THE NFL DRAFT REPORT PRESENTS

THE 2019 WIDE RECEIVER DRAFT CLASS

INTERESTING BLEND OF PASS CATCHERS TO FILL MOST NFL TEAM NEEDS

YET, NO SUPER STARS IN THE GROUP

With more and more emphasis on the passing game these days, NFL teams generally concentrate on two positions throughout the draft phase - wide receiver and cornerback. Usually, the bigger wide-outs line up at split end, with your quicker receivers funneling through the second level at flanker. Most teams now use a variation of multiple receiver sets and the slot receiver is no longer reserved for those cat-quick "little guys."

The split end, also called the "X" receiver, is usually stationed at the line of scrimmage, necessary to meet the rule requiring seven such players at snap. Where applicable, this receiver is on the opposite side of the tight end. The split end is farthest from center on his side of the field and is generally a tall, physical type - one who can create mismatches vs. the smaller cornerbacks and elevate to win jump ball battles. Two assets needed by a player at this position is strength and quickness, as he will generally have to fend off jam coverage, as well as display enough power to work across the middle of the field and gain big yardage after the catch.

The flanker is also known as the "Z" receiver and is usually aligned behind the line of scrimmage. He is usually the team's featured receiver, the player who uses the initial buffer between himself and a defender to avoid immediate "jamming" (legal defensive contact within five yards of the line of scrimmage). The flanker is generally on the same side of the formation as a tight end. As with the split end, this receiver is the farthest player from the center on his side of the field. The flanker is usually lined up just like a split end except that he is just behind the line of scrimmage, therefore being in the backfield and not on the line. The flashier of the two outside pass catchers, the flanker will gain most of his opportunities outside the numbers and need that second gear to get vertical down the field in an instant.

Rapidly becoming very popular for pass-happy teams, the slot receiver, often referred to as the "Y" receiver usually line up anywhere from the split end to flanker positions. Some teams have also begun using speedy tight end types, or motion backs at this formation. If aligned with a flanker, the slot receiver is usually on the line of scrimmage, and if with a split end, off the line of scrimmage. As with the flanker position, a featured receiver often takes a slot position with a split end to avoid jamming. The smaller, speedy slot receivers are quite popular in most offensive schemes, but there seems to be a trend for using quick, undersized tight end types that are flexed out, creating mismatches by using their size and strength to defeat the press.

While used more in the Canadian Football League, where there are twelve players on a side, there is another designated position called the slot back. These are capable wide-outs who line up in the offensive back field. In the CFL and Arena Football, these players are allowed to take a running start at the line. They are usually larger players as they need to make catches over the middle. In American football, slot backs are typically used in flex-bone or other triple option offenses, while Canadian football uses two of them in almost all formations (in addition to two wide receivers and two running backs).

THE ROUND ONE PASS CATCHERS

Marquise "Hollywood" Brown-#5

University of Oklahoma Sooners

5:09.3-166

*Agility Tests...*4.34 in the 40-yard dash…1.51 10-yard dash…2.50 20-yard dash…4.11 20-yard shuttle…6.78 three-cone drill…34-inch vertical jump…Bench pressed 225 pounds xx times…30 1/2-inch arm length…9-inch hands…71 3/4-inch wingspan.

*Background*...The cousin of Oakland Raiders receiver Antonio Brown, the Sooners speedy junior played late in the season with a foot injury that required Lisfranc surgery, preventing him from working out for teams this off-season. The school reported that in late March, doctors removed the boot from his foot and they are hopeful that he can participate in mini-camps right after the draft.

Brown came into this world two weeks earlier than expected, after his mom had a very difficult nine months throughout her pregnancy. “He came out, and he was a little guy,” Shannon James, his mother, said. He was small, but he was perfectly healthy. After two weeks in the hospital, Brown got to go home. From that day on, James says, he brought life to the family.

James raised Brown and his older sister, Shanice, on her own, with help from her parents. Her baby boy would go on to beat the odds in so many other ways, but the biggest challenge he ever faced was simply being born. A story of determination started with a mother’s love. “He was my miracle baby,” James said.

After a prep career at Chaminade Madonna High School, the Florida native did not receive any scholarships from Division one schools. He enrolled at the College of the Canyons for the 2016 season. Because California junior colleges do not offer sports scholarships, he worked at Six Flags Magic Mountain to make ends meet.

“I’d go, ‘Five, four, three’—and then I’d stop,” says Brown, explaining his job as ride operator. “Then I’d say, ‘Y’all want me to keep counting?’ and before they could respond I’d hit the button and the ride would take off.” The Oklahoma wide receiver can’t stifle a laugh at the memory of all those bugged eyes and strained necks.

Each ride operator at Magic Mountain, which hosts some three million guests each year, is encouraged to “have fun and come up with his own spiel,” supervisor Byron Douglas explained while standing beneath the double-looped and corkscrewed white tracks of the Full Throttle ride, where Brown worked, and which hovers over the park like tangled spaghetti. “Sometimes I switched it up,” Brown recalls, but usually he pulled his countdown trick, distracting guests to enhance the shock of Full Throttle’s initial rocket-like ascent.

Brown then began his own rise. After he recorded 50 receptions for 754 yards and ten touchdowns, leading the College of the Canyons Cougars in all three categories, he received several Division-I offers before deciding to attend the University of Oklahoma. During his first year with the Sooners, he played all thirteen games starting eight, as he had a team-high 1095 receiving yards on57 catches (19.2 ypc) and seven touchdowns, becoming the eighth-best receiver in season yards in the Sooners record book. He also posted 265 yards vs. Oklahoma State, a school record for receiving yards in a single game.

The 2018 campaign saw Brown receive consensus All-American honors. The All-Big Twelve Conference selection and Biletnikoff Award semifinalist started all but one of the fourteen games he appeared in. He ranked 14th nationally with 94.1 receiving yards per game. His 1,318 receiving yards rank as fourth most in school single-season history. He registered ten receiving touchdowns and tied for national lead in receptions of 40-plus yards (11), 50-plus yards (seven) and 60-plus yards (four).

Brown logged six games with at least 100 receiving yards. He paired with CeeDee Lamb to give OU its first duo to each record at least 1,000 receiving yards in a season. However, the end of the season was filled with injury issues. He caught five passes for 54 yards in league championship vs. Texas before exiting game in third quarter due to a foot injury. That injury limited him vs. then top-ranked Alabama in CFP Semifinal at the Orange Bowl and he did not register a reception. On January 2nd, 2019, Brown announced that he would forgo his final year of eligibility to declare for the 2019 NFL Draft.

*The Scouting Report*

*Athletic Ability.*.. Brown has a short, yet athletic frame (classic slot receiver-type) with good muscle definition, decent arm length, tight waist and hips, small bubble and minimal body fat. He is much lighter than what teams look for in a receiver and even though he was a flanker in college, he will more likely be utilized as a slot receiver in the NFL.

He displays solid footwork and agility getting into his routes and his balance is acceptable, despite some ankle issues (does cut sharply though). He has good stop-&-go action and excellent timed speed that translates well on the field due to an explosive second gear. He shows good acceleration, athleticism, and body control handling returns.

He shows that burst needed to turn a slant pass into a long gainer (gained 1,256-of-2,411 yards after the catch as a Sooner). He also displays the vision and patience to follow his blockers and then turn on the after-burners to beat the defense down the sidelines. He has outstanding hip snap and agility to elude in attempts to gain big yardage after the catch. He makes smooth body adjustments and possesses solid hands and extension to catch away from his frame.

*Release*... Brown simply explodes out of his stance and past a lethargic defender to instantly get into his patterns. One noticeable improvement that he made as a junior was showing that he can be just as smooth as sudden in his release, which will generally fool the defender and get the man covering him to come out of the backpedal too early. He has the ability to elude the press with his quickness and footwork. He has also become much more active using his hands to prevent from getting held up when the physical cornerback attempts to stab him initially.

He has that natural second gear to gobble up the cushion and get behind the cornerbacks on deep routes (14-of-17 touchdowns came on 20-plus yard plays). He does a nice job of sinking pads and it is hard to mirror him once he gets past his opponent. He also generates decent hand usage to beat the press. He shows outstanding foot quickness and hip shake with suddenness when trying to change direction (very good at freezing defenders at the line of scrimmage).

The thing you notice mostly on film is his exceptional acceleration to get up field once he creates the lane. Unlike most speedsters, he does not dance too much at the line and that allows him to show outstanding quickness in his release, with the shiftiness and avoidance ability at the line of scrimmage to defeat the press. Even though he is still developing strength, he does a good job of pushing off the defender and quickly eludes with his swim move.

*Acceleration*...Brown shows excellent burst and explosion in his RAC, as he has the feet and loose hips to change direction without needing to gather or throttle down. He runs very crisp routes and has more than enough quickness, spin and swim movement to escape from tight man coverage. His burst has that “catch me if you can” label for defenders to view as he races by. Once he gets a clean release and into the second level, it is nearly impossible to slow him down. He has great body control and adjustment skills to maintain stride and speed running through tight quarters. He might not look like he has size to run through traffic, but with his strength and burst, he easily creates separation to turn the slants and fades into big gainers. If a defender hesitates, Brown can change gears and beat his man, gaining 52.09% of his yardage after the catch during his last two seasons.

*Quickness*...Brown has had a strong-armed quarterback to work with the last two years, resulting in him being used mostly the featured receiver on deep patterns, but he also has good ability working out of the slot on controlled and underneath routes. It is evident that he can get vertical in an instant. He does a good job of getting under the deep throws, turning nicely to make the over-the-shoulder grabs. He is blessed with outstanding quickness on the field. He makes short and sharp cuts without having to break stride and his initial burst is sudden, especially when left uncontested. He can avoid defenders on the move, create lanes and get up field in an instant once he gets a clean release. It is rare to see him get “too busy” with the press corners at the line of scrimmage and he quickly gains advantage on the defender due to his speed.

*Route Running*...Brown used to round his cuts at times and drift in and out on long patterns, but has shown vast improvement the last two years, running precise routes with good suddenness. He has a nice array of head fakes and double moves to con and sell the defender, proving to be especially slippery on slants, as he drops his weight well and gets back to the ball with little-to-no wasted motion. If you need a receiver to fly off the line, especially on posts, this is where he excels. He has the ability to make things happen on comeback routes, showing good urgency working back when the quarterback is flushed. He displays excellent quickness and foot speed in and out of his breaks. When he plays at a low pad level, he gets into his routes immediately.

*Separation Ability*... Brown has really developed his escape skills as a junior, more out of necessity, as he is not the biggest receiver on this planet. He has also excelled on deep patterns, thanks to having a quarterback with the arm strength to stretch the defense. He has that explosive burst to get vertical and will simply blow past defenders, in addition to showing the vision to find the void and settle. There is no doubt that he will be able to gain separation vs. NFL cornerbacks, but will need to get stronger, as he’s not always going to negotiate a clean release. He has shown marked improvement sinking his hips and exploding out of his breaks, no longer struggling to separate when he comes off the snap with an erect stance (did this as a sophomore). In the NFL, he might be better served as a slot receiver, as he excels at taking slants and crossers for big yardage rather than lining out wide.

*Leaping Ability*...Brown lacks the size to beat too many defenders to throws at its high point. He is a good leaper in the training room (34-inch vertical) but even with good timing to go up and get the ball, his lack of height will see him lose quite a few jump ball battles.

*Hands*...Brown does a nice job of catching every ball thrown his way. He has the soft, natural hands, along with the ability to snatch high and away from his frame. He displays above average ball security skills to excel as a receiver. He looks natural getting elevation and extension to catch outside his frame, but he will drop a few easy passes, which usually occur as a result of momentarily losing focus (goes in spurts-dropped 14-of-185 passes at OU). He has soft, natural hands, extending well to catch away from the body’s framework. He is not the type that will revert to body catching, as he is a soft hands catcher who just needs to learn how to time his leaps properly to get to the pass at its highest point.

*Run After the Catch*...Brown is an exciting and electrifying open field runner. He is an elusive shaker with excellent change of direction skills, sort of like a water bug the way he can slip, slide and elude on the move. He not only shows good quickness working in the short area, but great toughness, as well. He has outstanding skill set in terms of speed, quickness, agility and change of direction. Despite his slight frame, he is tough to bring down in isolated coverage and does a nice job of sidestepping low tackles. When he is out in front, he will generally win most foot races. More than 52% of his career yardage has come after the catch.

*Compares To...*Desean Jackson-Philadelphia Eagles...While they have the same athletic talent, Brown has far more courage that Jackson. Both are blessed that exceptional foot quickness that you instantly notice in their burst and acceleration. Expected to play the slot in the NFL, Brown should excel on screens, hitches, and underneath routes, as few receivers in this draft have his ability to slip a tackle and take it the distance.

THE MOST IMPRESSIVE ATHLETE AT THE POSITION MIGHT, METCALF HOPES INJURY ISSUES ARE BEHIND HIM

DeKaylin "D.K." Metcalf-#14

The University of Mississippi Rebels

6:03.3-228

*Agility Tests...*4.33 in the 40-yard dash…1.48 10-yard dash…2.53 20-yard dash…4.50 20-yard shuttle…7.38 three-cone drill…40 1/2-inch vertical jump…11'-02" broad jump… Bench pressed 225 pounds 27 times…34 7/8-inch arm length…9 7/8-inch hands…82 7/8-inch wingspan.

*Background.*..DeKaylin Zecharius Metcalf is the son of former National Football League (NFL) offensive lineman Terrence Metcalf, who also played for Ole Miss. The family NFL tree expands to another era, as D.K.'s grandfather, Terry, was a star running back for the St. Louis Cardinals and Terry's brother, Eric, was a Pro Bowl returner.

Born and raised in Oxford, Mississippi, he played football at Oxford High School, where D.K. was a U.S. Army and MaxPreps All-American selection. The consensus four-star prospect was listed as the fifth-best prep player in the state of Mississippi by Rivals.com, as that recruiting service also ranked the 14th-best receiver in the nation.

As a freshman at Ole Miss in 2016, Metcalf appeared in the first two games of the season before suffering a foot injury which ended his season. He finished with two receptions for 13 yards, both of those grabs going for touchdowns before he was awarded a medical red-shirt. He was then named

to the All-Southeastern Conference Freshman .Team in 2017. Appearing in twelve games, he caught 39 passes for 646 yards and seven sevens, all career highs. Those seven scoring snatches ranked seventh in the SEC that year.

A neck injury sidelined Metcalf for the Rebels' final five games, as the Biletnikoff Award watch list member pulled down 26 passes for 569 yards and five touchdowns. Prior to injury, he was ranked fourth in the SEC with five receiving scores and third in the conference in receiving yards. His fourteen career touchdown receptions are ninth all-time in program history. For his career, he caught 67-of-118 passes (56.78%) for 1,228 yards, gaining 467 yards after the catch (38.03% of total yards), dropping seven of those 118 targets.

*The Scouting Report*

*Athletic Ability.*..Metcalf has the rare sized frame that scouts covet – a muscular torso, broad shoulders, quick feet, long limbs, thick thighs and calves, good bubble and excellent body control. There are flexibility issues (hip tightness) that affects his overall flexibility, but he possesses minimal body fat (1.8%) and despite his linebacker-like size, he still has room on his frame to add more bulk. He has excellent quickness getting into his route and is developing natural hands to go with ever improving body control. He has more than enough speed to get downfield, showing good balance to adjust to the ball in flight and has the leaping ability to compete for the ball in the air.

Metcalf still has some areas of his game to refine – route running and reaching and plucking the ball outside his frame. He is an emerging talent for a patient coach to unearth. He plays with good confidence and makes every effort to get to the ball in a crowd. You can see on film that he was bigger and much faster than any cornerback that challenged him outside of the SEC last season (see Southern Illinois, Kent State, Louisiana-Monroe game, but vs. league competition, that saw him all but disappear (two catches vs. Alabama, three vs. LSU, one before hurt vs. Arkansas).

Metcalf is a fearless competitor, but not the type that will demand the ball, preferring to play within the team’s game plan. He is clearly the team’s best offensive weapon, but never complained about the way the staff did not fully utilize his talents.

*Release*... Metcalf is quick getting into his routes, but even with his impressive timed speed, he does not always generate explosion coming out of his stance. He knows how to sell the route and builds to top speed nicely vs. off coverage, but you’d like to see more suddenness from his initial release. He is a quick twitch type, but is best when allowed to fly down the sidelines and stretch the field, as he seems more comfortable running out patterns than complicated ones at this stage of his young career. He is much more pro-active when a cornerback gives him a big cushion, as he still has not developed hand placement and punch needed to beat the press.

He shows good quickness and a deceptive stride, where he can suddenly put on the second gear to eat up the defender’s cushion. He has valid strength to fight through a powerful jam, and when he is able to avoid it, he gets into his route quickly. Still, it is his moves off the ball that gets him most of his success in moving up the field.

Before his neck injury last year, Metcalf was getting to top speed much faster than expected for his height, eating up the cushion and blowing by cornerbacks. He also showed that he can hesitate to lull the defender to sleep, then accelerate to get separation. He is not pressed much because of his size and speed, but seemed more comfortable giving a shake and using his hands to free himself from the jam more as 2018 progressed, compared to 2016-17.

*Acceleration*...Metcalf can immediately eat up the cushion and get behind the defensive back, but must not short-arm when challenged by a physical press. He shows good hands to rotate and pluck the ball thrown behind him, but does cradle too many tosses when facing the quarterback (will short arm working in a crowd, resulting in seven drops the last two years). He does a much better job tracking the ball and catching over his shoulder in space and the deep secondary than he does playing over the middle (see Texas Tech, Alabama, Southern Illinois and ULM big plays).

He has the size and vertical jump to go up and make the catch over the middle, but you sometimes wonder if he has the durability to take a pounding there (neck injury in 2018; foot stepped on in 2016). He is better when using his long stride and vertical speed to stretch the field. It is evident that he has natural ball skills to adjust to the ball in flight and play it deep. He builds to top speed nicely, but does have some wasted motions trying to shed corners at the line of scrimmage. He can run a lethargic defender off the line of scrimmage and plays the ball well with nice adjustment skills.

*Quickness*...Metcalf can flat out fly down the sidelines. He needs to be more explosive out of his stance, but once he gets into his route, he builds his acceleration nicely. He is a long strider, but has good quickness off the line and the ability to eat up a defender’s cushion. He shows nice acceleration throughout his routes, but needs to develop an array of moves to set up the defender, as he does not do a good job of sinking his hips.

*Route Running*...Metcalf does a nice job of sinking his pads to come out of his breaks cleanly, but he will drift at times on deep patterns and has to stop taking soft angle cuts in the open area (loose hip issues). He takes long strides, but they are quick enough for him to get to his break point, thanks to his ability to lower his pads and drop his weight to generate the burst needed coming out of his plant. He has the speed to run off defenders and has started to develop a good feel for quarterback pressure, doing a solid job of working back to the ball. He rounds up field routes some, but has the body control to adjust and get under the thrown ball without having to break stride. His stop and comeback routes are sudden, a dangerous combination with his potential as a deep threat. He also uses a head fake to sell routes and is willing to find holes in zones over the middle.

*Separation Ability*...Metcalf is very effective escaping cornerbacks past the second level, especially when operating on slants and drags. He is not as effective working through a crowd, where he does have issues catching the ball (cradles it too much) when facing the quarterback. He knows how to settle into the soft areas, but on deep routes, he has to stop taking so many soft angle cuts. He has to be more explosive on tempo routes to gain valid yardage after the catch. He also must keep his head on a better swivel, as he does not always get that quick turning motion on curls and hitches. He has the ability to break down a corner’s cushion with his pure speed when going deep. He has the size to shade defender and a valid second gear to separate in the deep zone.

Metcalf has those large mitts for hands to be a vacuum going up to secure the ball and even makes those crowd-pleasing one-hand snatches, but he needs to do a better job of catching in traffic, where he is prone to short-arming the ball. He has good ability to plant and drive, turning nicely to catch outside his radius on deep tosses. He can bend and catch the low ball or jump and adjust to the overthrown passes and get to the ball at its high point.

*Leaping Ability*...Metcalf times his leaps well and it is rare to see him lose on a jump ball battle. He has some hip stiffness, but gets good elevation and extension to catch away from his frame. He also does a good job of using his long arms to catch the ball at its high point. In 2018, only three of 42 passes targeted to him were deflected by the opposition. He looks natural with his body control to get in position and make plays over his shoulder. He does a good job of adjusting to deep coverage and can get open and settle on deep throws better than he can going over the middle.

*Hands*...Metcalf is still a work in progress here. He has the large hands to easily palm the ball, but while he will pluck away from his frame and do a fine job tracking the ball on deep routes, he will revert to short-arming passes when facing the quarterback or working in a crowd. He has soft hands and makes good effort to haul the deep balls in, but he has to stop trapping the ball so much, as he did have seven drops the last two years. He can get to the low throws, but appears more comfortable when having to extend and reach for the sphere rather than making shoestring grabs (will need to re-accelerate after making the low catch).

Due to inconsistent hands, he traps the ball against his chest more often than not on short to intermediate throws. He can track balls over his shoulder and is able to secure the catch when stretched out on deep balls or throws to the sideline, making him an excellent red-zone threat. He is better adjusting to high throws than low ones, but can get down to make the grab if given room to do so. It is just that he loses concentration on easier passes at times.

*Run After the Catch*...Metcalf has very good quickness for a big receiver, making him a rarity with the success he’s had on screens. When he gets a seam, he has that extra gear to take the ball home (see Texas Tech, Alabama, ULM games games). He needs to develop better ball security though, as he runs with the ball too far from his body, inviting a defender to come and dislodge it. He has the power to break the single arm tackle, but there are times where he will simply run right into coverage. He does hunt for space and real estate after the catch, but must rely more on his burst to escape defenders rather than try to run through them.

*Compares To*...Breshad Perriman-Tampa Bay Buccaneers-Some compare Metcalf to Josh Gordon and others to Julio Jones, but while he has the initial explosion to eat up a gap against off coverage or blow by cornerbacks up at the line, his issues revolve around consistency of the skill sets, most notably catching the ball. He has shown plenty of flashes over his career of being a big time down-field threat, but this high-upside athlete will need time to develop into more of a football player. Like Perriman, his injury history could scare off a few teams.

MAYBE A BETTER OPTION IS METCALF'S WING MAN

Arthur "A.J." Brown-#1

The University of Mississippi Rebels

6:00.4-226

*Agility Tests...*4.56 in the 40-yard dash…1.56 10-yard dash…2.65 20-yard dash…4.26 20-yard shuttle…6.89 three-cone drill…36 1/2-inch vertical jump…10'-00" broad jump…Bench pressed 225 pounds 19 times…32 7/8-inch arm length…9 3/4-inch hands…78-inch wingspan.

*Background.*..The two-sport standout was drafted by the San Diego Padres in the 19th round of the 2016 draft and has participated in the team's extended spring training each of the past three summers. An Under Armour All-America selection at Starkville High School, the consensus four-star prospect was rated the fifth-best receiver in the country by 247Sports and Scout.com. He was also rated the state of Mississippi's second-best overall prospect by 247Sports.

Brown led his team to the Class 6A state championship as a senior, racking up 83 catches for 1,371 and thirteen touchdowns. Named first team All-State by USA Today, The Clarion-Ledger and the Mississippi Association of Coaches, he concluded his prep career by snaring four passes for 79 yards a touchdown in the Under Armour All-America Game, as he became the second-ever player to be selected to both the Under Armour football and baseball All-American games.

It was a recruiting nightmare before Brown enrolled at Ole Miss, as he received constant death threats because he decided to not attend local Mississippi State. Even when the Rebels were sanctioned by the NCAA for recruiting violations, Brown stayed in Oxford with new coach Matt Luke.

As a true freshman, he earned his first letter, starting every game that included one start in 2016. He finished fifth on team with 29 catches and 412 receiving yards, hauling in a pair of touchdowns. He ranked fourth among Southeastern Conference freshmen with 2.4 catches/game and fifth with 34.3 receiving yards per game.

Brown's "coming out party" happened in 2017, as he was selected to numerous All-American teams, along with garnering All-SEC first-team honors. The Biletnikoff Award semi-finalist was also the recipient of the C. Spire Conerly Trophy (best player in Mississippi). He broke the Ole Miss record for single-season receiving yards (1,252) and tied the single-season school record for receiving touchdowns (eleven) while pulling down 75-of-96 targeted passes.

That year, Brown led the SEC and ranked tenth in the nation in receiving yards. He also led the league, ranking 11th in the nation, in receiving touchdowns en route to becoming only the third receiver in Ole Miss history to go over 1,000 in a season. His 75 receptions hold third place on the school's annual record list. In the Egg Bowl vs. Mississippi State, he accounted for 167 yards and a touchdown on seven receptions in front of friends and family who had urged him to attend Mississippi State.

Brown collected 85-of-115 targeted passes in 2018, as he generated 1,320 yards, but only reached the end zone six times. The All-SEC first-team choice set the school season record for receiving yardage and the All-America second team pick also set the team mark for pass catches. His 1,320 receiving yards led the SEC and were seventh in the nation. He also led the conference and ranked top ten nationally in receiving yards per game (110.0) and catches. In 36 games, he caught 189 balls (254 targets) for a school career-record 2,984 yards and nineteen touchdowns.

*The Scouting Report*

*Athletic Ability.*.. Brown has that rare sized frame that teams look for in a split end. He has a thick physique with good length. He displays good weight room figures and has a tight waist, hips and good bubble. He needs to use his hands better as a blocker and to get a push off the line to defeat the press. He is not an explosive route runner, but shows a long stride once he gets into gear. He has good upper body flexibility, showing off with the way he extends and elevates to reach the pass at its high point. He lacks great timed speed and like most long striders, he needs room to operate and reach top speed.

Still, he does a nice job of dropping his pads and settling into the soft areas on the field. He compensates for a lack of suddenness by good body control through the route. He has good balance for route running and flashes the flexibility needed to extend for the off-target tosses. He also shows good ball security and uses his body well to shield the defenders from the pigskin.

*Release*...Brown compensates for a lack of explosive speed by using his size and hands to get a strong push off the ball. He does false step at times and needs to refine his footwork, but he shows good balance and crispness making his cuts. He is a long strider, but does accelerate nicely in the open. Because of his frame, he is not jammed much at the college level, but the bigger corners in the NFL could give him problems if he does not keep his pad level down. He is consistent at chucking defensive backs to escape, but must develop better change of direction and stutter-step moves.

You can see in his release that Brown is powerful off the ball. He needs to clean up his technique, but he has a natural body shake to dance off the line before getting held up or rerouted. At times, he will dance too much trying to get free, instead of sprinting off the line and getting into his route.

*Acceleration*...Brown does not have the world class speed to get past NFL cornerbacks. Despite his size, he has had better success lining up in the slot than when wide. He is a big receiver with the size to screen defenders and shows the reach and elevation to take balls of defensive backs, but he’s not going to beat them in a foot race. He is able to get open in time for the quarterback to get the ball to him and be effective on the bubble screen. He has better ability to get open in the short area, doing a nice job adjusting to uncover and getting to the ball quickly thanks to his field vision. He flashes just adequate speed in attempts to separate on deep routes, as he does not have superb acceleration after the catch, even when left uncontested, resulting in a steady stream of defenders having success trying to race him down.

Some scouts consider Brown more of a long-strider that builds speed as he goes. He does seem to be deceptive once he reaches top gear but it takes him a while to get there, which doesn't always translate to the NFL game. He competes well for the jump ball and will make some plays down the sideline when he doesn't get slowed down at the line of scrimmage.

*Quickness*...Brown is not sudden in his get-off and needs to improve his overall power burst to compensate for a lack of blazing quickness. He has natural strength, but must be more consistent with his hands to get into his patterns without being impeded. He is much quicker in and out of his cuts, thanks to his balance. Still, he needs to improve his footwork in order to generate a better initial step to escape vs. the NFL-type press. He is a deceptive runner, thanks to his long stride and has the size not to get slowed down at the line of scrimmage, but will not win too many long distance races deep into the secondary

*Route Running*...Brown uses his size to force the defender out of his backpedal and into a bail technique. He is best served when used on crossers, stops, outs, quick slants and control routes. He is not as polished on deep patterns, where he is more apt to round his cuts, as he takes more of a soft angle approach rather than 90-degree angle cuts. Use him on posts, bubble screens and hitches, if you want to get the best production out of him. He has good hip flexibility, but can be inconsistent changing direction. When he keeps his pads down and bends at the knees to shift his weight, he is much more effective beating the defender coming out of his breaks. He has above average body control and once he gains momentum, he has the functional hip swerve and head fakes to set up and con the defender. He appears fluid running with the ball after the catch.

When Brown shows good footwork at the snap of the ball, he can get a much cleaner release working against press coverage, but he could do a better job of using hands to swim/rip corners when they try to jam him. He appears to read defenses well and can locate seams working against zone coverage. Lat year, he did a much better job of gearing down quickly and squaring his shoulders to the quarterback on comeback routes (see Southern Illinois, Auburn games). One bad habit he needs to break is that he sometimes chops his feet too much and this affects his fluidity and explosiveness coming out of breaks.

*Separation Ability*... Brown needs to generate good footwork in order to gain separation. He did show better hand usage in 2018, but must be more consistent with his rip and swim moves to get a clean release. He does a nice job of locating and sitting in the soft areas on the field, but must understand that without great speed, he will have to improve his developing strength in order to power out and separate at the next level. He generally has too much company on routes (corners mirroring him tight) when he fails to deliver good hip sink on his cuts (when he runs too tall, he lacks the burst needed coming out of his breaks).

He is savvy coming back for the low throws and flashes good flexibility to adjust on the move. He will extend and catch away from the body’s framework, but will revert to absorbing the ball into his body, resulting in some dropped balls (mostly underneath), which happens when he gets too impatient waiting for the ball.

*Leaping Ability*...Last year, Brown was very good at adjusting and going over the top of a defender to get to the ball at its high point (see Kent State, South Carolina, Vanderbilt games). He has the body control to make the difficult off-target circus catch and does a nice job of adjusting to the balls coming over his outside shoulder. He has the leaping ability to get to the ball at the high point. He is very effective extending for the ball down the sidelines and shows a fearless nature going for the pigskin in tight quarters.

*Hands*...Brown’s hands are one of his best assets as a pass catcher, but a liability as a blocker. He shows good hand punch to beat the press, but needs to use rip and swim moves more often. He has the reach to snatch the ball outside his frame and tracks the ball well over his shoulder. Even when he body catches, it is not as a crutch. He has very good hands and can make all the catches. When he catches close to the body, he will drop the easy tosses, but when he maintains concentration, he has the reach and pluck skills to get to the difficult tosses, especially those that are along the sidelines, doing a nice job with his balance to keep his feet in bounds.

*Run After the Catch*...Brown’s strong-looking frame continues to develop. He might lack the blazing speed to take the ball to the house, but his long stride gobbles up quite a bit of real estate on the way to the end zone. He has the leg strength to break arm tackles and the hip snap to shift gears and pull away from second level defenders. Because he labors to reach top speed, he will get caught from behind, but is a load to bring down in one-on-one situations. He is able to break a lot of tackles and has enough quickness to elude second level defenders in space, but also has the power to run through arm tackles. No, he will never be called shifty, but he has enough wiggle to make something out of nothing on shorter routes.

*Compares To*...Kenny Britt-ex-New England Patriots...Brown is a wide target with strong hands. He elevates fairly well and can compete for jump balls. While he shows above-average body control in the air, he can lose focus when trying to make catches in traffic and occasionally drops a pass he gets his hands on. Still, he does an excellent job locking onto the ball without breaking stride, but has some problems catching passes thrown over shoulder when running vertical routes. He is best gaining real estate after the catch rather than trying to simply out-run his man. He shows excellent balance and body control in his routes and knows he has to be physical in order to gain separation.

IF ONE GM SINGS "I LOVE PARRIS," CAMPBELL COULD JOIN THE FIRST ROUND BRIGADE

Parris Campbell-#21

The Ohio State University Buckeyes

5:11.7-205

*Agility Tests...*4.31 in the 40-yard dash…1.52 10-yard dash…2.51 20-yard dash…4.03 20-yard shuttle…40-inch vertical jump…11'-03" broad jump…Bench pressed 225 pounds 11 times…32 1/4-inch arm length…9 1/2-inch hands…75 5/8-inch wingspan.

*Background.*..Ohio State’s deployment of Campbell in the slot during the 2017 spring's opening practice seemed like preparation for filling Samuel's shoes this fall. The former OSU kickoff return artist looked like a natural at kick returner toward the end of the 2016 season, but he never quite looked comfortable as a pass-catching threat. The former high school running back had problems with drops and route running, and it's fair to wonder if he might get passed over by some of the young talent.

But there was an interesting revelation on the first day of spring practice: Campbell was working with a group of slot receivers. That proved to be a good move for him, especially since it meant that he could get some H-back time too. With his speed, there's no question that Campbell is dangerous with the ball in his hands, it was just a struggle to get it to him. The slot/H-back role got him the ball quicker and easier.

Prior to 2017 Campbell's production has never matched Urban Meyer's effusive praise. There were times he looked capable of being the best player on the field and others he disappears for long stretches. Such is how it goes for receivers in Meyer's distributive offense.

Campbell red-shirted his first season at OSU and suspensions threw him into the starting lineup in the 2015 season opener, but he hasn’t had the impact that he said he imagined he would have when he arrived in Columbus. So far with OSU, Campbell has thirteen catches for 121 yards and four carries for 54 yards and a touchdown.

The H-back position has been the glue of the OSU offense. The production of that position has dictated the flow of the wide-receiver unit. Campbell, however, has yet to show potential stardom on the field, mostly being an impact player on special teams and as a blocker at receiver. Nonetheless, Campbell said the H-back position is probably where he fit best in coach Urban Meyer’s offensive scheme, given his background as a running back in high school. Wide receivers coach Zach Smith added that Campbell’s ability in the running game and passing game is why he’s the primary option to replace Samuel. “It’s where I think he needed to be,” Smith said.

His big breakout season started in the 2017 spring game, where the development of Campbell and the rest of the receivers were put to the test. The emphasis for those pass catchers were separation from the defense and execution on the deep ball. Campbell’s improvement in those two areas might be an early indicator for his potential at the position. “I gave him a plan when we got back from the bowl game, and he killed it,” Smith said. “He’s playing at another level right now.”

At St. Vincent-St. Mary High School, he was a teammate of current Buckeye linebacker Dante Booker. The four-star recruit was one of the fastest players in the country and he captured All-Ohio honors as a senior, after rushing for 1,584 yards and 22 touchdowns. As a junior, SVSM was 2012 state champion with a 13-2 record when Campbell rushed for 1,353 yards and scored 28 touch-downs, including a long touchdown of 94 yards.

In 2013, Campbell helped his team to a second straight state title. He also excelled in track and has been clocked as high as 10.77 in the 100 meter dash and 22.09 in the 200 meter dash. He broke the state record in the 60-meter dash at the 2014 indoor state championships (6.85 seconds). At The Opening in Oregon in the Summer of 2013, he was among the fastest players at the camp, making the three-man final in the 40-yard dash. Campbell powered SVSM to the 2013 Ohio State outdoor track and field championship by anchoring victorious 4×100 and 4×200-meter relays and taking second in the 100.

Campbell started three times as a red-shirt freshman in 2015 on a team that had three players - Michael Thomas, Braxton Miller and Jalin Marshall - play in the NFL in 2016 and a fourth - Curtis Samuel - who was a second-round NFL Draft pick this May. One of the most talked-about players coming out of spring drills because of his fine play throughout, he only has 13 career receptions for 121 yards and a 9.3 yards per reception average during the 2016 season.

A fine return specialist, Campbell led the Big Ten Conference in kickoff returns (27.8) in 2016 and he tied a 52-year-old Ohio State record for career kickoff return average at 30.4 yards per return (Tom Barrington, 1963-65). His 584 return yards in 2016 rank third in Ohio State single season history, and his 149 return yards vs. Indiana in 2016 also rank third.

Campbell started 12 times in 2017. From the slot, he ranked second on the team with 40 receptions and first with 584 receiving yards. He scored three times as a pass catcher and once as a ball carrier, gaining 142 yards on ten reverses. He averaged 36.6 yards on nine kickoff returns, running back an 82-yarder in the UNLV clash.

The All-American and All-Big Ten Conference selection was outstanding for the Buckeyes as a senior, setting the school season-record with 88 receptions, as he became just the fifth player in school history to gain 1,000 receiving yards (1,062). He scored twelve times, tied for fourth on the OSU annual chart.

His 88 grabs topped the previous record of 85 by David Boston in 1998. He closed out his career ranking sixth in school history with 141 receptions, 15th with 1,767 aerial yards and tied for 14th with fifteen touchdowns. He was targeted 186 times during his career, catching 75.81% of those attempts. He gained 1,356 of his 1,767 yards after the catch (76.74%)

*The Scouting Report*

*Athletic Ability.*..Campbell has an angular frame with smooth muscle tone, developed chest, long arms, good bubble and tapered thighs and calves. He has low body fat with a body that can carry additional bulk with no loss in quickness. He has average weight room strength for his position, but will still consistently break tackles and gain extra yardage after the catch, as he plays with better power on the field and uses his hands well to escape the jam.

Campbell is an athletic mover who builds his acceleration nicely and has the stride to get into his routes smoothly and is very slippery once he gets behind the defender. He generates a strong hand push to prevent from being rerouted coming off the snap, and has the change of direction agility and loose hips to elude in the open field. He has loose hips and good forward body lean, as it is rare to see him get upright or run a bit straight-legged. The thing you see on film is his ability to explode and take that extra step needed to maintain acceleration throughout his patterns.

He has excellent hand/eye coordination to get to the ball at its high point and the size and body control to time his leaps and contort his body to get to the tough throws in a crowd. He is very flexible for a tall receiver, flashing acrobatic moves to get to most balls thrown to him. He is a long strider with enough of a functional second gear to get on top of the defense, evident by him gaining 1,356 of his total of 1,767 yards after the catch. He has excellent balance adjusting to downfield passes and knows how to sink his hips and drop his weight to elude after the catch.

*Release*... Campbell gets a good initial thrust off the line, using his hands with force to defeat the jam, but when he does not get his hands up quick, he does not have the great power to simply chuck through and push off a physical press. He is more quicker than fast, but glides to top acceleration nicely and don’t be fooled by him, as he can lull a defender “to sleep” and then simply put on the afterburners to run to daylight (see 2018 TCU, Indiana, Michigan games).

He uses his size well to slip through tight areas and has enough burst to gobble up the cushion. He has adequate strength to uncover and get into his route with no hesitation. Campbell just knows how to use his frame to prevent defenders from rerouting him, when he keeps his hands active. He can threaten deep vs. off coverage and while he is very physical, he shows a smooth open field stride. As he continues to refine his route running, it will become more and more difficult for a smaller cornerback to handle the challenge of covering him, especially going for the ball at its high point.

*Acceleration*...Campbell is the type of player who competes with physical play and has the ability to get to the top of his route and build acceleration needed, along with that second gear to leave defenders grasping at air. He comes off the line with a strong surge, but has his most success when he uses his hands with force to beat the jam. He has the size to shield defenders from the ball and is a physical presence in the middle of the field, but must be more conscious of ball security. He does a good job of adjusting to the coverage and even though he frequently catches in a crowd, he has the fluid stride to not have to throttle down coming out of his breaks. Campbell runs crisp routes and drops his hips and sinks his weight to separate out of his cuts. He has very good feet and it is rare to ever see him shuffle then or round his breaks. He has a smooth slide to get to the open zone and a decent second gear to quickly eat up the cushion.

*Quickness*...Campbell shows the forward body lean and hand push to play off the cornerback to track and grab the ball without breaking stride. He plays the ball nicely when it is in flight and adjusts to make the tough grabs along the sidelines. Even when he runs mostly underneath and intermediate routes, he still needs to be accounted for at all times, as he is too slippery for a defensive back to get lethargic thinking he can cover him on deep throws (see 2018 TCU, Indiana, Michigan games).

He has the burst agility to get off the ball and the hand usage to defeat the jam, but it is his cutting ability and steady acceleration that allows him to gain advantage and run by the defensive backs. He is very good settling underneath, making him a nice target in the short area. His balance and good feet let him deal with operating in tight spaces.

*Route Running*...Campbell does a good job of weaving through a crowd and has valid power to leverage defenders to gain separation. He shows very good hip sinking agility and does a good job of getting depth in all of his routes. He is very good planting and driving in and out of his breaks. His ability to separate out of his up field cuts allows him to run crisp vertical routes. He not only has an explosive burst, but he stays square in his routes, especially when coming back to the ball, which he had to do often this year due to OSU’s passing attack facing constant blitzing by opponents trying to stall their aerial attack. He is solid on option routes and shows fluid gliding ability on slant patterns. He is just the rare type of player who can get open simply on his ability to set up defenders and make an effort to be precise in his cuts.

*Separation Ability*... Campbell is a power-oriented runner who can stem and weave to avoid, but he can also shock a lethargic defender with his ability to generate a second gear. He uses his hands very effectively to gain separation after the catch, showing the loose hips, head fake and strong leg drive to break the initial tackle. Campbell is frequently played tight, but can hand jolt the defender to rock his opponent back on their heels. He shows great awareness to uncover, but has to learn how to use his body better to shade defenders from the ball, as he does not do a great job of distributing the ball away from his opponent, leaving him susceptible to the costly drops (13 for his career on 186 targets) or deflection. He takes no wasted steps with his acceleration out of transition cuts and does a fine job on comeback routes. His speed is enough to surprise a defender on vertical routes and his body frame and quick feet lets him get to most poor throws along the sidelines.

Campbell is very conscious of sticks and chains, but has had drop issues, possibly due to impatience. He is quite nimble keeping his feet inbounds along the sidelines and makes very good body adjustments on the move, but has to look the ball in better before turning and heading up field (led to several drops of easy catches). He does a good job of looking the ball in over his shoulder and can get open and settle in the soft spot of the zone. With his physical play in the red zone, he certainly knows where the end zone is.

*Leaping Ability*...With his timing and body control, Campbell manages to get to most balls thrown his way, especially at going up to pluck them at its high point (40-inch vertical jump). He uses his body well to get vertical, thanks to impeccable timing. With his body frame, he should be able to continue to be dominant attacking the jump balls. Most of the passes deflected away from Campbell (14 in the last two years) could be attributed to poor trajectory on those tosses.

*Hands*...Campbell has a decent wingspan and normal sized hands to get to any pass thrown his way. He just needs to learn how to shield the ball from defenders using his body, but shows good scooping agility to get to the low, shoestring tosses. He will extend and pluck the ball away from the body’s frame and has soft hands to look the ball in nicely. The thing I like is Campbell’ ability to play the ball over his shoulder and make body adjustments to track the ball in flight. With his size and strong running stride, he could turn into a very capable split end and returner, adding to his pedigree, but must look to secure the ball better before attempting to run with it.

*Run After the Catch*... Campbell is the type to explode up the field after the catch, leaving defenders grasping at air. He is a very strong runner who powers through the initial tackle and is a load to bring down once he builds up to top acceleration. While known for his speed, his running strength will generally see him drag the smaller defenders, but when he weaves through traffic, he frustrates defenders, who struggle to contain him, especially in one-on-one confrontations. He just shows the elusiveness to create his own space, showing the vision to make that big play once he finds a crease. The ball comes alive in his hands, evident by his 58 first downs on 88 of the catches he recorded after he broke away from initial contact in 2018. He simply bounces off tackles and has the juking moves to make his man miss. Campbell ranks with the elite RAC players in the college game (1,357 of his 1,767 yards came after the catch), having gained at least ten yards after defeating the initial hit on close to 65% of his grabs where he broke initial contact.

*Compares To*...JuJu Smith-Schuster-Pittsburgh...While Campbell is much faster, the Ohio State product is a physical open field runner who shows blazing quickness and smoothness getting into his routes. He has the size and adequate strength to get a clean release vs. the jam, when he keeps his hands active to prevent the defender from latching on to his jersey. While he runs a lot of intermediate routes, he has the second gear to gobble up the cushion working his way into the deep zone. Few receivers in the game, college or pro, have the ability to impact a game like Campbell, especially when working inside the red zone. He is quite effective operating on slant and option routes, staying square coming back for the ball. He shows the ability to get to his top acceleration when going vertical and has the loose hips and plant-&-drive agility to excel on comeback routes.

SUN DEVILS IMPORT READY TO SHINE IN THE NFL

K'Neal Harry-#1

Arizona State University Sun Devils

6:02.3-228

*Agility Tests...*4.53 in the 40-yard dash…1.62 10-yard dash…2.67 20-yard dash…38 1/2-inch vertical jump…10'-02" broad jump…Bench pressed 225 pounds 27 times…33-inch arm length…9 1/2-inch hands…78 1/4-inch wingspan.

*Background.*..While most players become road weary from the season-long travels, that should not be a problem for this rising star. Harry was born in Toronto, Canada, before moving as a baby to St. Vincent and the Grenadines. His grandmother brought him to the Phoenix metro area, with the blessing of his mother, to allow for more opportunity.

Harry tried several sports as a kid; soccer, football, and basketball, among others. His grandmother had hoped he would choose a less dangerous sport, but agreed to let him play football. He starred at Chandler High School after transferring from Marcos de Niza High School in Tempe, earning five- star recruiting honors from Rivals.com, and was noted by many recruiting services as one of the top wide receiver recruits in the country.

As a sophomore, he tallied 41 receptions for 716 yards and five scores in nine games. In his junior season, Harry caught thirteen touchdowns on just thirty catches for 657 yards. He would finish his prolific career with 119 catches for 2,715 yards and 25 touchdowns, tacking on 48 snatches for 802 yards and seven touchdowns as a senior. He also averaged more than 21 points and 10 rebounds a game during his basketball career.

Harry chose to remain home and committed to Arizona State, despite recruiting efforts by Texas A&M, Oregon, USC, among other top tier programs. In the 2016 season opening game against Northern Arizona University, Harry became just the ninth true freshman in school history to start a season opener. In his freshman season, he posted 58 catches for 659 yards and five touchdowns. Additionally, the youngster ran for 69 yards and scored twice and completed a 46-yard pass of his own. For his efforts in his rookie year, N'Keal was honored by Scout, Football Focus and Campus Insiders as a Freshman All-American.

During his sophomore campaign, N'Keal caught 82 catches for 1142 yards and eight touchdowns earning him First Team All-Conference honors. His junior season began with media accolades as he was selected to the 2018 AP Preseason All-American team. On October 27th, he made one of the greatest catches in football history according to ESPN. His acrobatic one-handed catch along with a punt return touchdown, helped lead the Sun Devils to a win over the USC Trojans, cementing his legacy as one of the greatest receivers to don an Arizona State uniform.

The following week, Harry scored three touchdowns in an upset over 15th-ranked Utah. After the comeback win against the Arizona Wildcats on November 24th, he announced his decision to forgo his senior season at ASU and to be a part of the 2019 NFL Draft. He delivered 1,088 yards with nine touchdowns on 73 grabs of 113 targets in 2018, finishing his career with 213 receptions (327 targets) for 2,905 yards, gaining 1,287 yards after the catch. He also scored 22 times, fifth-best in school history. He is one of just three Sun Devils to catch 200 passes in a career and his receiving yards are the third highest at ASU.

*The Scouting Report*

*Athletic Ability.*..Harry has the ideal body frame you look for in a receiver, as he has a muscular upper body with very low body fat, well-defined mid-section, long arms, good bubble and tapered thighs and calves. His frame could carry at least another ten pounds of bulk without it affecting his impressive timed speed and acceleration. He is also one of the strongest wide-outs in this draft class (27 reps at 225-pound bench press).

Harry has outstanding size and strength for his position. He has the timed speed to threaten the deep areas of the secondary, but with his strength and ability to shield the ball from defenders, he has been very effective as a possession receiver. He uses his hands well to defeat the jam at the line of scrimmage and has the loose hips and crisp cutting ability to make the initial tackler miss and gain separation after the catch.

Harry is very good at settling underneath, showing the balance and body control to make the shoestring grabs or extend to catch outside his frame. He is very flexible in his route progression, showing the stop-&-go action to instantly redirect. He has the valid burst to get on top of the defense and shows nice body control adjusting to the deep ball in flight. He has the hip flexibility to drop his weight and the balance to change his stride without having to throttle down.

*Release*...Harry might get a little bit erect in his stance coming off the snap, but he has that ability to get into his routes instantly, using his hands with force to push off the press. He is too strong to jam at the line of scrimmage and uses his hip swerve efficiently to avoid defenders to get into his route progression. He can elude second level defenders with his cutting ability and shows a fluid glide in his running style.

*Acceleration*...Harry is used a lot on shallow and wheel routes, as he has the strength to power his way to the ball in the crowd. He has the long reach to get under the fades and bubble screens and when utilized in crossing patterns, he can turn up field in an instant after the catch. He has made steady improvement extending for the ball with defenders all over him, and is effective at dropping his hips and separating out of his cuts. He has outstanding hand/eye coordination, seeing the ball as it arrives while generating the moves needed to uncover.

On deep routes, he needs to utilize his second gear more and he will drift at times when going long distances. He has good turning motion to catch the ball over his outside shoulder, but does not turn as quick when having to look the ball in over his inside shoulder. He has that functional burst to separate at the line of scrimmage, but must utilize it more in attempts to separate on deep routes.

*Quickness*...Harry’s short area quickness allows him to get to quite a few balls in the short-to-intermediate areas. He has the loose hips and acceleration to ride up on a defender, but could be more sudden trying to separate on deep throws. When he keeps his pads down instead of getting erect in his stance, he is much more effective at gaining and eating up the defensive back’s cushion.

*Route Running*... Harry continues to improve as a route runner, but despite his speed, he does not always run with a smooth stride (takes choppy steps), especially at the top of the route. In the early stages of 2018, he did a better job of planting and cutting out of his breaks (see UTSA, San Diego State, Michigan State games). He will turn and route his deep patterns at times, but when he drops his weight properly, he is much more effective at gaining separation.

Harry’s long reach lets him catch the wheel and crossing routes without having to break stride. He looks natural extending for the ball in flight and has the body control to get into position and make plays over his outside shoulder. He is quite effective looking the ball in over his inside shoulder (see 2018 Oregon State, USC, Utah games) on deep throws. When going over the middle for the short crossers, he does a good job of getting to the ball, as he knows he has the strength to power his way through a crowd and look the ball in.

*Separation Ability*...Because he is used so often on short-to-intermediate routes than in the deep area game, it is difficult to get a true feel for his separation ability (gained 1,287-of-2,889 yards after the catch). He does a good job of running at a proper pad level and coming out of his breaks cleanly when working underneath. With his timed speed, he should be capable of getting open in the deep zone more often. He uses his size well to shade the defender and demonstrates the balance and body control to catch the ball and turn up field without having to break stride. He competes to stay on his blocks and takes good angles to neutralize linebackers when playing in space.

*Leaping Ability*...Harry’s 38.5-inch vertical is one of the best figures in college football. Along with his 6:0+ frame and long arm reach (78 34 1/8-inches), he is an inviting target for quarterbacks when working over the middle. He times his leaps in the deep zone and once he elevates, he has the strength and reach to get to most balls at their high point.

*Hands*...Harry has good hand strength to gain position as a blocker and uses his upper body power well to defeat the jam and get into his routes. He will cradle a few balls, but when he extends for the pass, he will generally get to most throws. He is a natural hands catcher with the ball skills to make plays on it outside of his frame. He just needs to improve his ability to look the ball in over his shoulder on deep routes.

*Run After the Catch*...Harry is field fast, but not elusive. He will more often power through the initial tackle to gain valid yardage after the catch rather than attempt to execute a fake or a juke to elude. Even though he is not as creative as you would like, he has the speed and vision to make the big play, if he finds a crease (see 2018 UTSA, Oregon State, Utah games).

Few receivers have that keen sense of where to be on the field that Harry displays. He is always alert to coverage and where his defender is. He does a fine job of keeping his feet when catching along the sidelines and plays with uncanny instincts to find the zone’s soft areas. The thing you see on film is his ability to adjust to the thrown ball underneath. He has the speed to get open when working in a crowd and blocks out all activity around him to concentrate on the ball in flight, knowing how to use his long reach and hands to extend and catch the pass at its highest point.

*Compares To*...Davante Adams-Green Bay Packers...Like the Packers star, Harry is a big, fast, strong receiver who can certainly get after the ball. He has the size and leaping ability to win mismatches vs. the smaller defenders and along with his strong hands, he will not hesitate to go up after the ball. Yes, he is a possession receiver, but he has good quickness and body control in and out of his cuts.

BUTLER READY TO SERVE SOME NFL QUARTERBACK WITH AN INVITING TARGET

Hakeem Butler-#18

Iowa State University Cyclones

6:05.3-227

*Agility Tests...*4.48 in the 40-yard dash…1.59 10-yard dash…2.62 20-yard dash…36-inch vertical jump…10'-08" broad jump…Bench pressed 225 pounds 18 times…35 1/4-inch arm length…10 3/4-inch hands…83 7/8inch wingspan.

*Background.*..If you want to play with the "big boys," you might as well be taught by one of the best - Megatron. Prior to the NFL Scouting Combine, Butler received some help from another big former wide receiver - Calvin Johnson. The former Detroit Lions All-Pro helped Butler train after the Cyclone got in touch with Johnson through some mutual contacts.

Johnson was the ideal mentor for Butler. The three-time NFL All-Pro selection boasts a big playing frame like Butler, who said Johnson was one of the players he looked up to growing up. Having the chance to train and learn from someone of Johnson's stature and ability was not only beneficial, but entertaining. "Just a lot of receiver stuff," Butler said he learned from Johnson. "When you're a big receiver, you don't find a lot of tall receiver coaches. Just to have one for a couple of days or what not, it was a big help.”

After losing his mother to cancer in 2012, Butler moved to Texas to live with his cousins, Aaron and Andrew Harrison, who were two of the hottest basketball recruits in the nation before joining powerhouse Kentucky. Butler attended Travis High School, but struggled academically, which cost him on the recruiting trails. He lettered in both football and basketball, earning all-conference honors in 2014 after catching 28 passes for 378 yards and five touchdowns. He also averaged over double figures in basketball in his junior season.

Butler chose Iowa State over Houston, New Mexico State and McNeese State, but it took him three seasons before scouts took notice. He red-shirted in 2015 and then saw action in eleven games in 2016, catching nine passes for 134 yards and two touchdowns.

The arrival of Matt Campbell as the Cyclones coach saw Butler's fortunes change in 2017. He received All-Big Twelve Conference recognition and was a member of the Tyler Rose Award watch list. During his breakout sophomore season, he ranked second on the team in receiving yards (697) and tied for third in receptions (41). He caught seven touchdown passes, tying for tenth on Iowa State’s season list. He ranked 47th nationally in yards per reception (17.0), as ISU’s big-play threat was responsible for four of the Cyclones' six 50-yard plays from scrimmage, catching passes for 74, 67, 57 and 52 yards. He also had two 100-yard receiving games.

Butler elevated to second-team All-American status in 2018. The first-team All-Big Twelve choice was a member of the Biletnikoff Award watch list and a semifinalist for the Tyler Rose Award, in addition to receiving All-Bowl Team honors from USA Today. He recorded one of the greatest seasons by a wide receiver in Iowa State history, shattering the school record for receiving yards in a season with 1,318.

Butler was third in the nation in yards per reception at 22.0, setting a new single-season school record. He tallied 60 receptions and nine touchdown catches, tying for second on ISU’s season list. He ranked third nationally in 40-yard receptions with ten, and ranked ninth nationally in receiving yards per game (101.4) and 29th nationally in receiving touchdowns (9). He posted six 100-yard receiving games, tying an ISU season mark.

Butler ended the season and career with a streak of 28-straight games with a reception, the third-longest string in school history. Still, there was a glaring issue - dropped balls, twelve to be exact in 2018. During his two previous seasons with the varsity, he had just five drops. He ended his career with 110 receptions, 2,149 receiving yards and 18 touchdowns catches in just three seasons.

His career receiving yards rank fourth in school history and career touchdown catches rank third. He also had eight 100-yard receiving games in his career, tying for the second-best total in the ISU record book. He also owns the school record in yards per reception in a career at 19.5. He was targeted 191 times (caught 57.59%), gaining 699 of his 2,149 yards after the catch. Last season, he was the nation's best deep threat, pulling down nineteen tosses of at least twenty yards for a total of 721 yards.

*The Scouting Report*

*Athletic Ability.*..Butler has a tall, thick frame, with long arm, large hands, thick thighs and calves and a big bubble. He is smooth skinned with adequate muscle development and possesses a frame that can carry another ten pounds of bulk. Some teams feel that his frame's growth potential would have seversal organizations possibly bulking him up to play tight end at the next level.

Butler has deceptive speed, as his long legs let him ride up on the defender quickly while looking effortless in his long stride. He has very good agility and balance with adequate change of direction agility. He shows good overall body control, but sometimes does not play up to his timed speed. Even though he has good leaping ability, his timing is sometimes off, as he doesn’t win as many jump ball battles as you would expect from a player of his size and arm extension. Still, he is a naturally fluid runner who despite being a bit of a long strider, he can bend and get in and out of his breaks smoothly. He shows good body control and balance throughout route progression. He is simply a big man with good athleticism.

*Release*...Butler has the functional strength to release and get into his routes, but lacks blazing straight-line speed. He uses his hands with force to get a strong push off the line of scrimmage. With his long arms and large hands, he has no problems avoiding the hold-up. With his big frame, he is not easily rerouted, but has to protect his legs better from low tackles. He knows how to use his body to gain advantage, but for a player his size, you would think that he would create better mismatches.

Butler’s long legs get him into his patterns smoothly. Even at close to 230 pounds, he could use additional bulk and improve his strength, but he uses his hands effectively to defeat the jam. His long arms get him a good release vs. the hold-up and shows good urgency getting into his routes. He shows a quick initial release, but does lack some explosion coming off the line. Because of his size, he can slip past the smaller defenders. With additional strength, he could power his way through the jam at the next level, but does not have that strength yet.

*Acceleration*...Butler is a good power receiver on crossers and sideline throws, using his strength and size to shield the ball from defenders. He has strong hands to secure the ball before running (no fumbles) and a decent second gear to turn a short pass into a long gainer. You can see that he can reach top speed through the route's progression, but his long stride could surprise a lethargic defender (see 2018 Oklahoma, Kansas, Kansas State games). He uses his speed well to get deep, but is best when used on crossers and sideline routes than when going up the seam (better down field than on deep routes, as he tends to lose sight of the ball over his head). He has the quickness to challenge deep, but until 2018, he sometimes had to run a double move to get open.

*Quickness*...With his size, Butler could be very physical in his initial step off the ball, but he also has the quickness to immediately defeat the press and is capable of exploding off the line. His burst from his get-off and long arms lets him keep defenders away from his body in attempts to reroute. He shows good stop-&-start quickness working in the flats and underneath. Few players with his long body are capable of generating the elusiveness to avoid, but he is effective breaking free down the sidelines. He shows no hip stiffness when trying to change direction and he can take a defensive back out of his cleats with his penchant for making sharp cuts, which allow him to get under the ball and catch it without breaking stride.

*Route Running*...Earlier in his career, Butler tended to glide out of his breaks. When trying to suddenly change direction, he takes some wasted steps and fails to make sharp cuts. He does show good body control to break down, but is best when operating along the sidelines where he can build to top speed and maintain it throughout his route. He sometimes suffers from what most long striders experience – rounding off his routes, but he will generally get in and out of his breaks cleanly when he doesn’t have to work in tight quarters. He is more effective when used on controlled routes, stops and quick slants.

*Separation Ability*...Butler possesses good overall physical tools. He is tall, well-built and strong, displaying valid speed and athletic ability for his size. He shows good initial burst and almost never gets caught up at the line of scrimmage. He is a smooth athlete that runs fluid routes and has the ability to consistently separate from double-coverage. Giving him a strong-armed quarterback and he can be that type of receiver that can take over a game.

It is Butler's hip wiggle, lateral movement and deceptive quickness that allow him to separate after the catch. He won’t be capable of putting on the afterburners to leave defenders grasping at air in the NFL, so he needs to compensate with his long stride and hip snap to separate. He just seems to excel at sneaking up on his opponent and while he lacks blazing vertical speed, he uses his body well to elude. Even though he has a smooth running stride, he will need to add more strength in order to separate consistently vs. the more physical NFL cornerbacks. He is the type that relies more on foot quickness in transition to get open, combining that with good weave and leverage to move and create space.

*Leaping Ability*...Butler's size gives him an advantage vs. jump balls, but his vertical jump (36-inches) is also impressive. He competes with very good timing. He has the big, lanky frame to twist and bring the ball down. His long arms also let him reach for passes most normal-sized receivers can’t get to. He has big hands and the leaping ability to consistently win the jump-ball. He's not afraid to go over the middle and will make plenty of catches in traffic. He also does a great job of adjusting to the ball in the air and will make the diving catch.

*Hands*...Butler has the body control to get to the difficult throws. He does know how to get open and understands sticks and boundaries, doing a nice job of keeping his feet in bounds. He shows he can reach and pluck for the ball away from his frame, but there are far too many drops and bobbles (12 in 2018) on balls thrown his way (104 targets in 2018). He has big mitts for hands and secures the ball well after the catch, having never fumbled the ball during his career, but he has to concentrate better to reduce that high drop rate.

He generates a strong jolt with them to defeat the press and works hard with his hands to sustain when blocking in-line. He is a natural hands catcher that can make the difficult grab, but when he drops some, it is usually due to concentration issues. It is rare to see him use his body to field the ball, as he is perfectly capable of extending for the ball. In 2018, he has shown marked improvement with his hand/eye coordination, but needs to rectify the cases of the "dropsies" before he ends up on the pine at the NFL level.

*Run After the Catch*... Butler is a terrific load to bring down after the catch. He is a physical open field runner (just lacks upper body strength) who will drag defenders when fighting for extra yardage. Even though there is not a lot of shake in his hips and he is a bit of a long strider, he runs with the stride and pad level needed to break tackles consistently. At 6:05, he’s not going to “get small” and slip past the crowd, so he has to utilize his size and reach to fight for yardage. He runs hard and once he breaks free, his burst lets him beat even the speedy defenders in attempts to take the ball to the house (see 2018 Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Texas Tech, Kansas games).

*Compares To*...Andre Johnson-ex-Houston Texans...Butler will sometimes revert to gliding in and out of his routes, but he has the leg drive to break tackles and turn a short catch into a big gain. He does a great job of keeping his feet in bounds and making the acrobatic sideline grab. He has the power to keep defenders off his body, shocking a lethargic cornerback with his hand punch to defeat the jam. He has the body control to settle underneath and then break up field. With his leaping ability, he should be more capable of getting to the jump balls at the NFL level.

SAMUEL MAKES UP FOR LOST TIME AS A SENIOR AFTER LOST 2017 SEASON

Tyshun "Deebo" Samuel-#1

University of South Carolina Gamecocks

5:11.2-214

*Agility Tests...*4.48 in the 40-yard dash…1.60 10-yard dash…2.66 20-yard dash…4.14 20-yard shuttle…7.03 three-cone drill…39-inch vertical jump…10'-02" broad jump…Bench pressed 225 pounds 15 times…31 3/8-inch arm length…10-inch hands…75 1/8-inch wingspan.

*Background.*. The Retail Management major is known for his nickname "Deebo," which comes from the neighborhood bully character played by actor Tiny Lister in the movie "Friday." The South Carolina native attended Chapman High School, where in his senior season, he led his team to the Semifinals of the AAA playoffs.

Samuel had 166 catches for 2,751 yards and 36 touchdowns during his career, as he also rushed 133 times for 898 yards and scored 13 touchdowns. He finished with a record of 53 career touchdowns. He posted 94 tackles and 12 interceptions as a defensive back, resulting in most school attempting to recruit him with the "athlete" designation. He won the High School Sports Report Class AAA Offensive Player of the Year Award and played in the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas.

Samuel was rated as a three-star recruit, by the 247 composite, committing to the University of South Carolina to play college football. Durability issues would prevent Samuel from emerging until his senior season. As a true freshman, he played in five games, making three starts while finishing fourth on the team with 12 receptions for 161 yards and a touchdown.

Samuel started, but suffered a hamstring injury in the 2015 season opener against North Carolina and continued to have issues with the hamstring, sitting out the next seven contests. He returned to action against The Citadel, moved back into the starting lineup for the season finale against Clemson and responded with a then-career-best performance, logging five catches for 104 yards and a his first career touchdown, a seven-yard catch.

In 2016, Samuel shared the Steve Wadiak MVP Award with Jake Bentley. He was the Steve Spurrier Award winner as the Offense's MVP and was selected as the Most Explosive Player on offense by his teammates. He led the squad with 59 catches for 783 yards despite playing in just ten games. He also rushed 15 times for 98 yards and six scores, returned 16 kickoffs for a 26.9-yard average with one score, returned two punts for eight yards and threw a 33-yard touchdown pass.

Samuel ranked third in the Southeastern Conference in receptions per game (5.9), fourth in receiving yards per game (78.3), third in kickoff return average and second in all-purpose yardage per game (132.0) in 2016. He battled hamstring issues throughout the Mississippi State game and did not play against East Carolina, Kentucky or Texas A&M due to the balky hamstring.

More injury woes limited him to three appearances during the 2017 schedule. In the first game of the season against North Carolina State, Samuel had five catches for 83 yards, two touchdowns and also returned the opening kickoff back for a touchdown. In week two vs. Missouri, Samuel once again returned a kickoff for a touchdown, and finished with five catches for 45 yards, as he also ran the ball two times for 30 yards and a touchdown.

In week three against Kentucky, on the first play from scrimmage Samuel caught a 68-yard touch-down pass from Gamecock quarterback Jake Bentley. With 2:27 left in the third quarter, Samuel caught another pass from Bentley and was awkwardly tackled by Kentucky's Derrick Baity Jr., bending his leg back. It was announced after the game by head coach Will Muschamp that Samuel had broken his right fibula and would miss the rest of the season.

Despite the injury, it was announced that he could possibly return later on in the season, but he suffered a sprained foot in rehab and would not return. Samuel would finish the season having not even played three full games, yet accumulated 250 yards receiving for three touchdowns, two carries for 30 yards and a touchdown, and two kickoff returns for a pair of touchdowns and a combined 194 yards.

Everything came together for Samuel in 2018. He garnered first-team All-American honors as an all-purpose performer by the AFCA and was a second-team as a kick returner by the FWAA. He was named first team All-SEC as an all-purpose performer by both the Associated Press and the league’s coaches. The team's Comeback Player of the Year caught 62 passes (tied for ninth in school history) for 882 yards (10th) with eleven receiving touchdowns (second). He scored thirteen times (tied for fourth) and logged 1,678 all-purpose yards (ninth). He had four pass receptions of 50 yards or more, as his 5.2 receptions per game ranked fifth in the SEC, his 73.5 receiving yards per game ranks sixth, his 123.2 all-purpose yards ranked second, while his 24.8-yard kickoff return average ranked fourth.

Samuel caught 148-of-223 passes for 2,074 yards and eleven touchdowns during his career, gaining 1,244 yards after the catch. He rushed 25 times for 154 yards and a score, completing both pass attempts for 42 yards and two touchdowns. His average of 29.0 yards on 42 kickoff returns (1,219 yards) rank second in conference history behind a 34.3-yard average by Evan Berry of Tennessee (53 for 1,820; 2014-17). His four kickoff returns for touchdowns set the school record and tied six others for the SEC mark.

*The Scouting Report*

*Athletic Ability.*.. Samuel has a well-built frame with only average arm length, but he has big hands (10-inches), tight waist and abdomen. He has a developed upper body with good muscle structure (more rangy than ripped), along with proper thickness in his thighs, calves and ankles, along with a good bubble.

Samuel shows good athletic ability for his position, demonstrating the change of direction, balance and body control to not take any false steps getting into his routes. He lacks sudden quickness or deep speed, but builds his acceleration nicely and shows the body torque to get in and out of his breaks cleanly. He is a quick, short strider with good playing speed for his size, but is better utilized in the short-to-intermediate areas, as he has very good balance running his routes and does a good job of adjusting to the ball in flight.

You can see that athleticism with his ease of movement extending for the ball away from his frame and elevating to reach the pass at its highest point. He might not have that explosive burst to simply pull away from defenders in the deep areas, but he has valid foot quickness and body control to maintain the route’s progression and good strength to bounce off tackles to generate additional yardage after the catch.

*Release*...Samuel has a solid understanding for route building/progression. He comes off the line hard and tries to look fast, using his hands well to attack the center of a defensive back to get a strong push-off for a clean release. He is a physical type, but also has decent moves to escape and get up field. He shows good timed speed, but with his short stride, he is not the type that will suddenly explode and get up field in an instant (more of the type that builds his acceleration steadily). He has the strength to defeat the jam and knows how to use his size to lean into and push off the defender when trying to create room to operate. He has adequate moves to elude and it is very difficult to reroute him due to his ability to fend off defenders and protect his body.

*Acceleration*... Samuel is best when utilized in the short areas, as he shows very quick reactionary ability and the ability to adjust and contort his body to get to the ball in flight. He flashes good ability to uncover and with his frame, he might be better served playing in the slot, where he shows the ability to sit, slide, get open, fight for the pass in a crowd and catch the ball outside his frame (see 2018 Vanderbilt, Missouri, Tennessee contests). On the times he attacks the deep zone, he will run crisp routes and has enough speed to beat second level defenders (amassed 592-of-882 yards last year after the catch).

He demonstrates solid agility when adjusting for the long throws, but despite 4.48 timed speed, he will never be confused for being a “burner.” Samuel is very capable of moving the chains in the short area. He shows a functional burst to get under the ball and presents a nice target for the passer going over the middle. His size allows him to turn a short catch into a big gain and he knows how to shield the ball from defenders working underneath. If isolated on a linebacker or a safety, he can easily separate. Against the cornerbacks, he has the strength to break arm tackles.

*Quickness*... Samuel flashes decent initial quickness off the ball. He might lack the suddenness to gain advantage, as he won’t “wow” you with explosive acceleration, but does build to top speed throughout his route. It is rare to see him be late coming off the ball. He shows good quickness coming off the ball and the body control to generate crisp stop-&-go action. Despite his size, he is effective at taking short, quick steps rather than long striding. He runs at a good pad level and shows urgency driving off the line. He might not have blazing speed, but demonstrates the hand usage and strength to defeat the press. He shows good explosion going vertical and the linear speed to beat most foot races when challenged by second level defenders in man coverage.

*Route Running*... The thing about Samuel is that he is a savvy route runner who knows how to create, knows how to stick, leverage, elude and make square cuts working over the middle. There is little gather at the top and it is rare to see him have issues in and out of his break point, thanks to loose hips and a low pad level. He plays with good awareness and body control, demonstrating the footwork and timing to make sharp cuts without having to gather. He is a underrated route runner, quickly getting his head around to track the ball in flight. He runs tight up field routes and has good stop-&-go action working underneath. He does a good job of eating up the defender’s cushion and is very capable of sinking and planting coming out of his breaks. The thing you notice on 2018 film is that Samuel had a penchant for adjusting on his route so the quarterback did not have to throw a perfect pass every time (see Vanderbilt, Florida, Ole Miss games). He attacks the ball on its descent and does not wait for the pass to intersect on his routes.

*Separation Ability*...Samuel is not the type that will simply explode past defenders, rather, he has enough quickness into and out of his break point to free himself from second level defenders. He just lacks that explosive burst to separate from opponents in the deep field. He has all the tools and good field vision to locate and settle into the soft areas in the zone, but lacks the burst to suddenly pull away from the cornerbacks after the catch. He is more of the type that will use his hands to get a strong push off the defender. He shows the field vision and enough quickness to come back for the poorly thrown ball. In 2018, he made good improvement in selling his routes to gain separation, demonstrating the functional burst needed to get into and out of his breaks.

*Leaping Ability*...Samuel is an exceptional leaper (39-inch vertical jump). Along with his height and extension ability, he is very capable of going vertical for the ball. He has the power and timing skills to fight for the ball coming on a high delivery. He has good ability and flexibility to adjust to the ball, whether thrown high, low or behind him and is known for his knack for making the tough catch. He makes solid adjustments getting to off-target throws and will not hesitate to extend and compete for the ball in a crowd. He tracks the ball well in flight and the leaping ability to elevate over the defender and reach the ball at its high point.

*Hands*...Samuel has large hands (10-inch width) that compensate for shorter-than-ideal arms (31 3/8-inches). Still, he can extend and pluck the ball away from his frame. He does not use his body as a crutch, but must do a better job of securing the ball before trying to head up field. He usually has reliable hands, along with the courage to “lay out” for off-target throws. He also demonstrates good reactionary quickness. As a blocker, he has the hand punch to stall second and third level defenders. He has strong hands, which he uses with force to defeat the press. He does a nice job of extending for the ball away from the body’s framework.

*Run After the Catch*...Samuel has the leg drive, upper body power and balance to break arm tackles, but by being utilized mostly in the short areas, he has had to constantly fight for the ball with defenders draped all over him. He gets up field with a nice array of moves, compensating for a lack of an explosive second gear. He just struggles to run away from third level guys. He is an instinctive runner (rarely will he run into spots), but is not going to surprise a cornerback with a sudden burst to score from long distances.

He maintains his acceleration while doing a nice job of shifting his weight and sinking his hips. His balance comes in handy when he tries to avoid defenders on the run. He is a strong runner who takes only a short time getting back to top speed after the catch and can generate a strong burst, especially when running the flash screen. His stop-&-go precision let him elude and he keeps legs moving and shoulders squared to break tackles.

*Special Teams*...Look at Samuel's kickoff return ability as a tremendous draft asset. He has the ability to rank with the elite kick returners in the league. He shows patience, vision and aggressive running style with the power to break tackles on the move. With four touchdowns to his credit and a 29.0-yard average (second in SEC history), he brings great added value to his resume.

*Compares To*...Cordarrelle Patterson-Chicago Bears...Patterson is bigger, but both offer value in a variety of roles - deep threat, physical over the middle, capable of executing reverses and excelling on special teams. Samuel has made very good improvement adjusting his feet to stay in bounds working along the sidelines. He runs sharp up field routes with the stride to cover ground. He finds the ball quickly when contesting for it in the crowd, maintaining concentration to look the ball in. He displays fluid hip swerve and the flexibility to adjust on the run. He has the athletic ability to extend and pluck the ball away from the body’s frame.

RIDLEY EXPECTED TO FOLLOW HIS BIG BROTHER TO THE NFL

Cavin "Riley" Ridley-#8

University of Georgia Bulldogs

6:01.2-199

*Agility Tests...*4.58 in the 40-yard dash…1.57 10-yard dash…2.69 20-yard dash…4.28 20-yard shuttle…7.22 three-cone drill…30 1/2-inch vertical jump…10'-04" broad jump…Bench pressed 225 pounds 13 times…32 5/8-inch arm length…10 1/4-inch hands…78 1/4-inch wingspan.

*Background.*..The brother of Atlanta Falcons receiver Calvin Ridley, the Georgia Bulldog is not as flashy as his older brother, but his lunch-pail attitude is perfect for a team that shuttles in multiple receivers. Smart and instinctive, the fourth-year junior got a jump start on his Georgia career after graduating early from Monarch High School.

Ridley was a 2016 Under Armour All-American Game selection and a four-star prospect, ranking as the sixth-best receiver in the state of Florida (21st in the nation). Listed as the top performer on offense for Team Highlight at the Under Armour Game, he caught 25 passes for 586 yards and six touchdowns his junior year.

After Ridley enrolled at UGA in January, 2016, he sat out the season as a red-shirt. He appeared in

eleven games in 2017, as he had just twelve catches for 238 yards and two touchdowns. Among his three catches vs. Auburn was a one-handed grab that covered 57 yards. He also caught two passes for 59 yards vs. Tennessee, including a 47-yard touchdown with ten seconds remaining.

Ridley appeared in fourteen games in 2017, starting seven contests, but again, he was just a complimentary piece of the passing game. He finished with fourteen catches for 218 yards and two touchdowns. In the national title clash vs. Alabama, he was thrust into the national spotlight, collecting a career-best six catches for 82 yards.

The 2018 season saw Ridley become a vital cog in Georgia attempts to stretch the field. He caught 44-of-60 targeted passes, gaining 146 of his 570 yards after the catch while reaching the end zone a career-high nine times. He also earned a career-best twelve starting assignments through fourteen appearances. For his performance, he was one of three Bulldogs to be named Offensive Most Improved Player at the team's post-season awards gala.

*The Scouting Report*

*Athletic Ability.*..Ridley has a good sized frame with a solid build, but he looks much stronger than he actually is (muscles don’t translate to the football field). He has good upper body development, a big bubble and developed thighs and calves. On tape, he appears to have good structure, but his bench press figures indicate that he needs to spend more hours in the training room to improve his core strength.

Ridley is like most Georgia receivers – they are not afraid to stand tall and take a hit. He has good hands to get a clean release vs. the press and adequate deep speed, needing to build his acceleration rather than be sudden in his moves. He is not the type that can simply rely upon his speed to pull away from defenders, but he is a good playmaker who knows how to use his size to create separation. He does a good job of avoiding the jam and he utilizes his lateral agility to get by second level defenders.

He has the size to power through at the line of scrimmage vs. corners, but could be better suited using his change of direction agility and stutter-steps to escape at the next level while working on his core strength in the training room. He lacks suddenness, but is smooth and fluid getting into his routes.

*Release*...Ridley knows how to use his frame to shield the ball from the defender. He is an inviting, target working over the middle and is effective when used on the bubble screen, thanks to his lateral agility. He has much better short area quickness than when asked to stretch the field. He builds his speed as he goes, rather than being sudden. Used on the deep post, his size comes more into play than his adequate timed speed, as he has the long arms and reach to look the ball in over his outside shoulder, but it is not often you will see him lay out going for the ball. Even though he is a big target, he does not consistently separate on long patterns.

*Acceleration*...Ridley is part of that old adage for big receivers – he’s more quick than fast. He has to improve his burst to be an effective red zone target, as he won’t always lay out for the ball. He seems to be more comfortable working over the middle of the field rather than fly down the sidelines from the “Z” receiver position. He doesn’t explode off the line and with his long stride, it takes him a bit to reach top speed. He shows good quickness on his get-off and some burst in and out of his short area cuts, but he won’t win many long distance foot races.

*Route Running*...Ridley runs crisp routes underneath. He does a good job of sinking his weight to come out of his breaks cleanly. He is more effective on slants and option routes than going long. He also shows good urgency working back on comeback routes, knowing how to stay square and balanced in his approach back to the ball. He can make the sharp 90-degree cuts in short-to-intermediate routes, but too often in 2018, he took soft angles when threatening the secondary. Keep him active on screens, posts and hitches if you want to get better production from him, as he knows how to lower his body weight getting into his breaks. He also shows good hand placement and physicality that makes it tough for smaller corners to push him off the route.

*Separation Ability*...Because he rounds his cuts so often going deep, he’s not going to be a go-to type of receiver at the next level, despite what some scouts say. He needs to develop better and quicker double moves, as he does not do a good job of selling the route, in fact, he telegraphs his moves too much. He is best working in a crowd, using his body to shield the ball from defenders. He has the loose hips and change of direction agility to take a seam when working in the intermediate areas. He will never be confused for an explosive route runner, but he knows how to generate enough body lean and contact to create separation.

*Leaping Ability*... Ridley shows good ability to adjust to the ball, but it is much better in the short-to-intermediate areas, as he can’t generate consistent separation on deep patterns. He can run, jump and contort his body to make the tough catch in a crowd, doing a nice job of hanging in the air to get to the ball at its highest point. He just looks very natural adjusting to off-line throws, coming up with good production catching in a crowd. He has good vertical skills and uses his body well to position and push out defensive backs to make the tough catch. He also shows good timing, as it is rare to see him leave his feet too early.

*Hands*...Ridley does a good job of reaching and plucking the ball away from his frame. His problems occur when he tries to head up field before he can secure the pigskin (does not have fumble issues, but does drop more than his share of catch-able balls). He uses his size well to push out the defensive back and he looks impressive catching the pass over either shoulder. He has above average hand/eye coordination and while he will body catch a few tosses, he does not use it as a crutch. He can make most of the catches he should, along with a few that he shouldn’t, as he has that fearless attitude going for the ball in a crowd.

*Run After the Catch*...Ridley has the vision to spot the seam and take advantage of squeezing through the tight areas after the catch. He needs to gather himself before turning and cutting up field, as he does tend to cross his feet some, causing him to lose balance when he gets too anxious after the catch. You can see on film that he has the ability to bounce off tackles and gain valid yardage after the catch. He prefers to run through arm tackles rather than make the defender miss, but will have to increase his core strength to do that at the next level.

*Compares To*...Brandon LaFell-ex-Carolina Panthers...Like LaFell, Ridley can be a nice complimentary piece, but is not number-one target material. He lacks blazing speed to consistently get over the top of man coverage in the NFL. He has room to improve as a red zone target. Still, he's a playmaker who knows how to use his body and time his jumps to make big plays in the vertical passing game. He can pluck on the run and gets up the field quickly and displays good body control for his size. He will bounce off some tackles and gain yards after contact, but he just lacks elite elusiveness to be anything more than a shifty runner with good vision.

© Copyright 1973-2019 Scouting Services Inc. Courtesy of Dave-Te’ Thomas, Powered by The NFL Draft Report. All material is the sole possession of The NFL Draft Report. Any unauthorized use of these items are strictly prohibited.

WHILE HERALDED TEAMMATES GAIN MEDIA ATTENTION, DIXON GARNERS SCOUT INTEREST

Johnnie Dixon, III-#1

The Ohio State University Buckeyes

5:11.1-197

*Agility Tests*...4.37 in the 40-yard dash…1.53 10-yard dash…2.55 20-yard dash…10.68 in the 100-meter dash...4.15 20-yard shuttle…11.06 60-yard shuttle…7.01 three-cone drill…37 1/2-inch vertical jump…10'-05" broad jump…Bench pressed 225 pounds 16 times…107.13 SPARQ rating...30 1/4-inch arm length…9 5/8-inch hands…72 1/2-inch wingspan.

*Background...*Sometimes, you have to wonder what a player needs to do in order to be noticed - at least by the media voting for post-season all-conference teams. There was not even a hint of Dixon's name on any of the three Big Ten teams selected, not even a little blip as an honorable mention. Yet, as the Buckeyes prepare to play in the Rose Bowl vs. the Washington Huskies, the main reason they went to the league title game to earn the Rose Bowl spot was the receiver's stellar play down the stretch, when after thirty-five games as a reserve, he finally earned a starting opportunity.

For those not able to pick up football games out of Columbus, Ohio, on their cable systems, here are some very interesting numbers to ponder. In his final four games, all with the first unit, Dixon caught 16-of-21 passes targeted to him (76.19%), as the opposition deflected one toss and OSU misfired on four others. All six of those catches produced first downs, converting 7-of-8 third- round attempts 87.50%.

JD-III gained 289 aerial yards during those four appearances, an average of 18.06 yards per catch, scoring three times while setting up seven other touchdown drives and two series that resulted in field goals. Ten of those catches gained at least ten yards (62.50%), including five for twenty yards or longer (31.25%), with five of his non-touchdown snatches being downed inside the red zone.

As a result, Dixon accounted for first downs on 100% of his grabs (16-of-16). Those sixteen catches were 14.95% of the team's total pass completions (16-of-107) while his 289 aerial yards generated 18.86% of the team's passing yards during that four-game span (289-of-1,532).

Dixon was credited with 17.64% of the team's touchdown catches personally (3-of-17), but was also responsible for setting up 41.18% of those touchdown receptions with key catches (7-of-17). He was also responsible for setting up 29.41% of the team's total points during his last four appearances (55-of-187). Dixon registered 28.57% of the team's aerial first downs during that four-game span (16-of-56).

Want more evidence that Dixon is one of the best-kept secrets in college football? He led the nation in 2018 in touchdown distance (minimum five scores), as his eight touchdowns gained 254 yards, an average of 31.75 yards per end zone success. In 2017, his eight scoring catches generated 298 yards, an average of 37.25 yards per touchdown.

His average gain of 34.50 yards per touchdown reception (minimum ten) during his career is topped by only Devin Smith of Ohio State on the school and league record chart (30 touchdowns for an average of 39.40 yards; 2011-14). He converted eight of eighteen receptions into touchdowns in 2017, a rate of 44.44%, the highest by an NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision player since Kevin Williams caught ten touchdowns on seventeen grabs in 1978 for a percentage of .5882.

Further proof that Dixon is a valid deep threat? Well, he led the team and league with sixteen plays that went at least twenty yards in 2018. How fast did he run? Those hooked on analytics and agility tests will love these numbers. Featured on NFL Network broadcasts is a device that measures the speed of an NFL player with the ball in his hands.

Tops this year on average in the NFL was Kansas City's Tyreek Hill at 21.64 MPH, San Francisco's Marquise Goodwin at 21.68 MPH and injured Jacksonville tailback, Leonard Fournette, at 22.05. In college football, Dixon leads all levels, all players with 24.06 MPH. No college player has been timed faster than 21.5 MPH.

Three seasons of dealing with knee and leg issues almost saw Ohio State's standout flanker leave the game prior to the 2017 season, but thankfully, Dixon decided to give it the old "college try" one more time. You could sense that the 2017 campaign was going to be special for the junior, if he somehow managed to stay on the field. He was coming off a sensational spring camp that saw him score twice on six receptions for 108 yards in the annual spring game. He then opened eyes further with a dominating August session and the staff was cautiously optimistic that this would be Dixon's season to shine.

The flanker never started a game, much the same for all of his twenty-six career appearances for the Buckeyes and he only had seven receptions through his first three seasons prior to the 2017 opener. He did miss the third game on the schedule vs. Army due to an undisclosed injury, but he brought the crowd to its feet with his gutsy fourth quarter performance that saw him register a pair of touchdowns vs. Penn State, despite playing with hamstring issues earlier in that contest.

Dixon would go on to lead the team with eight touchdowns, the fifth-best total in the Big Ten Conference last season. However, it was what he did en route to the end zone that has impressed the professional scouting industry. He generated 70.62% of his total receiving yardage for 2017 via those scoring grabs (298-of-422).

What made that figure even more impressive was that those scores accounted for 44.44% of his total receptions (18), the best percentage in a season by an NCAA Foot-ball Bowl Subdivision player since Kevin Williams of Southern California set the season record at 58.82% (ten of seventeen for scores) in 1978.

His reception average of 23.44 yards ranked fourth in the FBS for the 2017 season, topped by Byron Pringle of Kansas State (25.18 ypc; 28 catches for 705 yards), Aaron Cephus of Rice (24.88 ypc; 25 for 622) and Emanuel Hall of Missouri (24.76 ypc; 33 for 817). Among the sixteen players to average at least twenty yards per reception in 2017, Dixon was the only one from the Big Ten Conference.

Prior to joining the Ohio State program, Dixon was a standout wide receiver who also played defensive back for head coach Jack Daniels at West Palm Beach's William T. Dwyer High School. He developed into a four-star recruit, as ESPN named him the fifth-best receiver and 34th-best overall player in the nation. As a sophomore, he came on strong the second half of the season, finishing with 433 yards and four scores on eighteen catches (24.06 ypc). He garnered national attention as a junior, pulling in 33 passes for 610 yards (18.48 ypc) with six touchdowns, adding 94 yards on six carries.

In 2013, Dixon helped the Panthers to its second Florida Class 7A state championship in school history and its first-ever unbeaten season (15-0). He was named second-team Associated Press Class 7A all-state and played his best football in the state playoffs with 17 receptions for 366 yards and six touchdowns in Dwyer’s five-game run to the state title. He had five catches for 55 yards and one score in the 55-39 championship game win over Niceville. He also collected eight tackles in five appearances on defense.

Dixon also starred in track-&-field competition for Dwyer High, competing in the 100- and 200-meter dashes, along with performing on the 4x100 relay team. His personal best in the 100 meters was 10.68 seconds, capturing the Florida High School Athletic Association Class IV Region Three championship in 2012. In thirteen 100-meter events that year, he finished first eight times and second in four more events.

Dixon's best 200-meter time was 21.95 seconds at the 2012 FHSAA Class 4A District Nine Championships, as he placed second three times and finished first five times in thirteen 200 events. He also ran the final leg for the school's 4x100 relay team at the state outdoor finals (43.82) in 2013.

Dixon was one of six from his 2014 recruiting class to enroll in classes at Ohio State in January, 2014. He only appeared in the third game on that schedule, gaining 20 yards on four carries before knee woes (tendonitis) would require surgery and see him earn a medical hardship. Injuries would limit him to five contests in 2015, as he pulled in just one pass for 29 yards. The 2016 season was again compromised by injuries, as Dixon saw the field just seven times. He collected six tosses for 26 yards, scoring his first career touchdown on a 5-yard reverse in the Rutgers clash.

The 2018 season began like the others - with Dixon contributing coming off the bench. He went on to register 42 receptions from 62 passes targeted to him, gaining 669 yards (15.93 ypc) with eight touchdowns. He also averaged 18.5 yards as a kickoff returner.

With Dixon having gained 1,146 yards receiving as a Buckeye, he joins K.J. Hill (1,696 yards), Parris Campbell (1,768 yards) and Terry McLaurin (1,251 yards) in marking the first time in school history that a current Ohio State roster featured four 1,000-yard receiving performers.

It is also the first time that Ohio State had four players on the same team with at least ten career touchdown receptions (Dixon has sixteen while Hill has ten; Campbell produced fifteen scores and McLaurin tallied nineteen).

Dixon has appeared in forty games through four seasons at Ohio State, as the red-shirt senior started his last fiver appearances at split end. He accounted for 1,146 yards and sixteen touchdowns on 67 receptions (17.10 ypc), adding 25 yards on five carries (5.00 ypc), 240 yards via thirteen kickoff returns (18.46 avg) and six tackles (four solos).

Currently, 23.88% of Dixon's receptions (16-of-67) resulted in touch-downs. The NCAA career-record is 35.29% by Southern California's Kevin Williams (20 scores on 48 catches; 1977-80). In his last two seasons, Dixon has registered touchdowns in sixteen of his last seventeen appearances on offense and during his last two seasons, 26.67% of his receptions were for touchdowns (16-of-60).

Dixon's average gain of 34.50 yards per touchdown reception (minimum ten) is topped by only Devin Smith of Ohio State on the school and league record chart (30 touchdowns for an average of 39.40 yards; 2011-14). The FBS record is held by Charles Johnson of Colorado (fifteen scores for 697 yards, 46.47-yard average, 1990-93). Based on a minimum of ten touchdown receptions, among active players, Dixon holds the league all-time distance record, as his sixteen scoring grabs averaged 34.50 yards per catch (533 yards). That average also places him second on the conference career-record chart behind Devin Smith.

Dixon converted eight of eighteen receptions into touchdowns in 2017, a rate of 44.44%, the highest by an NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision player since Kevin Williams caught ten touchdowns on seventeen grabs in 1978 for a percentage of .5882. He Dixon led the nation in 2018 in touchdown distance (minimum five scores), as his eight touchdowns gained 254 yards, an average of 31.75 yards per end zone success. In 2017, his eight scoring catches generated 298 yards, an average of 37.25 yards per touchdown.

*The Scouting Report*

*Athletic Ability.*..Dixon has a lean, angular frame, with minimal body fat. He possesses a tight abdomen, good shoulder depth, solidly-built thighs and calves. He has the desired size in his hands to secure and extend for the ball. He has toned arms, long torso, and good flexibility, balance and knee bend. He has the frame that could carry at least another ten pounds of bulk without the increased weight impacting his overall quickness.

Dixon has outstanding speed to stretch the field and separate, along with the natural hands needed to make the difficult catches. He is a tough athlete who plays with pain. He displays above average balance and crisp change of direction agility to gain valid yardage after the catch. He has the ability to extend while tip-toeing along the sidelines for the soft pluck.

He does a good job of gaining separation off the snap due to his initial quick step. The thing you see on the field is his natural feel for making adjustments on the move, displaying good fakes and a bit of con in him to set up defensive backs in attempts to get open. He does a very nice job of sitting down and uncovering, allowing with showing good boundary awareness to keep his feet working along the sidelines. He also shows very good vision to separate after the catch.

*Release*... In film view, you can see that Dixon has more than enough in his stride to gobble up the cushion once he gets into gear (see touchdowns in 2018 Rutgers, Indiana, Purdue, Nebraska games). He is the type that will explode out of his stance and he has no problems beating the press with his upper body strength and hand usage. He does a very nice job of dropping his weight to “get small” working in the short areas. He excels at tracking down the deep ball, knowing how to get into position to make the catch without breaking stride. Coupled with his quickness, he shows the elusiveness to avoid the bump-&-run coming off the line. He demonstrates very good hand usage to defeat the jam and will use his size to his advantage to gain separation.

He shows a good urgency to get into his routes and is shifty in his release, knowing how to avoid the defender through route progression. He does a very good job of utilizing a drop step and can generate a slight hitch in his release to surprise a lethargic cornerback. He has the ability to extend while tip-toeing along the sidelines for the soft pluck. He does a good job of gaining separation off the snap due to his initial quick step. The thing you see on the field is his natural feel for making adjustments on the move, displaying good fakes and a bit of con in him to set up defensive backs in attempts to get open.

*Acceleration/Quickness*...Dixon was always blessed with excellent speed, but in 2018, he became a much more polished route runner. He has that second gear to consistently explode past defenders at the next level, as he plays a physical game with good field savvy and shows impressive head fakes and juke-moves to surprise a lethargic cornerback. He is crisp in his cuts and comes out of his breaks with no wasted motion, giving him the opportunity to separate on slants (see 2018 Rutgers, Nebraska, Northwestern games).

He has strong hands to excel getting to the ball in a crowd. He can quickly build up speed on deep patterns and sees the ball very well, showing outstanding hand/eye coordination, very good hand placement and moves - whether going to his left or right. He excels at making body adjustments when going up for the ball in flight. Dixon has good running numbers and shows great separation on film. He has good quickness off the snap and no matter how fast the cornerback might be, Dixon seems to always find ways to gain and eat up the defender’s cushion.

*Route Running*...Dixon is the type who is able to generate the explosion needed to simply separate, but he is also a precise route runner who comes out of his breaks cleanly, doing a nice job of generated YAC when used on slants. He gets in and out of his cuts so well, thanks to his ability to drop and sink his weight. He is shifty in the open and uses solid head and shoulder fakes to con his man on his patterns. He shows the vision and balance to come back for the ball and stay square. His savvy moves usually gets the cornerbacks to come out of their back-pedals and commit too early. He gets a very good push off the defender with his hand usage. He has fluid movements and the ability to accelerate out of his breaks. One of his best assets is his double-cut ability. He has no problems sinking and planting coming out of his breaks, especially on the bubble-screen, one of his best plays. You can see on film that he excels on linear routes, as he easily eats up the cushion heading up field.

*Separation Ability*...Dixon has excellent suddenness in his initial step and shows that explosive burst needed to outrun defenders coming out of his breaks. When he reaches top speed, he is capable of maintaining it. He shows that he can consistently separate and use his body well to extend for the long throw. He is very fluid and flexible looking the ball in. He is a natural hands catcher who does a nice job of reaching and plucking for the ball outside his frame. He is a crowd pleaser for his ability to torque his body in almost any direction and make adjustments to secure the ball. He did a very nice job of catching the deep throws in 2018 (see Rutgers, Indiana, Nebraska, Northwestern games). He also displays the ability to bend and secure the bubble screen from his shoe laces. He can rise and torque to extend for the high throws, even when the pass is coming in from the wrong shoulder.

*Leaping Ability*...Dixon times his leaps well. Even when he fails to make the catch, he is very effective at reaching around to make sure the cornerback won’t make a play on the pigskin. He knows how to get vertical, when he has to and will not hesitate to fight for a high throw. He has the classic, natural arm extension and you can see the explosive spring when he leaps up and over a smaller defender to get to the ball in flight. He plays with very good timing and knows how to use his angular frame to twist and bring the ball down. His long reach also lets him get to passes most normal-sized receivers can’t get to.

*Hands*...What separates Dixon from the other receivers eligible for the draft is his hands. He is a natural pass catcher and keeps on getting better. His soft hands let him snatch and pluck. He also makes very good body adjustments to deliver the over-the-shoulder grabs. His concentration skills are above average and it is rare to see him drop the ball due to a lack of focus. He does a fine job of catching away from his body and is fearless going for the ball in a crowd. He does a very good job of using his frame to shield the ball from the defender.

Scouts have been very impressed with his ability to extend and pluck the ball away from his frame. He is able to secure the ball from a variety of angles and with his soft hands, he can pluck the ball outside his frame with ease. He does not use his body as a crutch, but it is effective when trying to absorb the ball working underneath. Most of the balls thrown to him, hit him in stride, but you won’t see him get careless and try to run without securing the ball first.

*Run After the Catch*... To put it bluntly, Dixon has that "catch me if you can" attitude when he gets behind a defensive back. On five of his touchdown catches in 2018, not one defender was even fifteen yards close to him (see Rutgers, Nebraska, Michigan games). Dixon has a very nice array of moves, head fakes and hip shake that will make it difficult for even a savvy NFL cornerback to not bite. He has the strong legs, along with great drive and vision to quickly locate the seams, attack it and break arm tackles.

He has more than enough quickness to burst through tiny spaces and runs with above average balance and body control. He is especially effective working along the sidelines, as his incredible balance lets him hug the boundaries to come up with the crowd-pleasing reception. He shows very good plant-&-drive change of direction agility to elude, doing a nice job of spinning with the ball away from his frame. He shows good spring in his feet to hop around and avoid defenders before executing his second move.

*Blocking Ability*...Dixon does a nice job of picking up the blitz and sustaining blocks in the backfield. He is better when mirroring bigger defenders, as he will get engulfed when trying to face up to them, but he has the ability to take good angles, dance with the linebacker and then cut his man when blocking in the open.

*Compares To*...Stefon Diggs-Minnesota Vikings...Like Diggs, Dixon's best attribute is generating yards after the catch, mostly due to his agility, straight-line speed and vision. He’s a smooth, gliding runner who accelerates quickly and changes directions without sacrificing speed. He can easily make defenders miss in the open field, and also possesses elite lateral agility to juke in tight quarter, along with having the straight-line speed to separate, making him a threat to score from any point on the field.

Dixon generates a good burst off the snap to eat up the cushion. With his above average straight-line speed, it makes it risky for defenders to attempt press coverage. He has the quick hands needed to slap away the initial jam and has the balance, flexibility and strength to absorb a pop, gain freedom quickly and accelerate downfield. He does a fine job the smooth transition with his lateral cuts and shows good explosion coming out of his breaks. With his second gear, he can easily run away from defenders with shallow or deep crossing routes.

STAFF PREDICTION - HARDMAN WILL BE ELECTRIFYING

Carey "Mecole" Hardman-#4

University of Georgia Bulldogs

5:10.2-187

*Agility Tests...*4.28 in the 40-yard dash…1.51 10-yard dash…2.47 20-yard dash…4.25 20-yard shuttle…6.75 three-cone drill…36 1/2-inch vertical jump…9'-11" broad jump… Bench pressed 225 pounds 17 times…30 1/4-inch arm length…9-inch hands…71 5/8-inch wingspan.

*Background.*..Don't get me wrong, Hardman is not a finished product, but for a player with just two years of wide receiver experience, well, let's just say he is well ahead of the learning curve. The Bulldogs coaches needed a season to determine where the high school quarterback and defensive back would fit. They recognized that he was a smooth, fluid and wiry athlete with lean bulk.

They would soon discover that Hardman is an explosive athlete with tremendous feet and acceleration traits. He possesses the top end speed to consistently win footraces in the open field and has the agility and change-of-direction skills to make multiple defenders miss in space. Still, they felt that he must continue to add bulk and strength to his frame. Once he did (added fifteen pounds), it led to two exciting seasons for Georgia fans with 59 receptions for 950 yards and eleven touchdowns through just thirteen starting assignments.

At Elbert County High School, Hardman competed at both quarterback and defensive back. On defense, he was an American Family Insurance/USA Today All-USA second-team pick. The five-star recruit was rated 26th on PrepStar Magazine's Top 150 Dream Team. ESPN.com regarded him as the second-best athlete in the nation and fifth-best player in the state of Georgia. 247Sports.com called him the best athlete in the country and the number-two recruit in Georgia.

The 2015 Georgia Sports Writers Association Class AAA Offensive Player of the Year, was also that group's Class AAA All-State offensive pick. He was also named to the 2015 Atlanta Journal-Constitution Super 11 in Georgia and Class AAA All-State team (offense) after he led Elbert County to an 11-3 record and a trip to the quarterfinals of the Class AAA playoffs.

Hardman had one of the cleaner uniforms on the Georgia team in 2016. He appeared in eleven games, posting six special teams tackles that included two stops each vs. Florida and Louisiana, as he also returned one kickoff 17 yards vs. the Ragin' Cajuns.

The 2017 season saw the Southeastern Conference Academic Honor Roll member move to wide receiver from the defensive backfield during spring drills. He would start one of the fifteen games he appeared in, catching 25-of-37 targeted passes for 418 yards (16.7 ypc) and four touchdowns, gaining 228 yards after the catch. In 318 snaps, he also rushed for two scores via eight attempts for 61 yards.

On special teams, Hardman registered five tackles (4 solos) and totaled 505 yards on twenty kickoff returns (25.3 avg) and 271 yards running back 23 punts (11.8 avg). He ranked eighth nationally in punt returns (first in the SEC) and 21st in KO returns (2nd in the SEC). He also had 1255 all-purpose yards, including a season-high 203 vs. Auburn. He scored both of Georgia's touchdowns vs. Alabama in the CFP Championship Game: a 1-yard rush and an 80-yard pass, as he was named the Vince Dooley Special Teams MVP at the team’s post-season awards gala.

Hardman matched a season-high with four receptions in the SEC Championship game for 67 yards. He hauled in his first career touchdown from Jake Fromm to put Georgia up 7-0 in the first quarter against Samford. He caught three passes for 51 yards at Georgia Tech, including a 39-yarder that set up the Bulldogs’ third touchdown of the day. He made first career start at wide receiver at Notre Dame and hauled in a team-high four receptions for 27 yards in the win against the Irish.

In 2018, Hardman earned All-American Super Sleeper Team honors from The NFL Draft Report, despite starting just five of fourteen games. He was Georgia’s second-leading receiver, with 34 catches of 56 targeted tosses for 532 yards and seven touchdowns. The stellar kick returner, despite falling just short of minimum qualification standards (1.2 returns per game) for NCAA rankings, he would have ranked second nationally, first in SEC, in punt returns at 20.1 yards/return, running

sixteen kicks for 321 yards and one touchdown.

Hardman added 36 yards on five carries and 271 yards on 23 punt returns to generate 1,242 all-purpose yards. One of two winners of the Kevin Butler Special Teams Award at the team's post-season awards gala, he raced 70 yards with a punt return for a score vs. Middle Tennessee State and had a 65-yard punt return vs. Kentucky that led to Georgia’s first score of the game. He caught a team-high six passes for 103 yards (both career highs) and a touchdown vs. South Carolina, as he also had a 30-yard rush on a lateral play vs. the Gamecocks

In the Georgia Tech clash, his lone reception was good for a 44-yard touchdown. Hardman had a team-best three catches vs. UMass for 68 yards, including a 57-yard scoring reception. He amassed 180 all-purpose yards in win at Missouri that included a 54-yard touchdown catch and a 23-yard punt return. He also gained 100 all-purpose yards vs. Alabama (21 rec., 63 KOR, 16 PR).

Hardman closed out his career with thirteen starting assignments through forty appearances. He caught 59-of-93 targeted tosses for 950 yards (16.1 ypc) and eleven touchdowns, gaining 520 yards after the catch, in just 720 snaps. He gained 97 yards with a pair of scores on thirteen carries and recorded eleven special team tackles (5 solos). He returned 35 kickoffs for 875 yards (21.9 avg), 39 punts for 592 yards (15.2 avg) with a touchdown to finish with 2,514 all-purpose yards.

*The Scouting Report*

*Athletic Ability.*.. Hardman possesses a tight abdomen, good shoulder depth, solidly-built thighs and calves. He has the desired size in his hands to secure and extend for the ball. He has toned arms, good flexibility, balance and knee bend. His strong legs let him break tackles and his explosiveness will generally see him win foot races in the open field. Ford demonstrates excellent athleticism for his position, as few opposing defenders can mirror him on deep routes due to his speed. He not only has the acceleration needed to threaten the deep secondary, but the body control, lateral quickness and change of direction agility to make the underneath catches.

He is very fast moving laterally and with his high school experience in the high jump, he can certainly get vertical with the best of them. He has a sudden burst off the snap and maintains his stride throughout the routes, demonstrating superb balance, especially when working along the sidelines. He has worked hard to improve his strength, but even when he takes on bigger defenders as a blocker, he compensates for bulk issues by staying low in his pads and sinking his weight to anchor.

Even with his speed, do not confuse him for a sprinter, as he shows no hesitation going for the ball in traffic. He has a rapid running stride and quick feet and is very elusive after the catch. He knows how to vary his speed in order to not out-run the pass and with a still unanswered questions at the Tech quarterback position, he has had to rely upon his great field vision to work back for the ball when the quarterback is pressured. He looks very fluid and natural getting into his patterns and with his flexibility, he is a valid deep threat, if only the team can settle on the quarterback situation.

*Release*...When Hardman gets a free lane, he is explosive coming off the snap, immediately getting into his routes. He is highly aggressive with his hands, as he always manages to win those tough battles vs. physical press cover types (see 2018 Missouri, UMass, Georgia Tech games). He shows the acceleration needed to stem on the route and the quick feet to explode down the sidelines. He is not the type who will turn and eye the quarterback too long and when he does see the pocket in trouble, he will not hesitate to break off his route to come back and lend support. He takes very crisp angle cuts and flashes the ability to get in-&-out of his breaks, playing at a low pad level to generate even more speed in his stride. With added bulk, he should have no problems vs. the press at the next level, as his body tilt and lean, coupled with his burst and acceleration lets him attack the second level in an instant.

*Acceleration/Quickness*...While he has fine speed, Hardman is capable of simply exploding past defenders at the next level. He plays a physical game with good field savvy and shows enough speed and impressive head fakes and juke-moves to surprise a lethargic cornerback. He is crisp in his cuts and comes out of his breaks with no wasted motion, giving him the opportunity to separate on slants. He has strong hands to excel getting to the ball in a crowd. He can quickly build up speed on deep patterns and sees the ball very well, showing outstanding hand/eye coordination, very good hand placement and moves - whether going to his left or right. He excels at making body adjustments when going up for the ball in flight. Hardman has good running numbers and shows great separation on film. He has good quickness off the snap and no matter how fast the cornerback might be, Hardman seems to always find ways to gain and eat up the defender’s cushion.

*Route Running*...I really like how Hardman uses head and shoulder fakes in his routes. Most people with his speed rely more on their burst to separate, but Hardman likes running up on the defensive back and then executing a sharp cut to break free. He does a fine job of stabbing and stemming to set up the defender and knows how to shift gears to change the pace in his running stride. He is crisp in and out of those breaks and has a knack for finding holes in the zone. By staying at a lower pad level, he is capable of generating the second gear needed to pull away from the pack. He runs posts and slants very well and understands stems, sticks and gaining leverage. His loose hips are a great advantage, as it helps him in attempts to get the needed depth in his routes.

Hardman is the type who is able to generate the explosion needed to simply separate, but he is also a precise route runner who comes out of his breaks cleanly, doing a nice job of generated YAC when used on slants. For a player of his size, he gets in and out of his cuts so well, thanks to his ability to drop and sink his weight. He is shifty in the open and uses solid head and shoulder fakes to con his man on his patterns. He shows the vision and balance to come back for the ball and stay square.

*Separation Ability*...Hardman’s footwork is well above average when trying to separate. He uses his power well to get a clean release and he will surprise a lethargic defensive back with his ability to gobble up the cushion on deep patterns. He also has enough of a short area burst to settle in the soft spots. Even though he does not have the ideal quarterback to utilize his deep speed, what really separates him from other receivers in this draft class is his uncanny ability to adjust underneath and working on comeback routes. He shows above average sideline awareness, good alertness and field presence. He gets in and out of his breaks fluidly and shows decent ability to accelerate after the catch.

*Leaping Ability*...Hardman shows solid leaping ability, as he has made it a regular habit to fly over defenders and get vertical to secure the ball in a crowd. He times his leaps well and has confidence in his ability to reach for the throw at the high point. He knows how to get vertical, when he has to and will not hesitate to fight for a high throw. He has no problems getting vertical, even over the much taller defenders. He is an outstanding leaper who shows the proper timing to go up and get the ball at its high point. He is very competitive in traffic, despite his angular frame and has the ability to win most jump ball battles.

*Hands*...Hardman is a natural pass catcher and keeps on getting better. His soft hands let him snatch and pluck. He also makes very good body adjustments to deliver the over-the-shoulder grabs. His concentration skills are above average and it is rare to see him drop the ball due to a lack of focus. He does a fine job of catching away from his body and is fearless going for the ball in a crowd. He does a very good job of using his frame to shield the ball from the defender. Scouts have been very impressed with his ability to extend and pluck the ball away from his frame. He has that “Tyreek Hill" ability to make the difficult catch and maintain concentration to either look the ball in or come back and help when the quarterback is pressured.

*Run After the Catch*...Hardman has that peripheral vision and feel for coverage to weave in and out of traffic. He can generate enough of a big burst, especially running the flash screen. He has more than enough acceleration to pick up extra yardage and shows the body control needed to turn up field. His acceleration after the catch will regularly make the slower tacklers miss him. NFL teams can be very confident that Hardman is the type of player who possesses the quickness, acceleration and elusiveness to take a shallow crosser for the distance, as finding the end zone has become a regular habit for this underrated talent.

*Blocking Ability*...As a former defensive back, Hardman is highly effective when asked to throw a block for a teammate in the open field. He will face up with aggression at the line of scrimmage, and always gives total effort, even when challenged by much bigger defenders. He could develop into a good position and pester-type who will stalk, but if he adds more bulk for the next level, he could develop into a quality second level blocker in the “Greg Jennings/Hines Ward” mold.

*Compares To*...Tyreek Hill-Kansas City Chiefs...Like Hill, Hardman is more than your average, speedy pass catcher. Old time scouts also liken this Bulldog to Joey Galloway. In his prime, Galloway was a terror for defensive backs due to his explosive acceleration after the catch. Hardman is much like the former split end, as he excels at getting depth in his routes and the Georgia product has few peers with his pull-away burst to gain separation. He is a savvy route runner who has had very good success beating a cornerback on deep patterns, thanks to his hip snap and being light on his feet.

FAMILY BASKETBALL DNA SHINES THROUGH ON THE FOOTBALL FIELD

Jose Joaquin "J.J." Arcega-Whiteside-#19

Stanford University Cardinal

6:02.5-222

*Agility Tests*...4.50 in the 40-yard dash…1.58 10-yard dash…2.64 20-yard dash…4.41 20-yard shuttle…11.07 60-yard shuttle…7.23 three-cone drill…34-inch vertical jump…9'-11" broad jump…Bench pressed 225 pounds 17 times…33 1/4-inch arm length…9 1/2-inch hands…79 7/8-inch wingspan.

*Background.*..With his family's outstanding history in the world of basketball that included his pioneering mother establishing forty-two records during her college days at Appalachian State, one would have expected the Stanford wide receiver to follow in the "family business." If you ask any opposing cornerback who suffered through trying to cover Arcega-Whiteside, most will tell you that the split end is a "nightmare" to cover one-on-one. Perhaps that explains why on most of his big plays, it takes an army of defenders to bring him down.

Arcega-Whiteside became the "talk" of the Pac-12 Conference after a banner 2017 campaign that saw him register 43 first downs while catching 48 passes, converting nineteen third-down opportunities in the process. As a big-play specialist, he scored nine times and had key receptions that led to fourteen other Stanford touchdown drives and during six possessions that led to field goals.

More evidence of his dominance after the catch was the fact that 24-of-39 non-touchdown catches were downed inside the red zone last season, including six that were placed near the goal line.

Arcega-Whiteside also led the Pac-12 Conference with an average gain of 2.65 yards per route run, more than two-tenths of a yard better than the next-best player on the list, Arizona State’s N’Keal Harry (2.42).

The only other players in the league to average two yards or better were Arizona's Tony Ellison (2.39), Utah's Raelon Singleton (2.11) an UA Wildcat Shun Brown (2.00). Note-“Yards per Route Run” figure takes into account the number of snaps a player went into a pass pattern, which provides a better indicator of production than yards per reception or even yards per target.

To put those figures into perspective, in the National Football League, the only players to register a better average than Arcega-Whiteside in 2017 were Atlanta's Julio Jones (3.08-yard average, based on 469 snaps in route for 1,444 yards via 143 targets) and Pittsburgh's Antonio Brown (2.87-yard average during 534 snaps in route during 155 targets for 1,533 yards).

In fact, only ten NFL players averaged two yards or better in this category last year. Just two of those Top Ten leaders accomplished that feat with under one hundred targets - the Rams' Robert Woods (80 targets for 781 yards on 360 snaps for a 2.17-yard average)and Pittsburgh's JoJo Schuster-Smith (2.16-yard average via 424 snaps on 77 targets for 917 yards). Arcega-Whiteside accomplished his 2.65-yard average based on just 67 targets. His first down success rate per catch (89.58%) was the highest for any college player at any level in 2017.

In his own version of the hit game show, "Can You Top This," the big receiver did exactly that in 2018, as he pulled in 63-of-94 balls targeted for him, gaining 1,059 yards (16.81 ypc) with fourteen touchdowns. He gained 251 yards after the catch, pulling in 16-of-28 long balls for 483 yards (30.19 ypc) and eight scores.

What separates Arcega-Whiteside from most big-play artists is the size mismatches he creates, with his incredible leaping ability and long reach further enhancing his overall value as the "go-to" receiver most teams covet. His ability to line up at split end or flanker is another bonus factor on his resume. He will not beat you with blazing speed, but his acceleration and route running ability to a certain NFL superstar mentioned above - Quintorris Lopez "Julio" Jones.

Comparing these two players, you see their striking similarities. Both use their 6:03 height to their advantage and consistently win jump ball situations. With the 220-plus pound frames, they can easily break arm tackles and are a load to bring down in the open field. More quick than fast, both build their acceleration and show clear crispness as route runners.

Yes, Jones and Arcega-Whiteside are vertical threats due to height, strength, leaping ability, and quickness. They are known for their ability to generate big plays after the catch on screens and crossing patterns because of their physicality as a runner. Topping Jones, the Stanford receiver flashes outstanding hands and ball skills, which make the highlight grabs routine.

Like Jones, Arcega-Whiteside can haul in passes well outside his frame, but unlike Jones, the Cardinal red-shirt junior has never struggled with bouts of drops, as he has the required hands and route-running skills to develop into a consistent chain-mover at the next level. The Stanford prospect plays aggressively and will not hesitate to go over the middle and block.

While he might never have the speed to join a track team, Arcega-Whiteside uses his size to his advantage, as he can simply explode off the line and eat up cushions in a hurry. He can beat press coverage with his strength and physicality, along with showing the skill-set to separate vertically and on crossing patterns.

Another great asset is his ability to locate soft spots against zone. Arcega-Whiteside shows elite body-control and strong hands on jump balls and poor throws and with his powerful frame, he is a load to bring down in the open field. Tough and highly-competitive, he excels at setting up defenders and getting out of breaks. He's willing to go over the middle and shows great consistency catching in traffic.

THE ROAD WELL TRAVELED

José Joaquín Arcega-Whiteside was born in Aragon, Zaragoza, the Ebro Valley, on December 31, 1996. He is the son of two outstanding basketball players, Joaquín Arcega and Valorie Whiteside.

During his childhood, he lived in his hometown, while his parents played for the Zaragoza teams.

The youngster is fluent in English and Spanish, later learning Portuguese.

On the basketball court, J.J. won the league title playing for Estrelas d'avenida. He later moved back to the states, where in Inman, South Carolina, he played both basketball and football at Dorman High School, excelling in both sports. Despite his family's hoops background, J.J. had a passion for the gridiron.

At Dorman High School, Arcega-Whiteside added track to his sports resume, going on to earn All-State honors in all three sports during his senior campaign. In football, the two-time All-State, All-Region and All-Area selection averaged 18.2 yards per game receiving during his three varsity seasons. He scored sixteen times behind 1,500 receiving yards as a junior and set the school record with 108 receptions for 1,824 yards and twenty touchdowns as a senior, earning Parade All-American and Gatorade South Carolina Player of the Year recognition.

Under head coach David Gutshall, Arcega-Whiteside was rated the nation’s 45th-best wide receiver by PrepStar, 62nd by Rivals.com, 79th by 247Sports.com and 87th by Scout.com. He was tabbed the state's eighth-best recruit by Scout, as he closed out his prep career owning school all-time records with 207 receptions for 3,779 yards and 38 touchdowns.

In basketball, Arcega-Whiteside was a 2014 McDonald’s All-America nominee. The team MVP led his squad to three regional titles, picking up All-State accolades during his final season. In track, the All-State choice finished fourth in the 100 meters (11.13) at the South Carolina High School League Class AAA State Championship. He was also a member of the 4x100 relay (42.95) and 4x200 relay teams (1:33.96) that finished second in both events at the New York Butcher Shoppe Friday Night Lights Meet.

With his mother, Valorie, stressing the importance of education, Arcega-Whiteside fielded scholarship offers from her former university, Appalachian State, along with Charlotte, Elon College, Georgia Tech, Harvard, James Madison, Maryland, Miami (OH), Michigan State, Navy, Old Dominion,

Pittsburgh, Central Florida, Virginia and Wake Forest. On January 16th, 2015, he made his decision to head west and become a Stanford Cardinal.

It was not instant success for the freshman upon enrolling. With a loaded roster filled with veterans, the coaching staff opted to red-shirt their prized recruit in 2015. He started two of the twelve games that he appeared in during his first varsity campaign in 2016. The Academic All-Pac 12 Conference selection would finish fourth on the team with 24 receptions for 379 yards (15.79 ypc). He also paced the Cardinal offense with five touchdown grabs, showing flashes of brilliance as a big-play performer, something that would become commonplace in 2017.

An All-American Super Sleeper Team pick, Arcega-Whiteside dazzled with 48 receptions for 781 yards and nine touchdowns in 2017, all team bests. Twenty-nine of his catches were for ten yards or longer, including seventeen that gained at least ten yards, tops in the Pac-12 Conference. What made his numbers even more impressive was the fact that he had to break off his route and come back to support his quarterbacks on twenty-one of his snatches. He also won 19-of-23 jump ball battles, as his success percentage rate of .8261 led the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision ranks.

In 2018, the Cardinal receiver served as team captain, as the All-Pac 12 Conference second-team selection was a Biletnikoff Award semifinalist. He started all twelve regular season games, opting to not participate in postseason action, a disturbing recent trend in college football. He tied the school season-record with fourteen touchdowns on 63 receptions for 1,059 yards (16.81 ypc). His receiving yards placed fifth on the Stanford annual chart, producing five 100-yard receiving performances, the fourth-most in a season by a Stanford player. He also led the team in scoring with 86 points.

For his career, the Stanford red-shirt junior has appeared in 36 games, starting 25 contests, as he hauled in 135 passes for 2,219 yards (16.44 ypc) and 28 touchdowns, tallying 170 points. He also recorded one solo tackle and recovered his own fumble. His 135 grabs rank 18th in school history, holding the 12th spot on the receiving yards chart. He is tenth with an average gain of 16.44 yards per reception and his nine 100-yard receiving performances rank third in school annals, finishing second on the list for touchdown catches.

*The Scouting Report*

*Athletic Ability.*..Arcega-Whiteside has a tall, thick frame, with long arm, large hands, thick thighs and calves and a big bubble. He is smooth skinned with impressive muscle development and possesses a frame that can carry another ten pounds of bulk. The Stanford receiver has solid in-stride acceleration running routes and he displays very good balance, body control and hand/eye coordination looking the ball in. He has great size and initial explosion for this position, showing the flexibility to get in and out of his cuts instantly in attempts to separate.

He demonstrates the good body control needed to adjust to the off-target throws, something he had to do often in 2018, as the team sorted out their quarterback issues. His size and arm extension are his best qualities, but his leg strength is evident by the way he generates RAC. He has the change of direction agility to go along with his those loose hips to be a breakaway threat with the ball in his hands. He has outstanding ability to get vertical and combat for jump balls in a crowd (won 19-of-23 jump ball situations in 2018). He does a fine job of adjusting his body for the high throws and has the strength and burst to defeat the initial tackle.

*Release*...Arcega-Whiteside knows how to use his size and arm extension to get a quick release off the snap. He shows good closing speed running under sideline throws and the quickness to get into his routes without being impeded. He has the burst needed to escape the press and uses his hands well to get a clean release. He has loose hips when changing direction and knows how to use his size and strength to let him consistently beat the jam and with his deceptive speed, he can run up a cornerback in an instant.

Whether lining out wide or inside in the slot, one thing you always see from Arcega-Whiteside is urgency off the snap. He has the upper body strength of a tight end to easily beat the jam and can do a very good job of gobbling up the cushion and pushing the cornerbacks out of their backpedal too early. He might not have that sudden explosion to keep NFL corners from mirroring him on deep routes, but he has had great success creating space for himself with his hand punch and strength. You can see his ability to rock defensive backs up on their heels and get free in an instant coming off the line of scrimmage.

*Acceleration/Quickness*...Arcega-Whiteside displays the initial burst needed to escape the press and get right into his route. He is unlike most big receivers, as he’s not a long strider, but he can gain large chunks of real estate when trying to get behind his coverage assignment or when trying to stretch the field. He has very good ability to uncover when working underneath and shows a gliding motion getting across zones, playing with excellent field awareness. He might not have breakaway speed, but it is good enough to combine with his loose hips to separate and elude.

Arcega-Whiteside is a physical type with the ability to maintain his stride through his route progression. He is hard to knock off his patterns and shows smooth body adjustments to catch the ball in stride. The thing you see on film is his explosive burst when fading into the open area, doing a nice job of tracking the ball in flight. His hand quickness and ability to quickly uncover and extend for the ball makes him virtually unstoppable vs. the smaller defenders in the short area.

*Route Running*...Arcega-Whiteside runs crisp routes and has an array of movers and field savvy to know when he needs to use them to set up the defender. He does a very good job of varying his speeds to sell and con his coverage assignment. He can decelerate and throttle down to come back and lend support when the quarterback is pressured. His hip shake and head fakes are quite effective at keeping the defender off balance. He can sink his hips in and out of his breaks to separate and doers a fine job of finding the zone’s soft spots to settle. The thing I like about him is his ability to leverage, plant and cut. He has made steady improvement in his running stride, dropping his hips properly in his breaks while showing no wasted movements.

*Separation Ability*...Arcega-Whiteside has the second gear to escape or he can use his strength to get physical in attempts to separate. He has that burst along the sidelines that let him escape company on his routes, but he needs to show better hip sink on his cuts. Because of his size, he will fool a defender with his impressive hip wiggle in attempts to elude when working in a crowd. He also knows how to use his body and has a knack for finding the open spots in the zone. In man coverage, he is very adept at using his burst to separate consistently, as he shows the ability to pull away after the catch once he is in the open field.

*Leaping Ability*...With his basketball bloodlines, this is a given! Arcega-Whiteside has the spring in his legs to get good elevation trying to high point the ball. He uses his large mitts and reach to go over the top of the defender to win most jump ball battles. He looks effortless utilizing his lift and rise to go up for the pass. He shows good ball adjustment skills and balance to make the tough grabs and keep his feet in bounds when working along the sidelines.

Arcega-Whiteside has the long legs and arms, combined with excellent elevation to get to the pass at its high point. He can be very explosive in his rise and shows natural hand extension to reach and pluck away from the frame. He uses his size well in man coverage attacking the high pass and seems to relish combating multiple defenders when battling for the ball while working in traffic.

*Hands*...Arcega-Whiteside big hands allow him to secure the ball well. He uses his body to shield the ball from the defender and there are no issues with concentration lapses that could lead to a few drops. He is more of a natural hands catcher than one who uses his body to absorb the ball in, with his palms looking like mitts. He has very soft hands and while the level of competition he faced is top-level, he has never dropped the ball trying to secure it (fumble vs. Oregon State came after he was hit). He is a natural receiver who can make the grabs away from the body’s frame and also uses his hands with good force when blocking in-line.

*Run After the Catch*...Arcega-Whiteside gets good yardage with his foot work and balance, taking screens and slants without having to throttle down. He runs with good body lean, but when he gets too erect, he leaves his legs open for low tackles. He showed better cutting ability in 2018 and if given soft coverage, he can turn and head up field for big yardage. With his big frame, he will carry more than a few defenders for a couple of more yards and for a big player, he has decent hip wiggle, making him strong runner carrying the rock. When he runs at a proper pad level, he can compensate for average timed speed with his balance and strength running though defenders

*Blocking Ability*... Arcega-Whiteside could be just like a tight end when blocking in-line. He uses his hands with force to lock on and sustain and can generate devastating cut blocks in the open. He can be dominant vs. defensive backs and shows good angles getting out to neutralize second level defenders. He stays low in his pads and shows good intent when delivering his hand punch vs. the bull rush. You can see on film his ability to go after people down field and he consistently stays on his blocks.

*Compares To*...Julio Jones-Atlanta Falcons...There is just something about Arcega-Whiteside that will make any coach covet him. Like Jones, he thrives with the ball in his hands, but he can be a big load to bring down after the catch. He does a great job of keeping his feet in bounds and making the acrobatic sideline grab. He has the power to keep defenders off his body, shocking a lethargic cornerback with his hand punch to defeat the jam. He has the body control to settle underneath and then break up field. With his leaping ability, he should be more capable of getting to the jump balls at the next level.

SLAYTON RACING INTO THE DRAFT'S DAY TWO PICTURE

Darius Slayton-#81

Auburn University Tigers

6:01.0-190

*Agility Tests...*4.39 in the 40-yard dash…1.56 10-yard dash…2.62 20-yard dash…4.15 20-yard shuttle…7.00 three-cone drill…40 1/2-inch vertical jump…11'-03" broad jump… Bench pressed 225 pounds 11 times…32 3/4-inch arm length…10 1/4-inch hands…79-inch wingspan.

*Background.*..Not even the Tigers coaches knew where Slayton would play when this impressive two-way prep player arrived on campus as a freshman. Many recruiters were pursuing him to play in the secondary, but after red-shirting for Auburn in 2015, he went on to catch 79 passes over the course of his next three seasons that spanned 38 games. Auburn won the war with Georgia for the Norcross native, as they were more than willing to utilize him where he played best - as an athletic receiving prospect with great ability.

Slayton's speed was evident, even during his days at the Greater Atlanta Christian School, where he earned first team Class 2A all-state and all-region as a wide receiver and defensive back. The U.S. Army All-American Bowl participant was ranked by 247 Sports, ESPN and Scout among the top fifteen prospects at the receiver position and Rivals regarded him as one of the top thirty players in the state. The PrepStar Top 200 was also the state sprint champion, competing in the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes.

Slayton would start 11-of-13 games at flanker as a red-shirt freshman, participating in 628 snaps. He pulled down 15-of-24 passes targeted to him, good for 292 yards and one touchdown. Eighty of those yards were recorded after the catch. He had three catches for 55 yards vs. Arkansas State and three more for 53 yards at Ole Miss. His first career touchdown was from a 21-yard snatch vs. Vanderbilt and his 56-yard reception from Jeremy Johnson in the Sugar Bowl vs. Oklahoma was Auburn’s longest pass play of the season.

Slayton followed with four dropped balls among 29-of-69 passes thrown to him (42.03%) in 2017. He generated 643 yards (22.2 ypc), scoring five times, as he gained 236 yards after the catch through 559 snaps. He totaled 146 yards on four receptions at Arkansas, including 62-yard touchdown from Ryan Davis. He added 99 yards on two catches at Texas A&M, the long a 53-yard score. He followed with a 42-yard touchdown grab vs. Georgia and a 50-yard scoring catch vs. ULM to become the first Auburn receiver with a touchdown catch in four consecutive games since Emory Blake in 2010-11.

A dysfunctional offensive game plan was part of Slayton's problems in 2018. He also dropped a career-high eight tosses, pulling in 35-of-72 targeted tosses (48.61%) for 670 yards and five touch-downs, picking up 259 yards after the catch through 637 plays. He scored on a short 4-yard toss vs. LSU and had five catches for 91 yards vs. Southern Mississippi, including a long gain of 53. He added four catches that gained 58 yards at Mississippi State and tacked on 107 yards on eight catches in the Texas A&M win, his second career 100-yard game. He pulled in a 52-yard touchdown reception at Alabama and had three receptions, all for touchdowns, of 74, 52 and 34 yards in Music City Bowl vs. Purdue, setting the Auburn bowl records for receiving yards, touchdown catches and longest scoring grab (74) to close out his career.

Slayton's 1,605 receiving yards rank 11th in school history. He caught 79-of-165 targeted passes (47.88%) with eleven touchdowns through 1,824 plays. 575 of his yards were registered after the catch. He was also charged with twelve dropped balls.

*The Scouting Report*

*Athletic Ability.*..Slayton has cut frame with good width in his shoulders and chest, lean muscle development and low body fat. He has outstanding quickness and good athletic agility. He shows the flexibility, burst and acceleration to get behind the defender consistently, but seems more comfortable working on controlled routes than threatening the deep areas of the secondary. He has good feet and an exciting second gear on the move. He runs with a normal stride, but is quick to turn on the after-burners. He has good balance and change-of-direction agility. He shows the second level speed and explosiveness with a fluid natural running motion to run past most defenders in isolated coverage.

*Release*...Slayton has world class speed that is evident when he gets a clean release off the line, as he is quick to get behind the defender, showing suddenness to eat up the cushion. When he sinks his hips, he is very crisp using his feet to get in and out of his routes, but if he fails to drop his weight, he struggles to get downhill out of his breaks. He has the ability to escape the hold up with solid head fakes, but must generate a stronger push with his hands and not expose his chest so often for the defender to get a piece of his jersey in attempts to reroute. He shows outstanding quickness in his release, with the shiftiness and avoidance ability at the line of scrimmage. Even though he is still developing strength, he does a decent job of eluding with nifty swim and spin moves.

*Acceleration/Quickness*...Slayton is a very productive pass catcher on slants and crossing routes due to his ability to get open quickly. He is effective on posts, fades and go routes, but needs to get stronger to have better success navigating through traffic. He has that second and third gear burst to run under the ball and get there in a hurry. If a defender hesitates, Slayton can change gears and beat him. He is quick to uncover and even quicker to separate on short patterns. He shows the ability to get open deep, displaying that superb speed needed to take the ball to the house.

Slayton is very quick through his routes and shows good movement off the ball, with nice stop-&-go action. He is blessed with outstanding quickness on the field, which helps him execute short and sharp cuts. His initial burst is sudden, especially when left uncontested. He quickly gains advantage on the defender due to his speed, but is still learning how to gear down in order to prevent from out-running the ball.

*Route Running*...For all of his explosive speed, route running is still an inconsistent area for Slayton. He needs to be more consistent sinking his weight in order to negotiate out of his breaks better. He does not have the strength to power through tackles, so avoidance is key for him having success catching the ball. He also shows too much gather before he gets depth on intermediate patterns. He displays excellent quickness and foot speed in and out of his breaks when he drops his pads. When he plays at a low pad level, he shows good set up and body control, but needs to use his hands better to prevent the defender from attacking him and trying to reroute him with a strong push.

*Separation Ability*...Slayton needs to refine his cut mechanics (poor pad sink) and is inconsistent when trying to elude, as he rarely does the same thing twice. Despite his timed speed, he is not as sudden in and out of his breaks as his quickness dictates. His speed and burst should allow him to consistently get past defenders, but he does not have the power to break tackles. He is very quick in his running stride, especially when trying to pull and separate with vertical routes and short runs, but must show better leg drive to plant and turn once he has the ball secured.

*Leaping Ability*...Slayton has very good leaping ability, showing the proper explosiveness to go get the ball and out jump smaller defenders, but he gets bounced around quite a bit by the second level defenders. His training room vertical jump does not translate when he needs to high point the pass.

*Hands*...Slayton has reliable hands to look the ball in and catch outside his framework. His problem occurs in ball concentration and distribution. He dances and bounces around too much trying to head up field, doing so without properly switching the pigskin to his outside hand. He has soft hands to grasp the pigskin and the look-in mechanics with good concentration, but needs to attack the ball better than he does. He has soft, natural hands, but will revert to body catching, at times. He also needs to time his leaps properly to get to the pass at its highest point.

*Run After the Catch*...Slayton is much better separating when taking slants and screens, thanks to his ability to maintain acceleration and turn up field. He knows he does not have the power to break tackles, but when he gets too cute dancing around and moving backwards to try to separate, it usually leads to the defenders recovering to take him down. He has that game-breaking speed with the ball in his hands, but just needs to try the “meat and potatoes” route rather than try to get fancy with the pigskin. He is a “make you miss” type of receiver, who can take a short throw, have the defender grasp at air and then, turn it into a big play. He looks fluid moving in the open field, but has to rely strictly on his speed to separate, as he does not have the strength to battle vs. the bigger defenders.

*Compares To*...D.J. Chark-Jacksonville Jaguars...Slayton has the speed to simply fly past the defender, but needs to improve his strength in order to beat the press vs. NFL types. With twelve drops the last two years, ball concentration lapses have been his big drawback. I like him more in the slot, as he has great ability to turn and run on crosses and slants to separate than he does on long patterns. He tracks the ball well, but he needs to work on sinking his pads and dropping his weight in order to come out of his breaks better when running deep patterns.

© Copyright 1973-2019 Scouting Services Inc. Courtesy of Dave-Te’ Thomas, Powered by The NFL Draft Report. All material is the sole possession of The NFL Draft Report. Any unauthorized use of these items are strictly prohibited.