards offense per contest.

*The Scouting Report*

*Athletic Ability*... Dillard has a well-developed frame with room for additional growth. He can carry at least another 15 pounds of bulk without having the additional weight impact his foot speed. He has the long arms (80 3/8-inch wing span) and broad shoulders you look for in a left tackle. He possesses a big bubble, wide waist and hips, solid thickness in his thighs and calves and firm midsection. With his toned frame and good body fat content, he looks more like a defensive lineman, especially with his sudden explosion off the snap.

Dillard has natural strength and quickness, as his 40-yard dash clocking of 4.99 is one of the best among 2019 NFL Draft eligible offensive tackles. He shows excellent balance and change of direction flexibility, along with outstanding acceleration when working into the second level. He plays on his feet well, thanks to superb balance and shows the body control to play and adjust in space and pick up blocks on the move down field. He can slide and readjust to mirror edge rushers in pass protection. He also displays the lower body flexibility to drop his pads and anchor firmly vs. stunts and the bull rush.

He shows ease of movement accelerating into the second level and excellent change of direction agility to make plays working down the line. He plays with a strong base, keeping his feet wide and pad level low to generate enough explosion coming off the snap. He has the lateral range to make adjustments in his pass set. Dillard bends his knees with good flexibility and shows that he has the quickness to get out on the edge and seal off the rush. He has the agility to pull and trap with effectiveness from the outside position and displays good hand usage and the redirection skills to mirror on stunts and blitzes.

*Initial Quickness*...Dillard has exceptional initial quickness for his position. He is very light on his feet for a player his size and shows the ability to immediately react to movement. He is sudden working to gain position working in-line or when reaching into the second level. He generates explosive pop on contact, especially in pass protection and has that long wing-span that he uses effectively to engulf edge rushers. He gets to top speed quickly and does a very good job of getting up field to neutralize the linebackers.

He has nimble feet and excellent redirection agility to make proper body adjustments on the move. He is also very quick to gain hand placement, using his long reach to keep defenders at bay. He shows ease of movement in his kick slide and can really gain a head of steam when he gets moving. When he gains advantage on a defender with his foot speed, he works hard to keep it. He has the short area speed to get up field and shows the strong base to maintain his position when working in-line.

*Balance/Stays on His Feet*…Dillard consistently plays at a low pad level, quickly generating the explosive burst to gain advantage. He is able to cover defenders up, thanks to his long reach and large hands. Even at his size, he shows no problem getting low in his stance to attain proper leverage, displaying excellent knee bend. He plays on his feet well, using his hands to sustain. He plays with steady effort and is a strong, physical finisher.

Once he locks on to a defender, he will generally win the battle. Even vs. the bull rush, defenders have a very difficult time attempting to knock him off his base. He always plays with his feet and base wide, which allows him to battle throughout the play. He uses his hands with force to gain position and is a nasty finisher whose hand quickness and placement lets him mirror his man and sustain blocks. Even when he over-extends, he is quick to recover. His body control lets him excel on the pull. It is very rare to see him lunge or fall to the ground, using his long arms to generate solid reach blocks.

*Explosion/Pop…* Dillard combines his size, strength, body mass and long wingspan to generate very good explosion behind his blocks. He is also an explosive hip roller, playing with properly bent knees that he uses well, along with his strength to push and wall off his man. When he extends his arms and executes his hand punch, his upper body power will see him jolt and control the defender. He will sometimes over-extend and try to maul the opponent, but shows good pop driving into the defender on running plays. He demonstrates good hand usage and above average strength to shock and jolt, but might have to add more bulk to maintain that consistency at the next level.

He accelerates quickly coming off the ball and his low pad level lets him get underneath the defender to sustain. He is a very good positional mover who can maul. He uses his hands with force, delivering a solid punch to stymie the bull rush and simply knocks people off balance with his explosion off the snap. He is not the type who will lean and shove, preferring to attack and grind it out until the whistle. His lower body flexibility is superb and he drives off the ball with good urgency. When he makes contact, he hits with thud and good pop.

*Run Blocking*…Dillard comes off the snap with a hard surge and good leg drive, possessing the feet to stay on his blocks and sustain. He is a good upper body blocker who shuffles his feet well. As a zone blocker, he has more than enough strength to move out level one defenders. Once he gains position off the snap, he has the strength to wall off. He has a good concept for taking proper angles to cut off second level opponents and shows outstanding ability leading on long pulls.

He is still more comfortable working in space, as he shows better explosion getting out to search and neutralize linebackers, but has the leg drive and lateral movement to be quite effective maintaining rush lane integrity. In 2018 (see San Jose State, Oregon, California games), he showed very good improvement in attempts to scope, sustain and make reach blocks than in the past. He plays on his feet and battles throughout the play. He gets very good hip roll, which lets him be more physical and aggressive coming off the snap. He sets his base a little high at times when blocking in-line, but generally does a solid job of using his size to maul and take over on blocks.

*Pass Blocking*…This is his greatest asset. Dillard uses his foot quickness well to shuffle his feet and slide back with ease when taking on edge rushers. He stays square and balanced while keeping his pad level low. Even when he gets over-extended, he is quick to recover. He generates a strong anchor and good field vision to recover vs. double moves. He is quick to pivot in attempts to counter the speed rush, as he shows good urgency getting to his reach point.

He uses his long arms effectively in attempts to extend and lock on to the defender’s jersey. He has the speed to mirror and square up with an opponent, as his strong anchor lets him maintain position when trying to neutralize the pass rush charge. He excels with edge blocking, showing the foot quickness in his kick slide to mirror (rare to see him drop his head when making contact).

With his lateral quickness, he has no problems when trying to slide and readjust. Dillard plays with good awareness and has the flexibility along with functional lower body strength to anchor. Few offensive tackles demonstrate the hand quickness he has. He comes out of his stance with good urgency and a solid base, opening his hips quickly to pivot and adjust to the speed rush

*Pulling/Trapping Skills*…Dillard’s quickness suggests that the coaching staff should find more ways to using him on pulls. He is an athletic blocker who is smooth in his movement getting into the second level. He has the body control to execute blocks in space and plays with a strong base that makes it very difficult for the defender to get him off his feet. His quickness coming out of his stance and outstanding body control allows him to make fluid adjustments working in space, making him an ideal lead blocker on long pulls and playing down field.

There is great ease of movement in his hips when changing direction. He has more than enough balance to stay on his feet on the move. He adjusts well to pick up stunts when working in-line and shows very good explosiveness to get out and make plays in space. His change of direction agility lets him make good contact on the move, especially when he attempts to neutralize linebackers.

*Use of Hands/Punch*... Dillard has the hand strength to stun and control defenders with his hand punch.. He has made good strides using his hands to lock on and grab. As a junior, he displayed much better ability of throwing his hands, thanks to good timing. He has the long arms to pressure and keep rush ends at bay, using his strength and pop on contact to jolt and control the opponent. When he attacks a defender with his hand punch, he will generally neutralize him. He will get a little reckless at times and take long arm swipes, causing the defender to slip off his blocks, but shows enough redirection agility to recover.

Dillard is capable of getting on top of the linebackers, as he will use his long arms to engulf and his strength to pancake them in the open. He has good hip swerve that he uses to adjust and make contact when delivering open field blocks. He has the balance and foot speed to get in front of the charge on pulls and roll-outs, taking proper angles to get into the second level. He is always looking for linebackers to attack. He shows great ease of movement in space and has the body control and base to get position and keep it. He takes proper angles to cut off and when he wheels on the linebacker, he will quickly neutralize the opponent. He is very alert when working in space and likes to use his hands with force to shock and jolt.

*Reactions/Awareness*...Dillard plays with very good awareness in pass protection, as he is quick to locate and pick up games and stunts instantly. He does a nice job chipping to the second level and is very alert on the edge to neutralize pass rushers in space. He has no problems digesting the playbook and deals with the mental aspect of the game well. He is very quick to pick up defensive schemes and has good work ethic, easily taking the plays from the board to the field with only minimal reps. He is the type who shows enough savvy to make blocking calls, if needed.

Dillard is a quick-footed athlete whose ability to shuffle and slide makes him an ideal fit at left tackle. He is quick to recover when caught out of position and shows good urgency and vision to handle twists and games. He is very natural reacting and executing blocks on the move. His foot speed lets him get to his reach point and cut off edge rushers and he displays good body control when readjusting to movement. He does a good job of shuffling his feet. When he gets too tall in his stance, he can get caught out of position (will lunge and fail to recover), but when he stays square, he maintains good balance.

*Compares To.*..David Bakhtiari-Green Bay Packers...Like the Packers standout, both have led or been near the top of the leader-board in pass protection among their peers. Both players are blessed with excellent athletic agility, along with the quick feet to mirror even the speedy edge rushers. Dillard is a solid run blocker that plays on his feet with very good balance and body control. He has the strength to gain position when working in-line and does a very good job of creating and widening rush lanes. He is capable of staying on his feet and sustaining his blocks, using his hand strength well to lock on and control his man.

ATLANTA NEEDS TO ADDRESS RIGHT TACKLE ISSUES WITH THIS SOONER THAN LATER

Cody Ford-#74

University of Oklahoma Sooners

6:03.6-329

*Agility Tests*...5.21 in the 40-yard dash…1.81 10-yard dash…3.02 20-yard dash…4.87 20-yard shuttle…8.27 three-cone drill…28 1/2-inch vertical jump…8'-08" broad jump…Bench pressed 225 pounds 19 times…34-inch arm length…9 3/4-inch hands…82 1/2inch wingspan.

*Background*...It will be a call a team makes for need. Those looking for a left guard will review films from 2017 and see that Ford is a highly capable road grader who allowed just one quarterback sack while manning that position his first two seasons in the lineup. Yes, there were a few hiccups with flags (ten penalties) in 2018 when the youngster moved to right tackle, but with a quick-twitch running quarterback to protect, no one was able to touch Kyler Murray during Ford's watch last season.

In fact, Baker Mayfield also had a clean uniform with Ford in the trenches, as the Louisiana native has never allowed any Sooners quarterback to be hit through his time playing up front - a total of 1,341 offensive snaps. With the blocker's versatility, a team with multiple needs should make Ford a player who will hear his named called during the first day of the draft.

How the Pineville, Louisiana native is not wearing an LSU Tigers uniform is anyone's guess. At Pineville High School, Ford was rated a four-star recruit according to Rivals and a three-star recruit according to 247Sports, ESPN and Scout. Rivals rated him the 22nd-best offensive guard in the country and 15th-best overall prospect in the state, yet when it came to deciding on a college, he chose Oklahoma over offers from Arkansas, Mississippi State and Texas Christian.

After enrolling at Oklahoma in 2015, Ford was red-shirted, but the staff did take notice, as he earned the Scout Team Offensive Player of the Year honors. That would see him return as the starting left guard to open the 2016 season. Three games into the season, he suffered a broken fibula on the team's first drive of the Ohio State contest, ending his season. Through the first 127 snaps of that campaign, he allowed just one sack, grading 80.2% for blocking consistency.

The following season, Ford was slow to recover from the leg injury, missing early season action vs. Tulane and Baylor. He would appear in twelve games at left tackle, splitting time with Ben Powers, as he started the Ohio State, Iowa State, Texas and Kansas State encounters. He was charged with just three quarterback pressures on 337 snaps and elevated his pass blocking consistency grade to 87.5%, despite playing overweight at 343 pounds.

With Orlando Brown graduating, the Sooners reshuffled their offensive line. With orders to shed baby fat, Ford, the new starting right tackle, arrived at fall camp tipping the scales at 338, not much of a drop, but by the time the season ended, fifteen more pounds came off his frame. His 99.5% pass blocking grade was the fourth-best among major college tackles, as he logged a career-high 877 snaps, posting 108 knockdowns. The offense exploded for 570.3 yards per game to lead the nation.

Ford earned All-American and All-Big Twelve Conference accolades last season. Thanks to his stellar play in the trenches, the Sooners were named the Joe Morris Award winners, an honored bestowed each season on the college football's best offensive line. They finished second in the nation in pass efficiency (194.91 rating) and led the FBS in scoring, averaging 48.4 points per game.

Following this season, Ford announced that he would be declaring for the 2019 NFL Draft.

*The Scouting Report*

*Athletic Ability*...Ford has a good bubble with thick ankles, thighs and calves. He has functional straight-ahead quickness off the snap, along with the agility and flexibility to stay low in his pads. He has long, well-developed arms and strong hands to shock and jolt on contact. With his big hips and strong lower body frame, it makes it difficult for even the more powerful bull rushers to walk him back into the pocket.

While Ford lacks good sustained speed, he has the quick feet, low pad level and initial acceleration to block into the second level. He plays with above average balance and firmly anchors, thanks to his big hips and lower body strength. He also shows good body control and flexibility when changing direction. He stays in control (does not lunge or over-extend) working in space and has shown improved change of direction agility on sweeps and pulls. When he keeps his pad level down, he can leverage, redirect and shift his weight properly in his kick slide.

It is rare to see him lose balance in pass protection and he has the straight-line speed and hand punch to neutralize second level defenders. He is a power-oriented drive blocker with a strong hand usage. He will sometimes fall off blocks late when he fails to bend at the knees, but has the ability to quickly recover.

*Initial Quickness*... Ford does not have great timed speed, but with his improved balance and pad level, he has a valid initial step and active hands to prevent the bull rushers from walking him back into the pocket. He stays low in his pads and has enough hip snap to get into his blocks with quickness and authority. He keeps his hands inside his frame, whether as a drive blocker or setting up in pass protection.

He has functional explosion off the snap and a punishing hand punch to generate pop on contact. He is effective at gaining position and shows good urgency taking proper angles to locate and neutralize second level defenders. He has shown improvement in attempts to develop looser hips, but does strike with good suddenness. It is commonplace to see him work hard to control and sustain. Coming out of his stance, he keeps his head on a swivel and is alert to stunts (see UCLA, Kansas State. West Virginia). If he can keep his hips open and his pad level down, he is quick to dominate and neutralize.

*Balance/Stays on His Feet*…Ford is no longer the waist bender that he was in the past, when he used to rely on leaning into the defender to maintain contact. He now keeps his hands inside the framework and is very active with them to prevent his assignment from tugging on him or trying to toss him to a side. He has a very impressive and strong anchor and you will not see him falling off blocks. He does a nice job shuffling his feet and staying in front of his man. With his vastly improved balance, you can see the power in his arm swipes and his ability to stay up on blocks (see Florida Atlantic, Oklahoma State, Kansas games).

When he fails to sink his hips, Ford will overextend, but he is quick to recoil and get back on his assignment. You no longer see him getting narrow in his base or straight-legged. His strength prevents bull rushers from pushing him back into the pocket from the point of attack. He seems to have developed better flexibility and improved knee bend (was a waist-bender in the past). He just needs to sink his hips with consistency, as he knows when he gets his base too narrow that he will have problems sustaining.

*Explosion/Pop…* Ford generates good pop behind his hand punch. He is not really explosive off the line of scrimmage, but does have enough foot speed initially to get into the chest of the defender before his man has a chance to counter. You see on 2018 film (UCLA, Oklahoma State, Kansas State games) that he has developed the nastiness and surge to get into his blocks with determination. He is too powerful at the point of attack for even defenders stunting or bull rushing to get him to yield position, thanks to an above average anchor.

When he knocks his man off the ball, he now looks for secondary targets to attack, as he is quite effective at putting the defender on the ground a lot. He has a strong hand punch to shock and jolt on contact. He comes off the snap with a powerful punch to gain advantage, especially when working in the short area. He still needs to generate better hip rotation, but does get a good surge off the snap to surprise a lethargic defensive lineman. He is quick to get his hands up and push the defender off the line to maintain the rush lane and flashes excellent upper body power to move people out.

*Run Blocking*…Ford has really made great strides as a drive blocker, delivering multiple touchdown-resulting blocks for the running attack eight times in 2018. He can simply dominate the competition when he sets his anchor, keeps his hands active and waits for the action to come to him, as he is much better at sustaining and holding blocks that lunging at opponents. He keeps his head on a swivel, especially when zone blocking and he has learned to use that great raw strength of his to drive his man off the ball. When he plays too high in his stance, he will lose leverage and reverts to relying on his strength too much.

When incline blocking, he shows good urgency and power to clear and maintain the rush lanes. He is a solid mauler with some road grader to him. He can drive the man off the ball due to his lower body strength and hand punch, despite not sinking his hips regularly. He is very consistent using his hands to lock on and steer. He understands positioning very well and excels at neutralizing second level defenders. When he moves his feet on contact, he does a better job of wheeling his hips in attempts to control.

*Pass Blocking*…When Ford plays on his feet and does not narrow his base, he can move his man out upon initial contact. He has a much more solid base this year and shows much better awareness picking up stunts at tackle (just lacks the lateral moves to be efficient at guard in the next level). He has good aggression to push his man around and is much more suited as a right side blocker, as he did have a few problems when playing guard, in regards to dealing with the speed rush and getting out front quickly on traps and pulls.

He has to continue working on improving his lateral kick slide. He has the balance and body control to get back and defeat blitzers and bull rushers and even though he bends at the waist at times, he has the balance to adjust on the move. In the past, he would sometimes play on his toes and drop his head at the X’s, but he now keeps his base wider and with his foot quickness, he has no trouble mirroring the opponent.

*Pulling/Trapping Skills*…Ford won’t win a foot race vs. a pregnant woman (comes in third) having to run long distances, and he is not really effective as a trap blocker. He is impressive using his strong hands when out in front on plays, but he is not really a solid second level stalker. When Ford plays on his feet, he can simply dominate and control the action working in the trenches, but he will sometimes lunges when he gets too high in his stance on the move, failing to hit his target with good force. He does a good job of making initial contact, but does not generate the body quickness you want when coming out of the gate. He will whiff at times in the open field when he gets his hands outside his frame, but when he plays in control, he is a very good mauler.

*Use of Hands/Punch*...Ford can punch holes in doughnuts with his hand strength. He keeps those hands active and can simply knock even the biggest defender back upon initial contact. He has become much better at using his hands to turn and control on running plays.

He can punch and replace with good lockout ability. Ford’s powerful punch lets him neutralize the bull rush and he demonstrates very good hand placement in his initial contact off the snap. With his hand placement, he is very consistent in attempts to grab and control. He has that rare recoil and recovery quickness and powerful short punch to consistently de-cleat his man.

*Reactions/Awareness*...Ford is much more aware of his surrounding at right tackle, but for some reason, he really struggled with the snap cadence, resulting in ten penalties in 2018. While he lacks foot quickness in the open area or when trying to get to the edge as an offensive guard, he has shown much better recovery ability as a right tackle prospect, where he has enough slide and mirror agility to block at the NFL level. He seems to have become much more alert to stunts and uses his change of direction skills to redirect and play down the line. He is becoming much more effective at positioning vs. combo moves and has the ability to shuffle his feet with effectiveness.

*Compares To.*..Daryl Williams-Carolina Panthers...Williams is taller, but Ford comes off the ball flat-backed with functional initial quickness and explosion. He lacks the timed speed to get out in space or race long distances as a pulling guard and this makes him a better pro fit at his current position. He has natural hand strength and pop, is very physical with them, using the brute strength to consistently drive the defender out of the rush lanes. He is a sound technician who keeps his head in front and stays square through his blocks. He will get pulled off his base occasionally when he gets too erect in his stance, but he can usually regain balance and keep positioning.

DRAFT'S DAY TWO WILL SEE THE GRUNTS GO OFF THE BOARD

After teams move and angle to grab the top-level blockers, because of an expected rush on edge rushers early and teams trying to corner cornerbacks later on Day One, there are still some high quality and highly aggressive blockers there for the taken. Look for offensive line and wide receiver to be busy positions during the second and third rounds. The next three tackles are my kind of guys, one who eats glass for breakfast (Dalton Risner), one who can fill a variety of up front needs (Kaleb McGary) and one downgraded blocker who just needs a patient coach to harness his potential (Greg Little). So, there is no better place to begin this segment that with;

THIS YEAR'S TOUGHEST HOMBRE IN THE TRENCHES AWARD GOES TO

Dalton William Risner-#71

Kansas State University Wildcats

6:04.6-312

*Agility Tests*...5.30 in the 40-yard dash…1.93 10-yard dash…3.10 20-yard dash…4.52 20-yard shuttle…7.59 three-cone drill…28 1/2-inch vertical jump…9'-02" broad jump…Bench pressed 225 pounds 23 times…34-inch arm length…10 1/4-inch hands…81 1/8-inch wingspan.

*Background*...Much like former Wildcat, Cody Whitehair, Risner is recognized as a tremendous talent by league scouts. Yet, they seem to be split on where his best position might be. He does not have the foot speed you look for in a left tackle, but has excelled during 2,378 plays at right tackle. Some teams view his trap blocking ability as ideal for a possible move inside to guard. Others who have followed the youngster since he entered the program also recognize his potential as a center, where he earned Freshman All-American honors performing at the pivot during his first college season.

Risner was taught by one of the best prep coaches in the state of Colorado and the apple did not fall far from the tree. At Wiggins High School, he played under head coach and father Mitch Risner. He was named one of the Denver Post’s top-25 players in the state during the 2013 season and was an all-state selection by the organization in 2012. He was also named an all-state player by Root Sports in 2012 and 2013.

Risner was rated the nation’s sixth-best center and the fifth-best player in the state of Colorado by Rivals, while he was the nation’s seventh-best center according to ESPN. He was selected to play in the Offense-Defense All-American Bowl and the U-19 International Bowl between Team USA and Canada Football. He also placed fifth in the state finals while performing in the shot put in 2012 and participated in basketball.

Kansas State decided to red-shirt Risner in 2015, but the following season, he not only took over as the starting center, he performed with such excellence, that he was named first-team Freshman All-American by Campus Insiders and received second-team honors from Athlon and Scout.com. He helped K-State rank second nationally in red zone offense (94.5-percent) and 18th in passing yards per completion (14.12).

Risner also helped the Wildcats rush for 29 touchdowns, which was just one shy of entering the school’s top-10 list. His best performance came when he blocked for six rushing touchdowns against TCU, which was tied for the fourth-most in school history. He also received second-team Academic All-Big Twelve Conference accolades. Through 900 snaps, he was the highest graded interior blocker in the league (87.9 overall), as he refused to allow any sack and was charged with just seven pressures through 403 pass plays.

A preseason candidate for the Rimington Trophy prior to switching to right tackle as a red-shirt sophomore, it was a bit of adjustment, as he was flagged six times, giving up the only sack for his career, but through 885 plays, he delivered a blocking consistency grade of 88.2. He earned first-team All-Big Twelve honors from the league’s coaches and helped lead an offensive line that paved the way for a school record 5.27-yard per carry average, while they ranked third in school history in total rushing yards (3,013) and rushing yards per game (231.8), and seventh in rushing touchdowns (39).

Risner also helped the Wildcats rank sixth nationally in rushing touchdowns. The first-team Academic All-Big Twelve choice established himself as a leader, becoming the school's youngest captain in 2016. He also was a community icon, having a great impact by creating social media presence as part of his Rise Up Foundation.

A shoulder injury that required surgery kept Risner out of the bowl season in 2017, but he was named first-team All-American by The NFL Draft Report and Pro Football Focus. The All-Big Twelve first-team pick graded out at a 90.3 mark for blocking consistency, including a 98.9 mark on pass blocking efficiency to tie for the fourth highest among FBS tackles.

In 2017, Risner allowed only three quarterback pressures and no sacks, the fewest among 2018 draft-eligible tackles. He led the Wildcats to a tie for third place in school history in rushing yards per carry (4.98), while they finished seventh in program history with 2,584 total rushing yards.. He was then honored with first-team Academic All-Big 1Twelve accolades and was also a member of the AFCA Good Works Team.

As a senior, Risner was again selected first-team All-American by The NFL Draft Report, Pro Football Focus, ESPN, CBS Sports and Sporting News. Named the 2018 Big Twelve Conference Offensive Lineman of the Year (shared with two other players), he became just the second Wildcat to earn the accolade. He was also honored for his outstanding work in the community as he is a finalist for the Jason Witten Collegiate Man of the Year Award and was also a finalist for the William V. Campbell Trophy, Wuerffel Trophy and Senior CLASS Award.

The 2018 AFCA Good Works Team member was a semifinalist for the Lombardi Award. He led an offensive unit that finished third in the league by averaging 182.6 rushing yards per game, which included a 184.2-yard average in conference games to rank second. He helped the Wildcat rushing attack average 208.6 yards and 2.3 rushing touchdowns per game in the final seven contests after averaging 146.2 yards and 0.8 rushing touchdowns in the first five.

Risner paved the way for running back Alex Barnes, who was the conference rushing champion with 1,355 yards and 12 touchdowns. He closed out his career by seeing 3,278 plays of action, allowing just one sacks and five quarterback hits. For his career, he graded 90% overall, including a mark of 91% for pass blocking.

*The Scouting Report*

*Athletic Ability*…Risner has good bone structure, with a thick midsection, wide hips, big back, good bubble, thick thighs and calves. He displays natural strength and has room on his frame to potentially add more growth. With his wide shoulders and barrel chest, he uses his explosive first step well to come off the line and generate movement.

Risner has excellent athletic ability, displaying good initial explosion off the line. He is very nimble for a lineman and while he has just adequate strength, he gets out on traps and pulls in a hurry, maintaining balance throughout his stride. He has the physical tools to be a productive starting right tackle, but teams also see him as a valid option at guard or center at the next level. If moved to those spots, it would be due to his quick feet to get into position to make the blocks on the edge.

He is an exceptional hand puncher who demonstrates very good balance and agility for the position to also perform capably as a pulling guard. He shows good explosion off the snap, the ability to out-muscle and wall off his man in isolated coverage and the upper body power to lean into the defender and use his size to sustain. He is nimble working in space and does a good job of locating and neutralizing second level defenders. He is a natural knee bender who does a nice job of keeping his pads down due to his lateral agility and loose hips. With his reach and big hands (10 1/4-inches), he is capable of pushing and controlling his man in the short area.

*Initial Quickness …*Risner shows very good snap quickness and field vision coming off the snap. He is fluid in his kick slide and has very good quickness out of his stance to lock on and control vs. a lethargic defender. Even when he is occasionally late off the snap, he shows the pad level and balance, keeping his hands inside his frame while working to gain advantage. He has good suddenness working into the second level, showing the alertness in the passing game to slide his feet and mirror edge rushers with no wasted motion.

He explodes with a flat back and strikes well with his head and arm action to slide and fit. He is a classic knee bender with the lateral agility to prevent opponents from beating him around the corner. Because of strength issues, he may be better suited for guard or center, but he does show the lateral agility to get out quickly vs. the edge rush.

*Balance/Stays on His Feet*…Risner has good lateral agility, thanks to his ability to play light on his feet. He stays low in his pads and keeps his legs moving when asked to get out in front on pulls in attempts to get up field. He can slide and be very efficient working in the short area, but with his sustained speed on the move, he could get into an NFL lineup quicker as a guard. It is rare to see him overextend, especially conscious of keeping his feet on the move. He demonstrates good balance and is very effective at playing on his feet and uses his hands well to lock on and control the defender, thanks to playing with a wide base.

You will always see him bring his feet and it is rare to see him lunge on the play. He just does a solid job of sticking and staying with his man, as he works hard to finish once engaged. With his low pad level, he is effective at generating the functional leg drive needed to plow a smaller defender into the ground. He will need to improve his leg strength for the next level to prevent the stronger defenders from pushing him back. Earlier in his career, he had a tendency to put his head down, especially on in-line assignments, resulting in him missing his blocks, but he has worked hard to keep his head on a swivel since the beginning of his junior campaign (has allowed just one sacks and five QB hits through four seasons).

*Explosion/Pop*…Risner has explosive hands and good upper body strength, but there were a few times in 2018 where he failed to generate the lower body power needed to drive defenders off the ball as a run blocker (run block grade slipped to 82.5 as a senior, compared to 87.9. 86.7 and 84.6 marks his first three seasons). He uses his hands well to joust with the defender and delivers a solid hand punch, showing the loose hips needed when moving into the second level. He is good at getting surge for movement, thanks to his ability to roll his hips. He demonstrates the striking ability at the point of attack in attempts to shock and jolt the defender. He has the ability to generate good energy for movement getting into his blocks working in space, but will never be confused for being a mauler, until he can improve his lower power base.

*Run Blocking*…Risner is not a mauler who can simply use his size to take over blocks, lock on and grind it out with the more physical defenders, but in 2017, his positioning technique saw him do a solid job of using his size to take over defenders, lock on to them and grind it out until the whistle. What he lacks in brute strength (23 reps), he makes up in good hand usage and a decent punch. He has the ability to wall off and screen edge players, but must improve his base power in order to finish at the next level. Still, with his explosion and quickness, he can generate enough pop on contact to surprise an opponent. He is really a technically sound blocker when he plays with a flat back to get movement at the point of attack.

One reason why some scouts like him as a guard is because the thing you see on film is the success he has in the second level, as he has a good concept for taking proper angles to screen and wall off. When he keeps his pads down, he can gain movement on contact, but he gets most of his success for the ground game as a cut-&-reach blocker. When he tries to get too physical, he will sometimes lose his base (gets too narrow with his feet), but he does get good movement once he engages the defender, using his active hands to steer and has shown good placement behind his hand punch to jolt.

*Pass Blocking…* Since moving to right tackle as a sophomore, Risner has shown improvement taking on edge rushers and protecting the pocket. He now keeps his head on a swivel (used to put his head down, at times) and displays the initial quickness and hand technique work in his pass set to get under and lock on to a defender’s jersey. He has an adequate base for pass protection, unless he gets too high in his stance. He might not have the strongest anchor you will find in a right tackle, but has the recovery quickness and slide agility to stay in front of the edge rushers. The thing I like is his ability to sink his hips, slide and shuffle his feet and recoil his hands quick enough to generate another punch. It is rare to see him over-extend or get too aggressive, as he plays with a good tempo and vision. He is quick with his pass set and when he comes out of his stance at a low pad level, he sets with a good base, demonstrating the quick feet to adjust in space.

*Pulling/Trapping Skills…* When working in-line, Risner does not have the brute strength to push the pile, but his quickness on the pull and ability to adjust on the move has seen him deliver impressive second level blocks. He makes every effort to generate contact and follow through when on the move. With his balance, he more often than not surprises a lethargic defender. He comes out of his stance with good body control and pad level, ready to strike on contact in space, as he knows how to drop his weight and drive through the linebackers. He appears to have enough skills in this area to possibly be a guard candidate at the next level.

*Use of Hands/Punch*…Risner has greatly improved his hand placement and punch as a senior (see UTSA, Oklahoma State, Baylor, Kansas games), but he might still lack that brute strength needed to shock and jolt. Still, he demonstrates quick usage of his hands while keeping them inside his framework. He has shown this season that he has the ability to lock out his man with his long arms and knows how to get his hands into the chest of the pass rushers. When he gets his hands into the chest of the defender, he can generally neutralize his opponent. In 2018, he showed better use of his hands to punch for separation and is able to slide and mirror while keeping balance while recoiling. Once he improves his strength more, he could give a solid effort in attempts to lock out, but that area is still a work in progress.

*Reactions/Awareness*…The thing about Risner is that he seems to always get good position blocking at the line of scrimmage. He is a smart blocker who does a very good job of keeping his feet and maintaining balance when he is stationary, but is much more effective playing in space. His ability to sustain blocks on the move is the result of his consistency in keeping a relationship on the defender he is blocking. He plays flat-footed and flashes very good ability to change direction and recover. He has the foot balance to slide in the short space area and has no problems sliding to take on wide 9-technique pass rushers. With his active hands, he is quick to neutralize cross-face action and recoil quick enough to execute a counter move.

*Compares To*...Cody Whitehair-Chicago Bears...While Risner has performed well at right tackle, some teams like him even better as an interior linemen. With teams like Tennessee, the New York Giants and Kansas City looking for a quality center, he could also be in play for those organizations. The Patriots view him more in the Logan Mankins mold and if they snatch him up at the end of the first round, they will likely utilize him as a guard.

ALL THIS HUSKY NEEDS IS WELL, TO GET HUSKY

Kaleb McGary-#58

University of Washington Huskies

6:07.1-317

*Agility Tests*...5.05 in the 40-yard dash…1.83 10-yard dash…2.95 20-yard dash…4.58 20-yard shuttle…7.66 three-cone drill…33 1/2-inch vertical jump…9'-03" broad jump…Bench pressed 225 pounds 23 times…32 7/8-inch arm length…10 1/8-inch hands…79 3/4-inch wingspan.

*Background*...McGary is another college tackle who could find a quicker path to an NFL starting job as a guard. Teams were at first a bit hesitant to draft him early due to him being diagnosed with a heart arrhythmia earlier in his Washington career. His family has had their share of woes. His father suffered with multiple sclerosis and his family was forced off the family farm when he was in high school. In 2018, the family was living in RVs while restoring his mother's childhood home, but a fire partially burned down the home and one of the RVs.

As a senior at Fife High School, McGary played on both sides of the ball. He was named the South Puget Sound League's 2A Defensive Lineman of the Year and was also first-team All-SPSL at tight end and defensive line. The Tacoma News-Tribune all-area tight end in 2013, he was credited with 76 tackles on defense his final season, adding 51 tackles as a junior.

Prior to that, McGary began his prep career at Battle Ground High School, where he also lettered in basketball. As a sophomore, he was already listed at 6-foot-8. He closed out his high school career by being chosen as one of just five prospects named a "Northwest Nugget" by the Tacoma News-Tribune. He was listed as a "red chip" recruit by the Seattle Times and both Rivals.com and Scout.com rated him as the state of Washington's second-best recruit.

After McGary enrolled as a 285-pound defensive tackle in 2014, the Washington coaches decided to red-shirt him. They later decided to convert him to the other side of the ball and he began his red-shirt freshman season at right tackle, starting six of the twelve games that he appeared in. He earned his first starting assignment vs. Utah and in the California clash, he recorded his lone college tackle after a U-W turnover.

The shift to offense was a learning process, as McGary allowed two quarterback sacks and twenty pressures while getting on the field for 536 snaps in 2015. He graded a mere 69.4% for overall blocking consistency, but elevated that mark to 73.4% as a run blocker. He would start every contest at right tackle, beginning in 2016. He did allow a career-high 24 pressures, but only one of the 26.0 sacks allowed by the offensive line was charged to him. He added 66 knockdowns, as the Huskies piled on 2,774 yards with 24 touchdowns on the ground.

In 2017, McGary began to establish himself as one of the Pac-12 Conferences top blockers. His blocking consistency grade jumped to 78.1% while logging action in 783 snaps. After yielding 24 pressures the previous year, that figure was reduced to eleven during his junior season. Of the team's 37 touchdown ruins, 26 came through the right side of the line. He hit the century mark with 102 knockdowns and the Huskies benefited to the tune of 405.5 yards in total offense per game. He would receive All-Pac 12 Conference first-team honors and was the recipient of the team's Earle T. Glant Tough Husky Award at the UW postseason awards banquet.

Starting all fourteen games at right tackle during his final season, McGary was rewarded for his stellar performance, as the league's players awarded him the 2018 Morris Trophy, given annually to the top offensive lineman in the Pac-12. He was also named the John P. Angel Lineman of the Year Award recipient. Through 1,004 snaps, he registered 130 knockdowns, but was penalized nine times. He was charged with two of the team's 24 sacks allowed, but 1,781 of the team's 2,831 rushing yards and seventeen of 26 touchdowns on the ground were the result from their right side blocking. As a pass protector, he earned a career-best grade of 80.6%.

*The Scouting Report*

*Athletic Ability*...McGary has a linear frame with good upper body length in his arms and good width in his chest, but needs to add at least another 20 pounds of bulk. He has adequate thigh and calf thickness, but shows a good bubble. His body does not look like he pushes it much in the weight room, as he has just average muscle development.

McGary shows good initial quickness to engage and reach his pass set point. He plays on his feet with good balance, but needs to show better lower body flexibility when redirecting. He has good mobility to stay with his man, but you would like to see him finish better and show more aggression. He gets into his blocks quickly, thanks to above average knee bend and his natural foot quickness. Even when he is late off the snap, he shows good adjustment skills on the move (very good leading on outside sweeps). He has good initial quickness to slide, drop back and anchor in one-on-one confrontations with edge rushers (struggles vs. the bull rush).

*Initial Quickness*...McGary is quick coming off the snap, gaining position and generating movement to sustain. He is not really fluid moving laterally, but he shows nimble feet to generate movement on traps and pulls. He has very good in-line body control and agility, demonstrating a quick kick slide in pass protection. He is light on his feet for a player of his size and shows the quick reactionary skills to gain position vs. stunts and blitzes. He reaches the second level with good quickness and urgency. His very quick first step generates explosiveness on the rise and he is equally effective firing out on running plays or retreating to protect the pocket in passing situations.

*Balance/Stays on His Feet*…McGary shows active, quick feet in the trenches, but lacks lateral agility to slide down the line. He has enough agility to slide or pick up the blitz and defensive line stunts in pass protection, though. When incline blocking, he has shown better ability to sink his weight, which allows him to cave the defensive line with his leg drive and leverage. His improved concept for taking angles has seen him to a better job of locking on and winning battles in the short area. He also has improved his knee bend, which helps him when redirecting down the line.

McGary is better served blocking at the line, as he does not have the burst or the balance to get out and make plays in space (gets narrow and crosses his feet when going long distance). However, he is a good position blocker with nimble feet (needs to improve his retreat shuffle though) moving along the line. He demonstrates the functional hip snap needed to generate movement, but he needs to do a better job of keeping his feet and staying on the defender when working in the second level. He just appears stiff working down the line and he will lose balance when he gets his base too narrow.

*Explosion/Pop…* McGary has a thick frame, but could still use more bulk in attempts to position and sustain (has the frame to carry more weight). With more bulk added for his anchor, along with more explosive quickness when he sets his base, he won’t get into the problems he has when trying to separate, but additional weight could result in a loss of quickness. He has the reach ability to keep defenders at bay and while not explosive rolling his hips, at least he is not a waist bender. He sustains best at the line of scrimmage, where he does a good job of running his feet, locking on and finishing (not as good playing in space).

He might be a better fit at offensive guard earlier in his career, as he works well in combination with other lineman. He must spend time in the weight room adding strength and despite his quick feet, there are times when he tends to wait for edge rushers to come to him rather than step forward and attack his man. Because of his strength issues, he tries to finesse rather than maul his opponent.

*Run Blocking*…As a drive blocker, he uses his body to root out the defender and when his pad level is down, he can move the pile and drive block with leverage (could be exceptional here with added weight and strength). McGary has a good get-off coming out of his stance and his quick feet will put him in position to make the in-line block. He could be a better fit at guard earlier in his career, as he shows good body control (bad hip roll will affect him on some plays) and drives some with his legs to flash a line surge. He also has a guard-like approach when pulling in-line, as he knows how to attack the shoulders of a defender. He is not consistent when he rolls his hips, but has had good success in gaining movement.

*Pass Blocking*…McGary is a bit inconsistent, but when he keeps his head on a swivel when retreating in pass protection, he shows good urgency moving underneath to cut down the backside pursuit. He lacks great lower body strength, but does use his long arms to engulf smaller defenders and stymie the bull rush. He moves his feet well to shield and wall off the interior defender in pass protection (needs to be quicker moving out to challenge edge rushers).

He also does a decent job in handling multiple defenders, but does get a bit upright in his stance, causing his base to narrow (this results in stronger defenders having success pushing him back into the pocket. One flaw he needs to correct is that he will sometimes try to use his body too much to lean into an opponent rather than extend his arms to lock out and control. When he anchors firmly, he shows somewhat better slide and find ways to adjust to the action in front of him.

*Pulling/Trapping Skills*… McGary is not an ideal trap blocker, as he does not always fire off the line with intent and must do a better job of angling getting into the second level. He has adequate body control on long distance runs and needs to stop crossing his feet so much, as it affects his quickness and balance to hit a moving target. He is better flashing pop on contact when executing the short traps.

*Use of Hands/Punch*...McGary is more of a push/shove/grab type , but he has refined his hand technique, which he appeared to carry too low earlier in his career, letting defenders get a piece of his jersey, as he often left his chest exposed. He worked hard to improve his hand placement, but when he gets outside his frame shooting his hands, it makes him look slow when trying to recoil and reset them. He is still learning how to use his hand punch, but he has that long reach and large hands to pop, lock out and maintain separation.

When he does generate force behind his punch, he can knock his opponent off balance. He knows that he needs to developing more strength and punch refinement, but he showed in 2018 that he has the ability to use his hands to control and can create a good surge off the snap due to his balance. When he uses his hands, he has the ability to get under the defender’s pads, jolt and dominate

*Compares To.*..Chris Williams-ex-Chicago Bears…Like Williams, McGary is a fine athlete that has yet to mature physically. With teams looking for more mobility at right tackle, he could be a nice fit, but for now, he needs to add more bulk to his frame to handle the more physical NFL linemen at that position. He is still a neophyte at the tackle position, with just three years of experience and I worry that he might not have the natural strength to contribute right away. Athletically, he is an impressive specimen (size, length, speed), but it will take patient coaching to help him unearth his potential (intense weight room training and needing more bulk).

JUST A LITTLE BIT OF PATIENT COACHING IS ALL THIS OLE MISS BLOCKER NEEDS

Greg LaMar Little-#74

University of Mississippi Rebels

6:05.2-310

*Agility Tests*...5.33 in the 40-yard dash…1.84 10-yard dash…3.07 20-yard dash…4.74 20-yard shuttle…8.19 three-cone drill...29-inch vertical jump…9'-05" broad jump…Bench pressed 225 pounds 15 times…35 1/4-inch arm length…10 1/4-inch hands…85-inch wingspan.

*Background*...Allen High School alumni will have a lot to cheer about on draft day, as Little and Oklahoma's Kyler Murray and tackle Bobby Evans were all teammates. He will certainly mark the occasion and realize a dream that his late father, Derrick, had thirty years ago. Derrick was a standout linebacker at South Carolina, but injuries would impact his career the last two years at the university. Tampa Bay still selected him in the sixth round in the 1989 draft, but the injuries were too much to overcome and he never got to enjoy playing in an NFL contest.

Greg was "all everything" at Allen High, where he also performed for the track team in the discus. He was an Under Armour All-American selection and a first team USA Today and MaxPreps All-American after being rated the best offensive lineman in the country, a five-star prospect and a consensus top-five national prospect by all the major recruiting services as a senior. The previous season, he was a second team USA Today All-American and MaxPreps All-American.

Allen High would compile a 46-1 record during Little's three years as a starter. In 2014, he helped the team to a 16-0 record and both a state and national championship in 2014. He was a part of three straight title appearances, winning back-to-back championships in 2013 and 2014. During his sophomore season, he added first team all-district accolades.

After enrolling at Ole Miss, Little was red-shirted in 2015. He spent the first eight games of the 2016 wschedule as a reserve before earning a starting opportunity vs. Auburn. He impressed the opposition so much that he was awarded Freshman All-American honors from Rivals.com and was chosen to the Freshman All-Southeastern Conference first team by the league's coaches. He would start the final five contests, as the left tackle helped the Rebels rank 13th nationally in passing (314.9 ypg) and the front wall allowed the fewest tackles-for-loss in the SEC (4.67/game).

The following year, Little racked up second-team All-SEC honors. He was named to the Pro Football Focus SEC Team of the Week three times, earning a spot on the national team once while starting all twelve games at left tackle. The team went on to register nineteen touchdowns on the ground, with their left tackle leading the way on twelve of those scoring drive. He posted 79 knockdowns, as he graded 82.7 for pass protection. In 786 snaps, he yielded just two quarterback hits and two sacks.

In 2018, Little was a second-team All-American choice by Walter Camp, FWAA, Sporting News, Phil Steele and CollegeFootballNews.com. The All-SEC first-team was also an Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award Finalist. He pass-protected for an Ole Miss offense that led SEC and finished fifth nationally in passing offense (346.4 ypg), earning a career-high blocking consistency of 87.3, as he was charged with just one quarterback hit and one sack through 805 snaps. He would close out his career with just six sacks, eight quarterback hits and six penalties through the course of 2,182 plays.

*The Scouting Report*

*Athletic Ability*... Little has a tall, linear build that can add at least another 20-25 pounds of bulk without the weight impacting his overall quickness. He possesses an athletic frame with long limbs, big hands, good bubble, a firm and solidly built midsection, athletic body with adequate lower frame thickness. He looks trim at just 310 pounds, but that can surprise a defensive lineman, as he has above average strength, and knows how to combine that power with a strong anchor and a long reach that consistently keeps his opponent off his body.

You can see on film that he has the suddenness getting out on the edge to block for the outside running game. He shows good change of direction agility, loose hips and good agility to sit and anchor. Despite his tall frame, he has become quite adept at keeping his pad level down. He might lack explosive speed, but is fairly nimble for a down lineman, displaying good body control moving down the line, as he has probably the best change of direction agility of any SEC lineman this year. He runs with a normal stride and shows good agility and balance in his retreat and kick slide to develop into a quality pass protector. With his body control on the move, he should have no problem at the next level, if called upon to make contact down field.

*Initial Quickness*...Little is an aggressive blocker, but there are more than a few times he will frustrate the staff by throttling down. On contact and when he drives with his feet, he can generate movement on the double team. He generally plays under control and showed in 2018 that he has made good strides in working his hips to wall off and force the chase route. When he gets tall in his stance, he looks a bit stiff redirection, but when he stays low in his pads, he swings his hips and runs his feet well leading on the sweep.

He is usually in position of advantage, especially when asked to seal, as he has good ability to wheel and cut off the back side. You can see on film his suddenness and snap quickness to get out and lock on to his blocking assignment. He keeps his head on a swivel when moving into the second level and works hard to finish, keeping his feet churning when making plays on the move. Still, you want to see him doing this on every snap.

*Balance/Stays on His Feet*…Little displays good balance and body control on the move. He does a decent job of adjusting in space, thanks to refining his footwork in recent years (can slide and change direction well to mirror pass rushers, but if gets up on his heels too much, it could see NFL bull rushers walk him back). He handles quickness and movement better when he keeps his pads down, as he does a nice job of playing flat-footed. When he gets too tall coming off the snap, his stance prevents him from gaining leverage vs. the bull rush.

Earlier in his career, he needed to improve his overall footwork, as he did not always shuffle his feet and explode off the snap to gain movement. He plays mostly in the pro-style offense, so he won’t need much time to adjust his footwork and mechanics to the pro game. He’s a good mauler in the trenches, but I think he will provide better and quicker production in his NFL career if he performs in a zone-blocking scheme.

*Explosion/Pop…* When he stays low in his pads and drives with his legs, Little generates very good pop on contact, as he has learned how to play flat-footed (will get in trouble when he plays on his heels). He consistently gets proper movement coming out of his stance, and on the move, he knows how to drop a linebacker with a crunching forearm shot. When he stays square in his base and moves laterally, he has the agility to clear out rush lanes working in-line. He is still developing confidence in his overall strength (would like to see him attack with his hands more often) and due to his tall frame, if he gets too upright in his stance, defenders with a low center of gravity can fire off the line, get under his jersey and walk him back into the pocket. One thing about Little - do not review his weight room numbers, as he is not Charles Atlas, yet on the field, he has shown to be "country strong."

*Run Blocking*… Little needs to add bulk to his linear frame to handle the more physical defensive ends when playing on an island at the NFL level, but his quickness off the snap allows him to get into a lethargic defender’s body before his opponent has a chance to react, though. He is good at reaching and scooping, especially when he sinks his weight to gain advantage and seal off. He does get good movement on drive blocks vs. smaller opponents.

I'd like to see him be more consistently aggressive on the run, but he has the ability to easily work on the combo block, thanks to his body control when making contact. He is an upper body blocker, best suited to play in a zone scheme, and he has that raw power needed to root out and move level-one defenders when working in-line (just not weight room strong). With that great wingspan, big hands and long arms, he can easily reach and scoop.

*Pass Blocking*…Little is quick in his pass set, thanks to working hard in improving his footwork. Even when he over-sets, he has the agility to recover. Despite being close to 6:06, he plays with good knee bend and uses his wing span effectively to cover vs. edge rushers. He shows good movement aspects in his pass protection when he bends his knees properly (no longer shows waist-bending action). He can reach and seal with suddenness, thanks to his quick first step and long wing span. It is rare to see him beaten vs. edge rushers (the few times that defenders had success with penetrations vs. him, it came on stunts and twists). When he seals a five-tech, he flashes the ability to cut off the back side.

*Pulling/Trapping Skills*…Little is effective at reaching and scooping on run blocks. He pulls with good explosion and improved his ability to land in space. He adjusts effectively on the move to hit oncoming targets. Unlike most taller offensive tackles, he does not show any hip stiffness, and it is rare to see him struggle to generate lateral movement (not used much on sweeps, but has recorded ten second level blocks in his last thirteen games). With his quick feet, he does show urgency getting out in front and is developing a good feel for angling. Still, consistency is lacking and that is the reason his draft stock is more Day Two level while his potential is Day One material.

*Use of Hands/Punch*...Little has become a savvy player with each passing starting assignment, evident by his ability of knowing how to grab in attempts to lock out and control without being spotted by the game officials. While he has developed a decent hand punch, he is also very quick to recoil, especially when using his hands to challenge stunts. He is equally effective using his hands to control the defender and executing his punch to put his man on the ground. He just needs to be conscious of keeping his hands inside his framework, as he does not always separate when a defender gets into his chest. When he gets narrow in his base and pushed back by a physical surge, he tries to compensate by trying to out-finesse, as his hand placement skills will then get outside his framework.

*Compares To.*..Duane Brown-Seattle Seahawks...To put it mildly, Little is more of a game day player. He struggled during Senior Bowl practices, looked lethargic at the NFL Scouting Combine and then put on a horrible Pro Day performance during Ole Miss' pro day. Yet, he demonstrates good body control and balance, is quick out of his two-point stance in pass protection and has the quick hands needed to punch or control in run blocking situations. He just needs to find a coach that can get the best out of him, or he will soon become a journeyman.

SMALL COLLEGE BLOCKER GAINING ON THE BIG BOYS

Tytus Howard-#58

Alabama State University Hornets

6:05.0-322

*Agility Tests*...5.05 in the 40-yard dash…1.81 10-yard dash…2.97 20-yard dash…4.87 20-yard shuttle…8.34 three-cone drill…29 1/2-inch vertical jump…8'-07" broad jump…Bench pressed 225 pounds 21 times…34-inch arm length…10 5/8-inch hands…81 5/8-inch wingspan.

*Background*...The Hornets staff have dreams that their young left tackle would be the first player in school history to be selected during the first round of the draft, but most team executives label the rising star as certain to hear his name called during Day Two action. He did struggle adjusting to playing vs. better competition at the Senior Bowl and teams were disappointed with his poor performance in the shuttle drills at the NFL Scouting Combine, but also realize that he is a player with only twenty-eight games of starting experience as an offensive tackle.

At Monroe County High, Howard was more recognized by recruiters for his exploits on the basketball court. Standing 6:05 and weighing 230 pounds, he also lettered in football as a quarter-back, but the team's 1-9 record in 2013 did not inspire too many recruiters to offer him any form of scholarship.

Howard enrolled at Alabama State in 2014, but the coaches red-shirted him while trying to find a position for their lanky recruit. He did manage to suit up as a tight end to make a brief appearance vs. Grambling State that year and when he returned for the 2015 season at 250 pounds, he was a reserve for two games before he was moved to left tackle. In his six starting assignments that year, the team averaged 373.5 yards per game in total offense.

Howard started the first six contests and the Grambling State game later in the 2016 schedule, as he dealt with leg woes. During the 2017 season, Howard's body filled out to 300 pounds, but he missed time during fall camp due to a foot injury. He bounced back to start all eleven games, leading the team with 111 knockdowns through eleven assignments. He allowed only one sack and two pressures, grading 86.6% for blocking consistency while helping the Hornets put together a five-game victory string to close out the season.

Howard was an All-American selection by The NFL Draft Report as a senior. The All-Southwestern Athletic Conference choice led the league with 127 knockdowns, tacking on fourteen touchdown-resulting blocks. The starting right tackle first shifted to the left side and then to defensive line during an overtime clash vs. Alcorn State. He recorded three pressures that included forcing the Alcorn State placekicker to miss on each field goal try.

Howard was the first Alabama State player invited to the NFL Scouting Combine since cornerback Michael Coe in 2007. Coe was a fifth-round pick of the Indianapolis Colts that year. Howard should be just the second Hornets player drafted since Coe — the other being Jylan Ware, who was a seventh-round pick of the Oakland Raiders in 2017. Additionally, he is the first SWAC lineman to perform in Indianapolis since Arkansas-Pine Bluff's Terron Armstead in 2013.

“There aren’t many guys who have gotten to come here to the combine to compete,” Howard said Thursday at the Indiana Convention Center. “It’s a blessing and I’m happy to be here, but it’s a business. I’ve got to come here and give it my all and compete at a high level and then do the same thing at my pro day.”

While Howard ran the 40-yard dash in 5.05 seconds in the NFL Scouting Combine - impressive straight-line speed for a 322-pounder, his agility scores weren't nearly as impressive. In the short shuttle, he posted a time of 4.87 seconds, which was near the bottom of the class and way slower than the leader, Andre Dillard's time of 4.40. With big expectations heading into the event, the Hornet didn't quite live up to expectations, but most scouts agree that he remains a Day Two prospect.

*The Scouting Report*

*Athletic Ability*...Howard has a tall, angular frame with developing muscles, long arms, large hands and minimal body fat. He has wide hips, thick thighs and a frame that can carry at least another 25 pounds of bulk with no loss in quickness. He has a thick chest, broad shoulders and very good flexibility.

Howard has excellent athletic agility for this position. He possesses the loose hips, lower body flexibility and valid quickness of a tight end, coming off the snap with very good explosion. He is quick to get out on the edge and shows very fluid knee and ankle bend when changing direction. He has the core strength needed to handle the more physical edge rushers at the NFL level (has been able to use his size vs. inferior, smaller defenders at his collegiate level of play). He does strike with a quick hand jolt, though. He moves well in the open, doing a nice job of locating and neutralizing linebackers. He shows good acceleration on pulls and traps, running with short pitter-patter steps with the plant-&-drive agility to redirect.

*Initial Quickness*...The first thing you notice on film is Howard’s ability to explode off the snap. He has excellent initial quickness, showing a strong base with the suddenness to get his hands into the defender in an instant. He is very light on his feet for a player of his size, showing quick reactions to combat any defensive movement. Whether lining up in a two- or three-point stance, he can set up to protect the edge with good urgency, but must be conscious of maintaining a wide base, as he tends to get too upright and narrow at times, which allow defenders to slip inside with a quick swim move.

*Balance/Stays on His Feet*…Howard is a hard object to move out when he plants his feet firmly at the point of attack. He has a quick hand punch, but needs to be more active using those hands in attempts to sustain and must concentrate on striking with better force to jolt defenders back on their heels. He does a solid job executing reach blocks and maintaining position when working in-line. He could use more bulk to clear out and maintain the rush lanes, but shows quick feet in his kick slide. For some reason, he seems to struggle getting low in his stance to generate leverage on the move, but he has the reach and extension ability to cover defenders up at the line of scrimmage.

*Explosion/Pop…*Howard shows much better explosion with his hands coming off the snap, but will tend to lean and use his body more than gain proper hand placement. When he stays low in his stance, he is effective at getting under the defender’s pads to jolt the opponent, but he needs to do a more consistent job with sitting, as he is prone to locking his feet and getting too upright in his stance. He did a much better job of using his strength and quickness to attack the defender off the snap in 2018 than he did in the past, but still must improve his overall core strength. His only issue is not punching the defensive end often in pass protection. He can fire off the ball on run blocks, showing very good hip roll in this area.

*Run Blocking*…Coming off the snap, Howard is quick to get his hands into the defender to lock on and control. He has good forward body lean to maintain the rush lane and can move the pile when he uses his legs to drive hard and gain leverage, but he will get overpowered at the next level when he stands too tall and narrows his base. With added bulk, he could be very effective as a drive blocker, perhaps more so inside or as a right tackle, as his lack of great core strength would prevent me from positioning him at left tackle in the NFL. He has the feet to stay on blocks and sustain and stays on his feet well for a player of his size, though.

*Pass Blocking*… Howard has impressive foot speed, which you can see on film when he is on the move and sliding out to neutralize the edge rushers. He could use more bulk to anchor, but he has the feet, balance and body control to ride his man out of the play, just not the lateral agility you would expect from someone with his timed speed. He needs to show more consistency in being fluid with his shuffle/slide and when staying square and balanced attacking the defender - an issue he had at the Senior Bowl. He also needs to remain more confident is using his hand punch and has to work on improving his overall strength for the next level.

*Pulling/Trapping Skills*… Howard is not asked to pull and trap much, but has the quickness to turn it up on the second level defenders. He is athletic and smooth in his movements and has the body control to execute blocks in space, but needs to maintain proper pad level working in the second level (lateral agility is slow), but there are times where he will get too tall in his stance, causing his base to narrow.

*Use of Hands/Punch*...Howard can extend, jolt and shock the opponent when he gets his hands on them, but needs to do it with more consistency. He is strong on top, but still learning the proper technique for grabbing. He can stun people with his punch and control the point of attack, but while he flashes good arm extension in-line, he fails to maintain that extension blocking on the move.

He does a good job of executing pancake blocks when he stays on his feet, but must stay low in his pads in order to make contact on open field blocks. He has good explosion off the snap and good timed speed, but when he gets too erect in his stance, he will struggle a bit to redirect.

*Reactions/Awareness*...Howard is alert to stunts and games. He has the foot quickness to make the reach blocks and is fluid in his kick slide. He knows how to loop well, but must be quicker when changing direction, as he's too methodical reacting when moving side to side. He shows good vision to combat twists and has the balance to recover when caught out of position, though.

*Compares To.*..Terron Armstead-New Orleans Saints...Like Armstead, Howard possesses the long arms and quick feet to serve him well as a pass protector. He has very good initial step quickness and works hard to finish his blocks. Despite his foot quickness, he fails to generate ease of movement moving side-to-side. I am not convinced he is an NFL left tackle, but his speed and alertness could see him have good success as a trap blocker at guard or aligned at right tackle. He’s a smart player and with proper coaching, he could be the best offensive line prospect that the Southwestern Athletic Conference has produced since Armstead.

GEORGIA PEACH FINDS SUCCESS IN THE FROZEN TUNDRA

Donnell Greene-#73

University of Minnesota Golden Gophers

6:05.2-335

*Agility Tests...*5.33 in the 40-yard dash…1.85 10-yard dash…3.07 20-yard dash…4.77 20-yard shuttle…7.89 three-cone drill…28-inch vertical jump…8'-08" broad jump…Bench pressed 225 pounds 26 times…35 1/4-inch arm length…9 1/2-inch hands…83-inch wingspan.

*Background...*The Msarietta, Georgia native spent the early part of his college career at Coffeyville Community College before finding a home with the Minnesota Gophers. You could see the business-like approach in the left offensive tackle during the 2018 season. Blessed with possibly the best hands and athletic ability of any other edge blocker in the Big Ten Conference, that business-like approach was a necessity, if Greene was to realize his dream of playing in the National Football League instead of performing in college for one final campaign.

Hard work brings great results, but for the Coffeyville Community College transfer, his work on the football field while in high school did not translate to the class room, thus the standout two-way lineman from the state of Georgia never realized his first dream - playing in the renowned South-eastern Conference, so friends and family could see him in action.

In order to get back on the major college recruiting radar after his academics prevented him from accepting a scholarship offer from San Diego State, he entered Coffeyville in 2014 with a three-star rating. Two years later, he would find his way to Minnesota - far away from the warm climates enjoyed by SEC football players.

Greene has seen opportunities blossom when he's put in the work. At Kell High School in Georgia, he was an all-state defensive tackle, but readily admits to his class work struggles. "I was just going through the motions," Greene said. "I didn't think I would be playing college football at first. After my junior season (in high school), that was when I started getting a lot of phone calls and letters, and that is when I finally started noticing that, 'Oh, I might have a chance.' I pushed as hard as I could in my senior year, but I still came up short. The next spot was junior college and push through so I could go to a four-year (university)."

Yes, for the big city Southern kid, it was quite an adjustment when he first headed to Kansas, looking for his own "Wizard of Oz," as the four-year colleges took notice of his work on the offensive line during his true freshman season in 2014. He produced 114 knockdowns/key blocks and had a hand in delivering key blocks on twenty touchdown drives for a team that generated 41 scores on the ground. He then sat out the 2015 campaign, hoping to maintain three years of football eligibility if a major college came calling.

Academically, Greene made quite a turnaround when he put the "hard work" needed into his books. In fact, the fifth-year senior is on schedule to graduate in December, 2018, with a degree in Human Resource Development. He also found that his hard work could pay off for others, as he served an internship with the Blizzard Foundation, a non-profit that creates opportunities for kids from minority communities to play baseball. "I've had to stay focused and be around the right people," Greene said.

Greene also had to embrace the training room. The once 290-pound prep star ballooned to 345 pounds at one point, negating one of his greater assets - a quick kick slide. Currently at 320 pounds, the man with "hands of stone" has been a great asset for a team that has to do patchwork on their running game each week, as injuries have taken out the top three ball carriers on their 2018 squad.

Before a head injury sidelined him for the Illinois contest, Greene was quietly piling up impressive blocking numbers for pro scouts stopping on campus - 71 knockdown blocks through eight games, seven key blocks on ten touchdown drives on the ground and ten more for the aerial game. Still, there are times when his emotions got the better of him.

Head coach P.J. Fleck has taken to "tough love" where his left tackle is concerned. The coach was not pleased with Greene in 2017 after the then junior was penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct when he swung and hit an opponent in the heat of action during the Michigan game, leading to a bit of discipline from his coach.

At the time of the infraction, Fleck said, without elaborating on his plans. "I'm not into one of those guys, yeah, yeah, that happens on the field, emotions run high. It's all about controlling your emotions. If you control yourself, you can always control your opponent. The minute your opponent controls the way you act, now you got a problem, and I'll refuse to let that slide."

This season, Greene dominated the action in the trenches during the first two games on the 2018 schedule, but in the first quarter of the third contest, he again found himself in his coach's doghouse. An unsportsmanlike penalty by the left tackle pushed the Gophers from the Miami 27-yard line to the 42 and out of field goal range. Fleck said Greene would be dealt with internally. “Whatever the act is, when it’s unsportsmanlike, then you’re putting everything on yourself,’’ Fleck said. “It’s also football. It’s a very emotional game, and at times things like that happen. But in our program, it’s unacceptable.”

What really hurt was that Greene could have been only the second blocker in school history to ever record a perfect blocking consistency grade vs. the Miami RedHawks. Due to the penalty, he graded 97% for his performance. The only time a Gophers offensive tackle registered 100% in a contest was Keith Fahnhorst vs. Iowa on November 1st, 1973.

Now, after showing his true warrior's nature by playing in the last three 2018 regular season games with a torn meniscus that required surgery, he finished his final year with 95 knockdowns, twenty-three touchdown resulting blocks and nine downfield blocks. Invited to the NFL Scouting Combine, there is an excellent chance he could end the university's draft drought, as he could be the first Gophers offensive lineman selected since 2006, when Denver used a sixth round choice to grab center Greg Eslinger (198th overall) and the St. Louis Rams chose guard Mark Setterstrom in the seventh round (pick number 242).

GREENE'S LONG ROAD TO MINNESOTA

Prior to his college football journey, Greene was a standout two-way lineman for Kell High School Longhorns head coach Derek Cook. During his senior season in 2013, his team compiled a 13-1 record to earn a berth in the state semifinals. On offense, the AAAAA All-Region 7B blocker helped his team generate 3,137 yards with 37 touchdowns rushing (224.1 ypg), adding 2,385 yards and 25 scores while completing 64.8% of their passes. The defensive MVP and All-State first-team pick also registered 85 tackles (47 solos) with 6.5 sacks and fifteen stops behind the line of scrimmage.

After originally signing his national letter of intent to attend San Diego State in February, 2016, Greene had a change of heart, as the former Coffeyville College blocker would instead enroll at the University of Minnesota. Tipping the scales at 345 pounds, he played behind Garrison Wright before taking over left tackle duties during the Gophers' final eight contests. The Gophers would go on to score 34 times on the ground that year, averaging 183.62 yards per game, thanks to their new left tackle.

The 2017 season saw Greene start eleven games on the team's twelve-game schedule, as his penalty vs. Michigan saw Fleck institute "tough love" by not starting his left tackle the following week vs. Nebraska. The benching not only motivated Greene the rest of the season, but made his teammates come to attention - the 514 yards they gained vs. the Huskers was their best game total for the campaign. Of the twenty-nine total touchdowns registered by the offense, Greene had key blocks in nineteen of those drives.

Most NFL scouts agree that Greene has ideal size for the left tackle position, as he hosts a frame strong and long arms, along with huge hands that he uses well to control defenders. The first thing you see on game films is that the Georgia native demonstrates an initial punch that simply stuns pass rushers. If he can get his hands inside the framework of a pass rusher, the match-up is almost always over for the defender.

Greene shows the ability to roll his hips after engagement and will drive his target to the ground, as he consistently follows through as a run blocker. There is no question that his foot quickness allows him to be a left tackle on Sundays, as he moves his feet to ward off a pass rusher and is not lazy or grabby. He plays with a natural knee bend and can handle a defender’s spin move with foot quickness and balance.

The left tackle is sudden to redirect and is usually patient letting the pass rusher come to him. He uses good footwork to gain depth and could begin his pro career as an interior blocker, for he seems to be mobile and rangy when pulling. He adjusts well on the run, sustains his blocks and finishes with functional playing strength. He possesses solid lower body flexibility and on cut off blocks, he has very good lateral agility and quickness to prevent and secure defenders away from the play or versus a slant move.

When he sets the edge in the run game, Greene is hard to knock off his feet. He has the ability to drop his weight and anchor vs. power and you can see he is the type who now embraces his ability to ratchet up his intensity on every play. Most scouts feel, sans the costly penalties, that Greene has elevated his game to another level in 2018 - specifically his ability to quick set and change direction and mirror a two-move pass rusher.

Greene is particularly impressive blocking and dealing with defenders who play with a low center of gravity. Throughout the 2018 campaign, you could observe him keeping his hands more inside the frame, but he does get high with his arm extension at times. He is solid with his angles on the second level locking up pursuit. While he is hard to knock off his feet but it can be done if he loses his knee bend. Still, he possesses the size, strength, balance, punch, and the ability to drop his weight and anchor.

MINNESOTA OFFENSIVE TACKLES AND THE NFL DRAFT

Since the inception of the draft in 1936, ninety-eight Minnesota offensive linemen have been drafted - 39 tackles, 49 guards and ten centers. However, the last Gophers blocker to hear his name called on draft day was All-American center Greg Eslinger, a sixth round pick by Denver in 2006. Injuries would eventually prevent him from appearing in an NFL contest. The last time a tackle was chosen was in the 2002 phase, with Mike Aderle also being a sixth rounder by the San Diego Chargers. Unfortunately, he would join Eslinger as non-performers at the pro level.

Of the thirty-nine offensive tackles drafted, twenty-one never played in the league. Only thirteen of those tackle draftees ever played a full season in the NFL. Just three performed in at least one hundred games. The Gophers sent three tackles to the pro ranks as first round selections, but the last one was John Williams, the 23rd overall pick by the Baltimore Colts in 1968. He would appear in 166 games until retiring after the 1979 season. Three others were taken in the third round and two were third round selections.

Williams, whose peak weight was 256 pounds, played in the NFL from 1968 through 1979. During that span he appeared in three Super Bowls: Super Bowl III and Super Bowl V for the Baltimore Colts; and Super Bowl XIV for the Los Angeles Rams. At the University of Minnesota, he was a first- team All-Big Ten Conference tackle in 1967 and led the Gophers to the league title. Unfortunately, he died on July 8th, 2012 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, at the age of 66, while out for a walk. He had recently been the recipient of a kidney transplant.

The first opening round offensive tackle selected was Ed Widseth, the fourth overall selection by the New York Giants in 1937. He was a consensus All-American in 1935 and 1936 at Minnesota, going on to play four seasons for the Giants. He was chosen for the Pro Bowl in 1938 and was later inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame. Weighing just 220 pounds, his college hall of fame biography

called him, "a slashing, driving invader who used his body to pummel opposing players, relentlessly advancing until the ball-carrier was within his grasp and quickly felled."

From 1937 to 1939, Widseth was recognized as an All-NFL player three consecutive years. As a rookie in 1937, he was selected as a second-team All-NFL player by Collyers Eye Magazine, the INS, the NFL, the New York Daily News and the United Press. In 1938, he was rated a first-team All-NFL player. He was selected to the 1938 Pro Bowl. In 1939, he was selected as a second-team All-NFL player by the NFL and New York Daily News.

Five years later, Urban Odson was the ninth overall choice in the 1942 draft by the Green Bay Packers, but due to World War II, he did not appear in the NFL until 1946, playing in 39 games through the 1949 schedule.

The 1974 draft saw the NFL reap great benefits by drafting Minnesota offensive tackles, as not only were the Gophers' two starters drafted, but also their key back-up. Coincidentally, the two standouts from that draft class both appeared and started in over one hundred games during their pro careers - Keith Fahnhorts (second round by San Francisco; 160 starts in 193 games from 1974-87) and Matt Herkenhoff (fourth round by Kansas City; 125 appearances and 122 starts from 1976-85). In the 12th round, the Baltimore Colts took Dave Simonson, who was a reserve journeyman in 29 games until failing to make a team in 1977.

Fahnhorst played in the NFL from 1974 through 1987. The 273-pound, 6-foot-6-inch lineman led the San Francisco 49ers in seniority and appeared in Super Bowl XVI and Super Bowl XIX games. His younger brother, Jim, played linebacker in the United States Football League and for the 49ers from 1984 to 1990. The brothers were teammates on the 1984 49ers team that won Super Bowl XIX and finished with a 15-1 record. Keith retired from pro football because of a neck injury that caused him to miss nine games during the 1987 season. He moved to Minneapolis to work as a stockbroker, but passed away on June 12th, 2018 at the age 66.

Herkenhoff was the starting left tackle for the Chiefs until they drafted Iowa' John Alt in the first round of the 1985 draft to replace him. Matt had survived a couple of knee operations and did not begin his NFL career until 1976. He was signed out of the University of Minnesota by the New York Stars of the World Football League and moved with the Stars to Charlotte, North Carolina, midway through the 1974 season, but bailed out of the failing league at the close of the year, signing with the Chiefs.

'I don't regret ever doing it,' said Herkenhoff of his decision to play in the WFL. 'At the time I did it, it was strictly a financial decision. I like playing in the National Football League. You are playing vs. the best players in the world -- and I think that's what every player wants.' He spent the 1975 season on the injured-reserve list with ankle problems before claiming a starting spot in the third game of the 1976 season. He played in 47 consecutive games before injuring his right knee in 1979. Then he suffered an injury to his left knee at the close of the 1980 season.

Herkenhoff started fifteen games during the 1984 season and helped the Chiefs set a club record with a sack ratio of one per every 19 pass attempts. Quarterbacks Bill Kenney and Todd Blackledge were sacked only 33 times in 626 pass plays. He retired as the oldest player on the roster in 1985.

Greene has appeared in 39 contests for Minnesota, starting a total of 30 times - the last eight games in 2016, eleven in 2017 and the first seven appearances, along with the final three contests on the 2018 regular season schedule. He also started all twelve games that he appeared in as a true freshman for Coffeyville Community College in 2014.

The senior transfer was a second-team All-Big Ten Conference selection by The NFL Draft Report, earning honorable mention from the league's coaches and media in 2018. The left tackle started the first seven games for the Gophers. He came off the bench vs. Indiana and missed the Illinois contest due to concussion protocol and a knee injury that would require surgery to repair a torn meniscus after the regular season that forced him to sit out the Quick Lane Bowl match-up vs. Georgia Tech.

In eleven games that included ten starting assignments, the senior left tackle registered 95 key blocks/knockdowns, the fifth-best for any blocker in the Big Ten Conference for the 2018 season. He posted eleven touchdown-resulting blocks for the ground game and twelve more to protect the pocket in order for Hoosiers' quarterbacks to complete touchdown tosses.

He allowed two quarterback sacks for minus 16 yards, 3.5 stops behind the line of scrimmage for losses of 19 yards and one quarterback pressure, but he was penalized four times (two unsportsmanlike, one holding, one off-side), compiling a blocking consistency grade of 88.36%, as he reached the 90% level in each of the New Mexico State, Miami (Oh.), Iowa Purdue contests. Nine of his key blocks came in the second level.

In the eleven games he appeared in, Greene was credited with key blocks on 57.89% of the team's rushing touchdowns (11-of-19; four other touchdowns came in the games he missed - vs. Illinois and Georgia Tech). The senior also provided touchdown-resulting blocks on 75.00% of the Gophers' aerial touchdowns (12-of-15). He was charged with just 8.69% of the team's quarterback sacks allowed (2-of-23; four more sacks were allowed by the offensive line in the two games Greene sat out) during his eleven appearances. Only 6.48% of the tackles-for-loss given up by the offensive line were charged to Greene (3.5-of-54.0) during his time on the field.

*The Scouting Report*

*Athletic Ability*... Barrel-chested athlete with a thick bone structure, very wide hips, massive thighs, big hands and good arm length. Has good upper body development for a player his size, but needs to keep his weight in check, as reports indicate he weighed over 345 pounds during spring camp (needs further verification), quite a bit of a gain after playing the 2017 season at 322, as scouts are concerned the added weight could affect his mobility and the extra baggage of carrying that along a soft midsection.

Greene has good athletic ability for a player his size, but does struggle when having to move laterally, especially to his left side. He is lighter on his feet that expected and he has an explosive straight-line burst, but during the second half of the 2017 schedule, he looked lethargic moving down the line. It is rare to see him on the ground (only when he over-extends and lunges as a run blocker) and he shows good upper body flexibility with his hand placement. He has good body control and generates movement on the short pull, which could see him earn playing time at offensive guard earlier in his career. He plays on his feet, thanks to a strong anchor and above average balance in the trenches. He can slide and adjust in pass protection (has a good retreat slide, but labors moving to his left) and despite a soft midsection, he does a decent job of keeping his pads down to drop his weight and anchor. He does have weight issues and needs to keep it check in order to generate better mobility.

*Initial Quickness*...On a straight-ahead burst, Greene is usually very quick as a drive blocker and can flash suddenness to gain advantage on a lethargic defender. He has unusual first step quickness moving forward for a big man, along with quickness setting up in pass protection. His lateral agility to the left needs improvement, as he had some difficulties mirroring the quicker edge rushers later in the year (knee issues that required surgery, keeping him out of the 2018 bowl season). While flashy in pass protection, he does not generate the suddenness in his pass set and lateral slide as he does when moving forward as a drive blocker. Still, he can gain position working in-line and has a good concept for angling getting into the second level, making him a potentially better candidate for offensive guard or right tackle at the pro level.

*Balance/Stays on His Feet*…Greene is an immovable object when he anchors, thanks to his strong base and massively thick legs. He might over-extend and lunge on some run blocks, but once he locks on to an opponent, he puts his foot into the ground solidly and with his strong base, has no problems handling multiple defenders on twists and games. He simply destroys bull rushers with his anchor and hand punch (through inconsistent shooting his hands), an additional reason most scouting reports like him better as a guard. He has a good feel for using his hands to sustain and plays with good effort working in-line. He is strong, but you would like to see him finish with better aggression, though. With his athletic ability, he can stay on the bigger defenders, but his feet do tend to wear down when he is constantly challenged by the speedy edge rushers.

*Explosion/Pop…* With his straight-line explosion, Greene has had great success surprising and shocking his opponent off the snap. He holds the point of attack with a very strong base and shows tremendous upper body and hand power to move the pile and widen the rush lanes. He can be explosive gaining movement and on contact when he keeps his pad level down. He simply knocks opponents off the line of scrimmage coming out of his stance and uses his mass well to create space on the move. He can strike and control his man with ease when he keeps his hands inside his frame. He might not be an explosive hip roller and because of his girth, he will bend some at the waist, but he has more than enough strength to push and wall off. The thing you are most impressed when watching film is his ability to jolt and control his man coming out of his stance.

*Run Blocking*…This is what Greene does best (13 of the team's 20 touchdown runs last year were the result of his drive blocks on running plays). He shows valid initial quickness off the snap, especially on the down block. He does a much better job of opening and rolling his hips on drive blocks than he does in pass protection. He is a good player in space, where he uses his power and size to drive through into the second level. He comes off the line with a good flat-back motion and proper hip snap, using his hand punch with force to stun. With his long arms, he is capable of quickly resetting his hands. He is light on his feet moving forward and looks like a dancing bear mauling smaller second level defenders. When he gains position off the snap, he uses his strength well to sustain. In the second level, he has a good concept for angling, but will get lazy with his feet if he has to execute a long pull.

*Pass Blocking*…Greene is a much better pass blocker with a defender over his head than when having to slide out and mirror an edge rusher. He just seems to lack the lateral flexibility needed to stay with his man when the opponent attacks the backfield off the wide loop, making him a better candidate for guard or right tackle. He has the hand punch to pop and control, but for some reason, he would absorb defenders more, rather than initiate contact in pass protection. All of his negative plays in the backfield came against quicker pass rushers (does a much better job vs. the bull rush). You would figure with his deep kick slide and longer arms that he would be able to stave off the edge rush better, but it is obvious that he has lateral movement issues going to his left.

*Pulling/Trapping Skills*…Greene is not used much on traps and pulls, but with his straight-ahead quickness, he has registered 27 downfield blocks over the last three years. You see he has good movement skills working in space, but does show inconsistent change of direction agility. He has enough body control and good balance to root out a defender moving down the line, but on times when he will get high in his stance, it causes him to appear tight when trying to open his hips. He is quick out of his stance, though and shows the ability to make adjustments on the short pull, but might be lacking when needed to execute the long pulls down field.

*Use of Hands/Punch*...While inconsistent in keeping relationship on second level defenders, Greene can simply flatten an opponent with his punch, but needs to do a better job of keeping those hands inside his frame. He will swing wildly, lunge and overextend at times, lacking the hip snap to quickly recover. He can generate force with either hand and will generally stun the bigger bull rushers in one-on-one confrontations. He does get caught holding at times and needs to improve that technique, but he has excellent lock-out ability once he gets a piece of the defender. His hands simply explode into an opponent on contact and when working at the line, he is much more patient and consistent throwing his hands with proper timing. He has the long arms needed to pressure and keep defensive ends at bay and shows outstanding (though inconsistent) strength to jolt and control.

*Reactions/Awareness*...Greene is very good at locating and neutralizing the inside blitz, but his lack of lateral agility sees him struggle vs. quicker edge rushers. He has a good feel for taking on the right defender when more than one opponent attacks him. It is rare to see him cross his feet moving along the line, even though he lacks good lateral agility. He might get caught leaning too much on drive blocks, but he is light on his feet playing in the short area. He has the quickness to reach the cut-off point to mirror the bull rusher, and while just an adequate student, he should have no problems with the mental aspect of a physical ground game.

*Compares To.*..Trent Brown-Oakland Raiders...Greene's career path could be more beneficial at offensive guard than at left tackle. While Greene might be a good fit at right tackle, I would prefer him better at an interior position, feeling his lack of lateral range (especially moving to his left) is a big concern for a player that must protect the quarterback’s blind side. To date, he has made a nice living vs. smaller opponents (average weight of his main blocking assignment over the last two years is 262.4 pounds, more than 80 pounds lighter than Greene), but in the NFL, he will face much bigger and much quicker defensive ends and I don’t think his excellent straight-line explosiveness will compensate for his lateral mobility problems.

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