

2009 Draft

Contributed by Dave Blake
Monday, 01 March 2010

2009	DRAFT - Jeff Ireland	ROUND	PLAYER	POS	COLLEGE	BIO	1 (025)
Vontae Davis	CB Illinois 5'11", 203 lbs, 4.40	2 (044)	Pat White	QB	W Virginia	6'0", 197 lbs, 4.57	3 (087) Patrick
Turner	WR USC 6'5", 223 lbs, 4.59	4 (108)	Brian Hartline	WR	Ohio St	6'2", 195 lbs, 4.53	5 (165)
Chris Clemons	S Clemson 6'0", 208 lbs, 4.41	6 (181)	Andrew Gardner	OT			
Georgia Tech	6'7", 304 lbs, 4.96	7 (214)	J.D. Folsom	ILB	Weber St	6'3", 230 lbs	FA
Jared Bronson	TE C Washington 6'4", 253 lbs, 4.76	FA	Mark Lewis	OG	Oregon	6'4", 308 lbs	
FA Ryan Baker	DE Purdue 6'4", 295 lbs	FA	Orion Martin	LB	Virginia Tech	6'2", 262 lbs	
FA Chris Williams	WR N Mexico St 5'8", 163 lbs, 4.28	FA	SirVincent Rogers	OT	Houston	6'3", 312 lbs	
FA Anthony Kimble	RB Stanford 6'1", 217 lbs	FA	Brennan Marion	WR	Tulsa	5'11", 187 lbs, 4.50	
Try-Out	Nate Longshore	QB	Cal	6'5", 233 lbs			

S VONTAE DAVIS

1 (25) CB

ILLINOIS 5'11" - 203lbs

4.49 - Junior

VIDEO CLIP

{youtube}gd3809mllvl{/youtube}

ESPN INSIDER (link)

PRODUCTION - 2

2006-'07: Davis starts all 24 games, recording a total of 128 tackles, including 6.5 tackles-for-loss. He intercepts five passes, breaks up 14 passes and returns four kickoffs for a total of 116 yards. 2008: Davis starts 11 of the 12 game he appears in, recording 78 total tackles including seven tackles-for-loss. He intercepts two passes, breaks up eight passes and forces three fumbles. Davis returns five kickoffs for a total of 99 yards.

HEIGHT/WEIGHT/SPEED - 1

Possesses ideal height and is thickly built for a corner. Also possesses outstanding top-end speed for the position.

DURABILITY - 1

Didn't miss a game with an injury in three years as a starter.

CHARACTER - 4

Illinois head coach Ron Zook did not start him versus Iowa in 2008 because reportedly felt he wasn't playing as well as he could. Lack of visible improvement from sophomore to junior year is a concern. We've been told by multiple sources that he lacks proper respect for coaches and he only works hard when he's in the mood to do so. Vontae's brother is 49er TE Vernon Davis, who is currently underachieving in the NFL.

RECOGNITION SKILLS/TOUGHNESS - 3

Displays natural playmaking instincts. Understands how receivers are trying to attack coverage. Reads quarterbacks' eyes when drops into zone coverage and does a sound job of mid-pointing high-low routes. Also shows toughness in run support when he wants to get involved. However, he does not show great awareness in zone coverage. His inconsistent footwork and diagnostic skills get him in trouble. He does not show good attention to detail and he's only physical when he wants to be.

CLOSING BURST - 1

Explosive, quick-twitch athlete. Elite closing burst, especially when receivers catch the ball in front of him. Shows a second gear when tracking the ball downfield and fast enough to recover when gets caught out of position.

FLUIDITY - 2

Fluid hips and makes smooth transitions forced to change directions quickly. Flips hips quickly when turning and running with receivers and can play close to the line of scrimmage.

BALL SKILLS - 2

Natural hands and catches most balls he gets his hands on. Can play the ball without going though the receiver. Does a nice job of timing jumps when going up for the jump ball.

RUN SUPPORT - 2

Natural hands and catches most balls he gets his hands on. Can play the ball without going though the receiver. Does a nice job of timing jumps when going up for the jump ball.

- 1 = Exceptional
 - 2 = Above average
 - 3 = Average
 - 4 = Below average
 - 5 = Marginal
- TSN INSIDER

NFL COMPARISON

Antonio Cromartie, Chargers

COVERAGE SKILLS

Has the ability to shine in all types of coverage. Needs work on his technique. Does not read plays well. Can be turned around by the receiver at times.

Grade 6.5

RUN/PASS RECOGNITION

Able to identify the play quickly. Does not get fooled by trick plays. Fails to read routes consistently. Reads the dump-off and screen passes to the running back well.

Grade 6.5

CLOSING SPEED

Shows a sloppy backpedal at times. Has the elite speed to run with any NFL receiver on deep routes. Able to get back into good position if he loses a step.

Grade 8.5

BALL SKILLS

Can break up passes when in position. Shows the athleticism to reach around the receiver and break up the pass without committing the penalty. Has natural hands to make the tough interception.

Grade 8.0

RUN SUPPORT

Has the size and strength to fight through and defeat blocks. Will occasionally get into trouble when he becomes a "grab" tackler.

Grade 6.5

BOTTOM LINE

Davis, the younger brother of 49ers tight end Vernon Davis, is a rare athlete with the combination of size, strength, explosiveness, and elite speed that few NFL players have. But for all the athleticism, there are concerns about his desire and consistency. While Davis does not possess the intangibles of a 1st round talent, he's worth a second or third round pick. [NFL.COM ANALYSIS \(link\)](#)

Positives:

Rare combination of size and pure athleticism. Chiseled frame. Excellent straight-line speed. Loose hips to turn and run. Instinctive defender who recognizes the action when playing off-man or zone and closes downhill. Rare aggression in run support. Physical tackler with legitimate explosive hitting ability. Can separate the ball from the ball-carrier. Times his blitzes well and can close when the opportunity presents itself. Good special teams performer with punt and kick return experience. Blocked two kicks in 2007. May boast unmatched upside at this position.

Negatives:

Not a natural playmaker. Inconsistent hands for the interception. Doesn't fight through blocks with the physicality in which he comes up to tackle. Best in off-man and zone coverage where he can watch the action, plant and drive to the ball. Faster in shorts than on the field. Peeks back at the quarterback and savvy route-runners can beat him with double moves. Was benched in 2008 by coach Ron Zook, creating questions about his work ethic. Concerns that Vontae, like his brother, Vernon Davis, may lack the drive to turn his unique athleticism into NFL success.

Compares To: RON BARTELL, St. Louis

Davis packs a good punch as a tackler, but plays out of control. He is a bit of a riverboat gambler and is eager to attack the ball, but he shows good hands and timing to disrupt the pass before the receiver can settle under it. He needs to play with better control and based on the average year he had in 2008, he could have used another year in school to improve his draft stock, which has been sliding a bit ever since his standout freshman season. But, once he matures, he could rank with the league's elite.

Injury Report

2007: Suffered a concussion in the first quarter vs. Ohio State (11/10), missing the rest of that game and the following week vs. Northwestern (11/17). [SI ANALYSIS](#) (link)

BIOGRAPHY:

Three-year starter awarded All-American and all-Conference honors since his freshman season. Junior totals included 78/2/8, after 76/4/8 as a sophomore, when he also blocked two kicks.

POSITIVES:

Athletic cornerback with nice size who shows flashes of brilliance. Aggressive on the field, mixes it up with opponents in pass routes, and willingly defends the run. Jams opponents at the line of scrimmage, fluid turning his hips in transition, and then easily stays downfield with receivers. Possesses a burst of closing speed, quickly breaks to the ball out of his plant, and fights to defend the throw. Works well with safeties, shows the ability to recover from mistakes because of his speed, and has been a productive return specialist in the past.

NEGATIVES:

Prone to blowing assignments and missing coverages. Marginally instinctive, and does not always display good sense of timing or anticipation in pass defense. Slow locating the pass in the air, and very indecisive.

ANALYSIS:

Physically, Davis is one of the top cornerbacks in this draft and one of the event's better athletes. At the top of his game, he can be a shutdown cover man, yet Davis is prone to making mental errors and letting receivers behind him. He has big-time potential at the next level if the light ever goes on and he consistently plays smart football.

PROJECTION: First Round [NFL DRAFT COUNTDOWN](#) (link)

Strengths:

Prototypical height and bulk...Smooth and fluid with top-notch athleticism...Excellent speed...Flips his hips well and can turn and run...Has a burst to close and can recover when beat...Very strong with a muscular physique...Tough and physical...Gets a good jam at the line...A reliable tackler who can deliver the big hit...Does a fantastic job in run support...Decent hands and ball skills...Capable of excelling in either man or zone coverage...May offer some positional versatility...Solid return man and special teamer...Durable...Has lots of experience against top competition...Nice bloodlines..Major upside.

Weaknesses:

Has clashed with coaches and does not take instruction well...Poor work ethic...Inconsistent...Motor runs hot and cold...Questionable instincts and awareness...Gambles and takes too many unnecessary risks...Gets too high in his backpedal...Doesn't make as many plays as he should...Struggles with the mental aspects of the game...Skates by on his natural talent...Full of himself and reads his own press clippings.

Notes:

Brother, Vernon, plays for the San Francisco 49'ers and was the 6th overall pick in the 2006 NFL Draft...Was a three-year starter for the Illini...Named 1st Team All-Big Ten in 2007 and 2008...Was benched by Ron Zook at one point as a junior...Could also project to safety at the next level...Has everything you look for physically but intangibles leave much to be desired...The most gifted defensive back in this draft and a legit Top 10 pick based on talent alone...Boom or Bust prospect.

Career Statistics

Year	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	
2006	12	52	6	1	0	
2007	12	76	8	4	0	
2008	12	78	8	2	12	
Totals	36	206	22	7	12	"EXPERT COMMENTS"

ESPN SCOUTS INC

"Davis is the best pure cover corner in his class. He's fluid changing directions, shows great burst coming out of his cuts and is fast enough to run with wideouts downfield. Davis is more than a one-dimensional player, too. He's a playmaker and can defend the run when he puts his mind to it. So why didn't he come off the board earlier? There are questions about his work ethic and teams were likely wondering if he would to play to his ability."

TSN War Room

"(No. 25 overall, Dolphins) Davis has rare athleticism, size and strength for a cornerback. He also has an NFL pedigree -- his older brother is 49ers tight end Vernon Davis. There are some concerns about his work habits, which is somewhat surprising for a Bill Parcells pick."

SI Analysis

"Davis is an extremely talented cornerback who fills a huge need for the Dolphins. He has been deemed a troublemaker who doesn't take to coaching, but obviously the no-nonsense decision makers in Miami headed by Bill Parcells were not concerned. If Davis plays to his potential -- and isn't an issue on or off the field -- the Dolphins will have gotten excellent value for a late first-round pick. Davis could step in immediately for a weak secondary in Miami."

Pete Prisco Analysis

"There is little doubt that he has the talent, but some teams think he's a character issue. Miami needs corners and this makes sense."

Grade B-

USA Today Analysis

"After losing CB Andre Goodman in free agency to Denver, the Miami Dolphins select Vontae Davis — brother of S.F. TE Vernon Davis. Like his older brother, Vontae is a supremely gifted athlete but not necessarily the most disciplined player in the world. Expect him to get plenty of discipline from coach Tony Sparano and the Bill Parcells regime in Miami. Davis fills quite a need for the Dolphins considering they must neutralize players like Randy Moss, Terrell Owens, Lee Evans, Joey Galloway and Wes Welker as they fight to retain their surprise AFC East title from a year ago."

Pro Football Weekly's Nawrocki

"The Dolphins lost nickel CB André Goodman to the Broncos in free agency and needed to upgrade the position. They rolled the dice with Davis, who is extremely gifted physically but too often found his way into the doghouse at Illinois and could be difficult to coach. The risk could be worth the reward if Tony Sparano can keep Davis in line, but that is a big "if." "

RotoWorld

"A physical specimen and heavy hitter, Davis fits the Bill Parcells profile with plus size and overall measurables. Character issues -- Davis was briefly benched twice by Ron Zook -- cost him a chance at a top-20 grade, but he'll battle Eric Green to start at RCB from day one, and is the favorite." [COMBINE INFO \(link\)](#) [Vontae Davis.](#)

Wonerlic: 33

40 Yard Dash : 4.49 seconds -- Fastest time was 4.46 by Darius Butler

Bench Press : 25.0 reps - Most reps by CB with 25

Vertical Jump : 36.0 inches

Broad Jump : 125.0 inches

3 Cone Drill : 6.75 seconds - 7th by CBs

20 Yard Shuttle : 4.07 seconds - 5th by CBs

PAT WHITE

2 (44) QB

SCHOOL 6'0" - 197

4.57 - Senior

VIDEO CLIP

{youtube}5NYupb0ZTds{/youtube}

ESPN INSIDER

(link)

Production - 1

Finished his career at West Virginia as the program's winningest starting quarterback (34-8). He is the only quarterback to start four bowl victories in college football history. Owned a 14-to-4 touchdown-to-interception ratio as a senior. He also owns the NCAA career rushing record for quarterbacks with 4,480 yards.

Height-Weight-Speed - 4

Adequate size and top-end speed as a NFL WR prospect. Marginal size as a fulltime quarterback prospect.

Durability - 4

Had some durability issues throughout collegiate career. Missed one game (Syracuse) as a senior due to head injury. Missed time during the previous three seasons (2005-'07) with an array of injuries, including ribs, turf toe, high ankle sprain, shoulder, strained neck and mild concussion.

Character - 2

Displays good football intelligence and has matured into a confident, more vocal leader.

WIDE RECEIVER SPECIFIC SKILLS:

Separation Skills - 3

Has shown improvements as an overall leader throughout his career. He has matured into a more vocal leader as well. Rarely throws the ball up for grabs and TD-INT ratio is outstanding, although not a true indicator of pro potential because of scheme and massive passing windows. Has small hands and must do a better job of securing the football as

a runner.

Ball Skills - 4

Is improving but still too erratic as a passer. Will no longer have massive windows to throw through and his marginal height will be a much bigger factor with field vision in the NFL. Still must learn to take snaps from under center and read coverage while dropping. Had trouble at the Senior Bowl with his balance and timing. Does not display proper touch with intermediate-to-deep throws.

Vertical Speed - 4

Possesses a slow over the top release. Ball comes off his hand fairly well getting plenty of rotation. High release still is not enough to overcome height deficiency as he will have problems with tipped throws.

Run After Catch - 2

Lacks elite arm strength but certainly strong enough to make all the necessary NFL throws.

Competitiveness and Toughness -1

Elite in this category for a QB. Does a good job of breaking contain when under duress. Has big play capability when deciding to run, as he possesses the burst along with top-end speed to hit the home run if not contained.

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 - 5 = Marginal
- TSN INSIDER ([link](#))

Strengths:

Shows rare athleticism for a quarterback, making game-changing plays with his feet. Displays quick footwork, agility and burst to avoid sacks and buy second chances. Flashes the ability to get rid of balls quickly, and to make strong, accurate throws on the move. Shows good arm strength and ability to hit receivers deep, both on touch throws and on a rope. When striding into his passes, makes intermediate throws with good zip and accuracy.

Weaknesses:

Is a far better athlete than quarterback. Shows a slight hitch at the back of his delivery and is a bit deliberate, allowing defensive backs to close quickly on passes and make plays. Usually lines up in the shotgun; needs tons of work on his footwork and reads during drops. Does not go through full progressions. Must improve at leading receivers rather than throwing right to them.

Bottom line:

White received a ton of national attention during his career at West Virginia, mostly because of his fantastic big-play ability rather than his passing skills. Because of his arm strength and rare athleticism for the position, he first deserves a shot at quarterback to see if he can make the drastic improvement required to become a legitimate passing threat. But in time, it's likely White will end up switching to wide receiver or running back, where he'll make impact plays when he gets the ball in the open field. [NFL.COM ANALYSIS](#) ([link](#))

Positives:

Excellent speed and vision with the ball in his hands. Shows make-you-miss ability and a spin move to get out of a defender's grasp. Will take and deliver big hits despite his wiry frame. Has a solid throwing arm. Adequate accuracy on skinny posts and longer throws down the middle of the field. Will look off the safety before throwing to primary targets. Team leader. Keeps his eyes downfield when scrambling, gets the ball to a teammate after defenders suck up due to his running threat.

Negatives:

Doesn't appear to be a natural fit at any position. Lacks prototypical quarterback size and is not strong enough to take hits for a full season. Relied on wide passing lanes and play-action to get the ball downfield at WVU. Needs to prove he has the hands to play in the slot as a receiver. Does not always secure the ball, and will keep it in his strong (left) hand even when running right. Worked exclusively in the shotgun and spread offense. Can throw it deep but is not accurate on well-defended passes of more than 10-12 yards. Struggles with accuracy when on the move. Makes too many throws off his back foot. Doesn't have great touch on short throws. Delivery is stiff and mechanical. Lacks patience in the pocket, will take off too soon and misses open targets.

Compares To: ANTWAAN RANDLE EL, Washington --

White is likely to make a position switch to wide receiver. He lacks the arm strength and size to stay at quarterback

at the next level, unless he plays in the CFL. Even with his outstanding rushing totals, he has not been the most durable player and with his slight frame, will not be able to withstand NFL punishment as an every-down running back. A move to slot receiver or flanker appears to be his quickest route to success, but he will need time to learn the techniques of being a receiver.

Injury Report

2006: Suffered a high ankle sprain vs. South Florida (11/25), sitting out the regular season finale vs. Rutgers (12/02), but he played with the injury in the Gator Bowl (1/01/07).

2007: Missed a good portion of the South Florida game (9/28) with a right quadriceps bruise...Sat out part of the Pittsburgh contest (12/01) with a right thumb dislocation.

2008: Sat out the Syracuse game (10/11) after injuring his head due to a helmet-to-helmet collision the previous week vs. Rutgers (10/04). [SI ANALYSIS \(link\)](#)

BIOGRAPHY:

Four-year starter awarded varying degrees of all-Conference and All-American honors since his freshman campaign. Senior passing totals included 65.7%/1,842/21 with 191/947/8 carrying the ball. Junior ball carrying totals included 197/1,335/14 with an average of 6.8 yards per carry. Big East Offensive Player of the Year as a sophomore when he totaled 65.9%/1,655/13/7 throwing the ball.

POSITIVES:

Athletic quarterback with the ability to produce in a variety of ways whenever he handles the ball. Left-handed passer who effectively sells the ball fakes, easily gets outside the pocket, and makes the throw on the move. Patient, buys time for receivers, and locates the open wideout on the field. Goes through receiver progressions, and looks away from covered wideouts. Possesses a strong arm and can thread a needle with passes or get the ball downfield. Elusive ball handler with outstanding vision and the ability to create yardage. Finds the cutback lanes, quickly gets through them and shows toughness in his all-around game. Weaves through the traffic on the inside picking up yardage. Plays with outstanding balance and body control. Constantly in command of the situation.

NEGATIVES:

Not a strong runner who breaks tackles or picks up yardage off initial contact. Average accuracy and pass placement throwing the ball.

ANALYSIS:

White was productive at the quarterback position in college, and he offers the versatility to be used at several spots in the NFL. Prior to this season, White was projected to be a wide receiver in the NFL, but scouts have recently been impressed with his passing skills, and he'll be given a chance to play behind center. White may never be a starting signal caller in the NFL, yet he is the type of player who will be given the option of throwing the ball, running the option play, or even be lined up at wideout at the next level.

PROJECTION:

Third Round "EXPERT COMMENTS"

ESPN Scouts Inc

White is yet another player who doesn't have a great fit at the NFL level. He isn't tall or accurate enough to develop into an every-down quarterback and he is a raw receiver who is going to have to learn how to run routes before pushing for playing time in that kind of role. On the flip side, he can do a number of different things for your team and is the kind of player you want in your locker room.

TSN War Room

(No. 44 overall, Dolphins) We are clueless as to why Miami, of all teams, made this pick. White has about the same level of receiving skills as Ted Ginn, they've already committed to Chad Henne as their quarterback of the future, and they already run the wildcat with Ronnie Brown, so we're not sure where he fits with the Dolphins.

SI Analysis

"The team that sprung the "Wildcat" offense on the National Football League gets the ultimate Wildcat in West Virginia's multi-talented quarterback Pat White. The presence of Chad Henne in Miami means White is unlikely to get a long look as a full-time quarterback -- he's much more likely to be moved to receiver in the near term with his own packages out of the Wildcat. White has the arm to make most NFL throws, but his greatest asset is his athleticism and ability to make plays in space."

ESPN's Gary Horton

"I think they're enamored with trying to expand the Wildcat. Let me illustrate a story that relates to this. When Bill

Parcells was with ESPN a year ago, we worked on Monday Night Countdown together. He asked me one Monday if I could get some Arkansas film and watch this Wildcat formation that Arkansas had some success with it and talk about it next week. I was wondering why he wanted that since he wasn't in the NFL anymore. We watched the film and he was fascinated. I didn't think of it any more until last fall when Miami started running the Wildcat against New England. That's how smart Bill Parcells is, he was exploring an offensive scheme just in case he was going to go back into the NFL. That's a great football mind. He was way ahead of his time. I think the Pat White pick was brilliant. That will give defenses nightmares trying to figure out how to defend the Wildcat. At this point, the guy taking the direct snap has been a RB and that has somewhat limited the throwing options. If you have a QB at that spot, that means you have to defend the pass and the run. Pat White may be a better QB than people think."

Pete Prisco

"Oh, boy. We're going to get more Wildcat. White is a good athlete and he fits the Wildcat, but didn't they draft Chad Henne last year?"

Grade C.

USA Today Analysis

"This pick is quite intriguing. White is regarded as the perfect player to run the Wildcat, which the Dolphins popularized last year. He wants to play QB and certainly would give Miami a dangerous look if he subs in and out with Chad Pennington. Miami also has needs at receiver, so White may have to contribute there as well. Question now, does White's arrival mean that one of the QBs the Dolphins drafted in the second round the past two years — John Beck or Chad Henne — will be leaving South Beach?"

Pro Football Weekly's Nawrocki

"The Dolphins had a lot of success in the Wildcat formation last year, creating a fast-growing trend around the football world, and White should allow the Dolphins to maximize the movement they started with specialty packages designed just for him. His most value, however, is likely to come as a receiver in the slot a la Antwaan Randle El."

SI's Peter King

"Love Pat White; great pick to run the option. (And stop the silliness, Dolphins, about White having a good shot to beat out Chad Henne as the successor to Chad Pennington. I'm not buying it for a second.)" [COMBINE INFO](#)
(link)

Pat White, QB. He posted the fastest 40 time by a quarterback of 4.55 seconds. Not surprising. To put that in better perspective of his Wildcat role, White's time ranked seventh among the running backs (fastest time: Cedric Peerman's 4.45).

Wonderlic: 26

Vertical jump: 35 inches - best of QB; tied for 12th among RBs

Broad jump: 9'9" -- second among QBs to 6-5 Josh Freeman's 9'11

3-cone drill: 7.06 seconds - seventh among Qbs

20-yard shuttle: 4.42 seconds - seventh among QBs

SEAN SMITH

2 (61)

S

UTAH

6'3" - 214

2.47 - Junior

VIDEO CLIP

{youtube}mJNZa4OsVbc{/youtube}

ESPN INSIDER

(link)

OVERALL FOOTBALL TRAITS

Production - 2

2006: Smith appears in all 13 games as a true freshman. He lines up at receiver for the first 11 games and then switches to corner for the final two games. Smith catches one pass for 12 yards and carries the ball seven times for a total of 63 yards. He also makes two tackles. 2007: Smith starts 10 of the 13 games he appears in recording 32 tackles including one tackle-for-loss. He intercepts four passes and breaks up seven passes. 2008: Smith starts 11 of the 13 games he appears in recording 45 tackles including two tackles-for-loss and one sack. He intercepts five passes including one he returns for a touchdown and breaks up nine passes.

Height-Weight-Speed - 1

Possess elite height, elite bulk and very good top-end speed for size.

Durability - 1

Durability is not a concern to our knowledge.

Character - 2

No off-the-field issues to our knowledge.

DEFENSIVE CORNER SPECIFIC TRAITS

Recognition Skills/Toughness - 2

Still learning the CB position but does shows adequate natural instincts. Sniffs out screens. Shows good awareness and seems to understand how receivers are trying to attack the coverage. Uses hands and long arms to jam receivers at the line of scrimmage. He's confident and why shy away from a physical challenge.

Closing Burst - 2

Long strides give him ability to make up ground when initially beaten. Shows above-average closing speed when asked to blitz off the edge. However, he's quarter-count late transitioning out of backpedal and can be a step late getting to the ball as a result.

Fluidity - 4

A bit tight in the hips and struggles to change direction quickly. Too much wasted motion in turns and he will be susceptible to the double-move in the NFL.

Ball Skills - 1

Greatest strength. Played receiver earlier in career. Attacks the ball and fights for jump balls. Rarely drops passes gets hands on and flashes the ability to make spectacular catches.

Run Support - 3

Reliable open field tackler that wraps up but isn't going to deliver many big hits. Takes too long so shed blocks at times but he's more than willing to support the run.

1 = Exceptional

2 = Above average

3 = Average

4 = Below average

5 = Marginal [TSN INSIDER \(link\)](#)

Strengths:

Is tall and well built. Has the long arms and strength that are hard to find in a cornerback. Can jam receivers with a hard punch to slow their release. Is able to stay with the receiver right from the line of scrimmage. Can cut and make the play on quick slants. Shows the ability to make the interception. Comes up the field quickly on screen passes and running plays and will make hard tackles.

Weaknesses:

Lacks explosiveness and top-end speed. Is a little upright and choppy in his backpedal. At times, fails to close fast on receivers in zone coverage.

Bottom line:

Smith, a junior, could have improved his draft status by staying for his senior season at Utah. NFL coaches love big, physical corners, but for Smith to be productive he'll need to show he can handle the speed at the next level without getting called for penalties. Smith worked out well for teams this spring, assuring himself of being a second- or third-round pick. [NFL.COM ANALYSIS \(link\)](#)

Positives:

Good height and great length for a boundary corner. Very quick feet for his size. Runs well with taller receivers down the sideline, but also lines up in the slot. Former receiver has great ball skills and the vertical to go up and get the ball. Able to locate and high-point in coverage. Elusive runner with some vision to flip field position after the interception. Forces fumbles by using his length to get a hand on the ball. Has the size and closing speed to be an effective blitzer. Very quick to support the run or attack quick screens and passes in the flat. Reacts quickly on plays in front of him and finds the ball well in the air.

Negatives:

Might be seen as a corner/safety "tweener." Stiff in the upper body. Does not play with the physicality scouts would like given his size. Is slow to adjust when backpedaling if a receiver cuts his route short or goes to the skinny post. Catch-and-drag tackler whose height is a disadvantage when trying to bring down ballcarriers with a low center of gravity. Inconsistent using his hands at the line of scrimmage. Gets stuck on blocks. Takes poor angles to make tackles in space or when attacking a screen. Just a little more than two years of experience on defense. Cocky and talks trash.

Injury Report

No major injuries reported.

[SI ANALYSIS \(link\)](#)

BIOGRAPHY:

Two-year starter who began his career playing receiver. All-Conference selection last season after totaling 46/5/9. Sophomore numbers included 32/64/7.

POSITIVES:

Athletically gifted defensive back with a large upside. Fast, possesses a burst of speed, and is able to recover from mistakes with his ability to close on the action. Uses his frame to box out opponents, easily runs downfield with receivers, and does a nice job positioning himself to make plays on the pass. Has long arms that he uses to knock away the throw. Physical, mixes it up, and beats down opponents. Effective facing the action when he can see the ball, and shows ability in zone.

NEGATIVES:

Slow transitioning off the line, and has a tendency to lose a half step to opponents at the snap of the ball. Occasionally bites on receivers' moves and gets beat down the field. Does not always show a good sense of timing or wherewithal in coverage. Very quick out of his backpedal.

ANALYSIS:

Smith is a tremendous physical specimen with the ability to be used at cornerback or safety. Displaying potential in zone coverage, he is best facing the action, where he can use his speed and strength to forcefully make plays on the ball. Smith must improve his defensive back mechanics, yet he can be a tremendous player on the NFL level if he pulls it all together.

PROJECTION:

Second Round "EXPERT COMMENTS"

ESPN Scouts Inc

"Smith possesses an extremely rare blend of size and speed. Although there are some concerns about his ability to stay low and quickly change direction, Smith is able to mask these flaws with his outstanding length."

TSN War Room

(No. 61 overall, Dolphins) Smith probably should have stayed in college, but he has the great size to match up against the AFC East's big receivers, such as Randy Moss. Smith is extremely physical and could move to safety in the future.

NFL.COM Pick Analysis

"The former Ute is an unbelievable physical specimen with outstanding press corner skills. Though Smith has imposing size on the corner, he is a disappointing hitter and tackler on the edge. In spite of his finesse nature, he is an intriguing prospect with the talent to be a starter as a pro."

Pete Prisco

"OK, now this is my favorite pick of the round. This kid will be a starter early in his career. He doesn't tackle great, but he can cover."

Grade A+

USA Today

Smith has freakish size (6-4, 215) for a cornerback and might ultimately project to safety in the NFL. But he could also start a trend with so many 6-4-esque players (Calvin Johnson, Randy Moss, etc.) dominating the receiver position at the NFL level.

Pro Football Weekly's Nawrocki

"Bill Parcells drafted Pat Watkins in Dallas and seems to favor long-limbed defensive backs. However, much like Watkins, Smith lacks the transitional quickness to be effective sticking with receivers and could struggle to ever become more than a backup."

RotoWorld

"The Dolphins obviously had cornerback as their biggest need coming into the draft. They took Vontae Davis 25th overall, and now get Smith, the ideal size corner at 6'4"/214. Smith is a bit stiff in the hips, but can make plays on the ball and would be an imposing nickel corner. Eric Green, Smith, and Vontae Davis will all battle to start opposite LCB Will Allen." [COMBINE INFO \(link\)](#) Sean Smith, CB

Wonderlic: 25

40 Yard Dash : 4.51 seconds

Bench Press : 10.0 reps - 10 reps, which means Parcells will have him in the weight room

Vertical Jump : 34.0 inches

Broad Jump : 119.0 inches

3 Cone Drill : 6.94 seconds - 15th by CBS

20 Yard Shuttle : 4.16 seconds - 10th by CBs

PATRICK TURNER

3 (87)

WR

USC

6'5" - 223 lbs

4.59 - Senior

VIDEO CLIP

{youtube}wDJCgQLrvI4{/youtube}

ESPN

INSIDER (link)

OVERALL FOOTBALL TRAITS

Production - 3

2005-06: Turner appeared in 25 games in a back-up role recording 41 catches for 442 yards and four touchdowns.
2007: Appeared in 11 of 13 games (10 starts) recording 48 catches for 569 yards and three touchdowns

Height-Weight-Speed - 2

Prototypical frame and bulk. While does not possess elite speed shows above-average speed for size.

Durability - 2

Missed the season opener against Idaho State in 2007 due to a shoulder injury sustained during camp. Missed Rose Bowl following 2007 season due to a deep thigh bruise acquired during a practice leading up to the game

Character - 0

N/A

WIDE RECEIVER SPECIFIC TRAITS

Separation Skills - 2

Polished route runner for size. Displays average to above average initial burst off the line of scrimmage. Uses hands well when releasing against press coverage. Does a nice job of using double moves to set up defenders and create separation.

Ball Skills - 3

Possesses above-average body control. Uses his big frame to shield defenders from the ball. Also flashes ability to open up hips and make tough catch behind him. However, has shown some inconsistency and can drop passes should catch.

Vertical Speed - 3

Although not a burner covers a lot of ground with long strides and flashes the ability to run by defenders.

Run After Catch - 3

Strong after the catch. Breaks tackles and fall forward for tough yards. Does not have elite elusiveness but does flash ability to make first defender miss

Competitiveness and Toughness 2 Lines up in the slot at times and is not afraid to go over the middle and make tough catch in traffic. Competes for deep balls. Is ineffective as a blocker and must give better effort.

1 = Exceptional

2 = Above average

3 = Average

4 = Below average

5 = Marginal

TSN INSIDER (link)

Strengths:

Is tall and well built. Uses quick hands, size and strength to defeat jamming cornerbacks and get into his routes quickly. Has quicker feet than expected, which helps him move fast at the snap. Runs precise routes, sets up the defender well and gets separation out of cuts. Does a good job making catches against tight defense. Catches the ball in traffic, taking hard hits and holding on to the ball. Has excellent hands, body control, coordination and concentration to make great catches on off-target passes.

Weaknesses:

Lacks explosiveness and elite playing speed, which will make it tough to get separation in the NFL, even with good route running. Is not an aggressive runner after the catch, and despite his strength, does not break tackles or gain yards after contact. Is not a competitive blocker and struggles to eliminate his man. Must compete at a higher level to be anything more than a marginal blocker in the NFL.

Bottom line:

Turner is another premier USC receiver who possesses good all-around athleticism, which helps him overcome his

lack of top-end playing speed. He won't knock anyone's socks off with his 40 time or workout numbers, but he was a better college receiver than former Trojans Dwayne Jarrett and Steve Smith, and he looks like a better NFL prospect.

[NFL.COM ANALYSIS \(link\)](#)

Overview

High profile disappointments Mike Williams and Dwayne Jarrett might have tainted scouts' perceptions of tall USC receivers, but a breakout 2008 campaign and subsequent impressive Senior Bowl has scouts rethinking their stance on Turner.

After only flashing the potential promised when the highly-regarded high school recruit from Nashville signed with the Trojans, Turner finally unleashed his talents in his senior season, earning second-team All-Pac-10 accolades by catching 49 passes for 741 yards and 10 touchdowns. With a playmaker opposite him (junior Damian Williams), Turner's 6-5, 221-pound frame and surprisingly quick feet helped him become one of the country's better possession receivers.

If similarly protected in the NFL, he could be the first big receiver from the land of Troy since Keyshawn Johnson to make good on his unique talents. Had an arm span of 33 1/4 inches and a hand span of 9 5/8 inches at the combine.

High School

He had 48 receptions for 800-plus yards and 11 touchdowns in 2004 at Goodpasture High in West Madison (Tenn.). As a junior, he caught 56 passes for 955 yards (17.1 avg.) with 12 TDs. He was a Student Sports Sophomore All-American in 2002 when he had 56 catches for 1,033 yards with 14 TDs. He also was on the basketball and track teams at Goodpasture. [SI ANALYSIS \(link\)](#)

BIOGRAPHY:

Two-year starter awarded all-Conference honors as a senior after totaling 49/741/10. Junior totals included 48/469/3.

POSITIVES:

Tall possession receiver with reliable hands. Consistently extends to make the reception away from his frame, adjusts to the errant throw, and looks the ball into his hands. Exposes himself to the big hit, but comes away with the difficult catch. Sturdy receiver who takes a pounding yet holds onto the ball. Uses his size as an advantage, and grabs the high pass from defenders.

NEGATIVES:

Overall game lacks quickness and speed. Cannot run to the deep throw. Struggles getting separation out of breaks.

ANALYSIS:

Turner is an enticing target who should find a home at the next level as a red zone threat or third-down receiver. The lack of speed is a limiting factor, yet Turner could develop into a solid third wideout for an NFL squad.

PROJECTION:

Fourth/Fifth Round "EXPERT COMMENTS"

ESPN Scouts Inc

"Turner is a bigger receiver who lacks the quickness and fluidity to create adequate separation at the NFL level. He also lacks the top-end speed to ever be considered a home-run threat. However, he does an excellent job using his frame to shield defenders from the ball and does not drop many balls when catching within his frame."

TSN War Room

"Turner is a big, possession-type target that the Dolphins desperately needed in their passing game. He can become a fine complement to their speedier receivers, Davone Bess and Ted Ginn."

NFL.COM Pick Analysis

"The Dolphins pick up Turner to become their big target in the middle of the field. With exceptional size and hands, Turner could become a prolific scorer in the Dolphins' red-zone offense."

Pro Football Weekly's Nawrocki

"USC's Patrick Turner should give the Dolphins the big possession receiver they were seeking opposite Ted Ginn Jr. for average-armed QB Chad Pennington." [COMBINE INFO \(link\)](#) Patrick Turner, WR

Wonderlic: 22.

Didn't have NFL combine numbers

BRIAN HARTLINE

4 (108)

WR

Bottom line:

Hartline, a junior, tests much quicker, faster and more explosive than he is on the field, which will tempt a team to think it can get him to play up to his timed speed. Hartline will likely be drafted late and has the potential to be a solid backup and special-teams contributor.

NFL.COM ANALYSIS ([link](#))

Positives:

Good height and an athletic frame. Good initial quickness off the snap. Better football player than overall athlete. Does a lot of the little things well. Reliable route-runner. Lacks elite burst out of his snaps, but runs them with precision. Good body lean and utilizes head fakes and varying speeds to help generate separation. Good hands. Tough. Will take a big hit and hang on to the ball. Good downfield blocker. Stalks defenders at the second level and can supply a big hit. Experienced special teams player.

Negatives:

Lacks the eye-popping athleticism to offer much upside. Doesn't have the straight-line speed to challenge over the top. Lacks burst out of his breaks. Generally reliable hands, but has some ugly drops when he's trying to make a move on the defender before securing the pass. SI ANALYSIS ([link](#))

BIOGRAPHY:

Two-year starter who posted 21/479/4 as a junior after career numbers of 52/694/6 prior year as a sophomore.

POSITIVES:

Reliable possession receiver coming off a poor campaign. Natural pass catcher who displays excellent focus, eye/hand coordination and the ability to consistently make the difficult reception. Comes back into the clearing, extends his hand, and offers the quarterback a big target. Lays out for the difficult reception, exposes himself to the big hit, and takes a pounding but holds onto the throw.

NEGATIVES:

Possesses marginal playing speed and not beating defenders in a foot race. Average route runner with limited quickness.

ANALYSIS:

For the most part, Hartline has been a reliable pass catcher who sacrifices his body to come away with the reception. He comes off a poor junior campaign with minimal production, and he compounded the problem by entering the draft. Hartline is a late-round choice, but he has the abilities to be a productive in the NFL as a fourth or fifth receiver.

PROJECTION:

Fifth/Sixth Round "EXPERT COMMENTS"

ESPN Scouts Inc

"Hartline plays with the competitive edge and displays the toughness to go over the middle. He also shows good body control when catching the ball. However, we have some concerns with his fluidity changing directions and overall consistency with hands because he has a history of dropping balls he should catch."

TSN War Room

"It's kind of a surprise that Hartline, an early-entry junior, was picked this early. Sure, he's a sneaky fast and fluid receiver, but he doesn't have the special speed of fellow former Buckeye Ted Ginn. Still, he's the kind of reserve receiver and special teamer Bill Parcells likes."

NFL.COM pick analysis

"Hartline tested unbelievably well. He's got more quickness than speed. He may have been better served staying in school. He's got good size for a receiver and has a great mental makeup, which is a key element to what Bill Parcells looks for in building his team."

Pro Football Weekly's Nawrocki

"Ohio State WR Brian Hartline had to appeal more to the Dolphins for his special-teams coverage ability than his receiving skills, but his toughness in both phases should allow him to develop and will endear him to Bill Parcells and Tony Sparano."

SI's Peter King

"One guy I'd watch closely in camp is Brian Hartline, the Round 4 receiver, because he played special-teams for three years at Ohio State, played slot receiver and split receiver. He's a fascinating prospect. I don't like Brian Hartline

to the Dolphins in the fourth round. I love it."

RotoWorld

"Hartline was productive early in his college career, but his numbers fell with the rest of OSU's pass offense when true freshman Terrelle Pryor took over at quarterback in 2008. Hartline offers a nice size-speed combo and could pose a threat to Greg Camarillo, who's recovering from major knee surgery." [COMBINE INFO \(link\)](#)

Brian Hartline, WR.

Jumped in the draft due to his NFL Combine. You can see why. Hartline had the fastest speed among receivers in the 60-yard shuttle at 10.92 seconds. The next fastest was Lydell Sergeant's 11.22. In the 3-cone drill, Hartline finished tied for second among receivers with a 6.65 -second run. In the 20-yard shuttle, he was fourth.

Wonderlic: 23

40 Yard Dash : 4.58 seconds

Vertical Jump : 34.5 inches

Broad Jump : 120.0 inches

3 Cone Drill : 6.65 seconds

20 Yard Shuttle : 4.12 seconds

60 Yard Shuttle : 10.92 seconds

JOHNATHON NALBONE

5 (161) TE

MONMOUTH

6'4" - 240 lbs

4.72 - Senior

[VIDEO CLIP](#)

(none)

[TSN INSIDER \(link\)](#)

Nalbone is a

small-school talent who must impress scouts in spring workouts to get invited to camp as a free agent. We doubt he'll be drafted unless he wows someone in the month ahead. He has special-teams experience, which could help [SI ANALYSIS \(link\)](#)

BIOGRAPHY:

Four-year starter awarded all-Conference honors since his freshman season. Led the team in receiving as a senior, posting 42/491/5 after 22 /252/3 as a junior.

POSITIVES:

Athletic, pass-catching tight end with a large degree of upside. Fluid releasing off the line, quick to top speed, and effectively reads defenses, and then finds the open spot on the field. Adjusts to the errant throw, extending his hands and making the reception in stride. Sells routes, fluid moving about the field, and shows enough speed to make plays into the secondary. Gets up in a crowd and comes down with the difficult reception, takes a pounding yet holds onto the throw. Bends his knees and blocks with a wide base.

NEGATIVES:

Displays marginal quickness to his game. Poor blocker who does not get the results he should on a small-school level.

ANALYSIS:

Nalbone is one of the true sleepers at the tight end position and a terrific developmental prospect who could eventually grow into a productive number two at his position.

PROJECTION:

Seventh Round/Free Agent

"EXPERT" COMMENTS

ESPN Scouts Inc

"Nalbone possesses adequate size and top-end speed for the position, however he is going to be a developmental project at this point. He needs to develop in terms of strength at the point of attack as an inline blocker as well as an overall route runner." [CHRIS CLEMONS](#)

5 (165)

S

CLEMSON

6'0 - 208 lbs

4.41 - Senior

[VIDEO CLIP](#)

{youtube}F82BmF25Fxc{/youtube}

UNIFORM # 22

[ESPN INSIDER \(link\)](#)

OVERALL FOOTBALL TRAITS

Production - 2

2004: Clemson red shirts Clemons.

2005-'07: Clemons starts 26 of the 38 games he appears in accumulating 213 tackles, three tackles-for-loss, three interceptions, 10 passes broken up and forced fumble.

2008: Clemons starts all 13 games accumulating 94 tackles, three tackles-for-loss, two interceptions, seven passes broken up and one fumble recovery, which he returns 73 yards for a touchdown.

Height-Weight-Speed - 2

Adequate height, adequate bulk and excellent top-end speed.

Durability - 1

Durability is not a concern to our knowledge.

Character - 3

Received his degree in community recreation management in August of 2008.

DEFENSIVE SAFETY SPECIFIC TRAITS

Recognition Skills/Toughness - 2

Reads keys and locates the ball quickly. Adequate-to-good upper body strength and willing to step up in run support but doesn't play with enough of a mean streak.

Closing Burst - 1

Elite closing speed and can cover a lot of ground in a very short amount of time. Has the second gear to quickly recover when gets caught out of position. Can play and excel in a centerfielder-type role.

Fluidity - 3

Lacks ideal experience matching up in man coverage but appears to have the fluidity and burst to develop above-average man-to-man cover skills.

Ball Skills - 4

Relatively big hands but just not much of a playmaker. Can do a better job of tracking the ball when forced to turn and run and reading the quarterbacks' eyes when lined up deep.

Run Support - 3

Misses the occasional open-field tackle trying to deliver the big hit but doesn't shy away from contact and wraps up for the most part. Does an adequate job of extending arms and keeping blockers off frame but can get engulfed by tight ends/H-Backs and not an in-the-box safety in the NFL right now.

1 = Exceptional

2 = Above average

3 = Average

4 = Below average

5 = Marginal

[TSN INSIDER \(link\)](#)

Strengths:

Is an athletic safety with quick feet, which enable him to accelerate to full speed fast. Once he gets to full speed, has the playing speed to chase down plays in pursuit. Consistently flies up the field quickly and aggressively in run support, can avoid blockers and is willing to make violent hits. When he stays under control, keeps his knees bent and stays over his feet, has flashed the ability to drive up into the ballcarrier to make strong and sound tackles. Flashes the quickness to plant, drive and close fast on passes in front of him and down the seam, then gets there in time to deliver a hard blow right as the ball arrives to break up the pass. Has the speed and athleticism to cover tight ends well in tight man-to-man coverage.

Weaknesses:

Is a better athlete than football player and does not produce to his level of talent consistently. Is overly aggressive, which leads to him attacking plays in front of him and getting beaten by plays behind him. Will jump on play-action fakes, allowing the receiver to get behind him, and he cannot recover to get back into good coverage position. Also jumps on the QB's pump-fakes and cannot recover when the receiver zips by him. Has bad tackling technique despite flashing the ability to be a good tackler. Has a bad habit of stopping his feet and bending at the waist when he tries to tackle and ends up missing as many tackles as he makes. Won't be a good special teams player in the NFL unless he improves his tackling.

Bottom line:

Clemons was not highly productive in college, making big plays but then disappearing for long stretches. However, an excellent Combine has many coaches and GMs saying he has the physical tools to develop, which likely will get him drafted in the middle rounds after playing like he'd be an undrafted free agent in '08. [NFL.COM ANALYSIS \(link\)](#)

Overshadowed throughout his career by teammate Michael Hamlin, Clemons' consistency in coverage might actually make him the safer NFL prospect. A three-year starter for the Tigers who leaves with 323 career tackles, 20 passes broken up and five interceptions, Clemons' production warrants a closer look. If he can prove his speed in workouts, Clemons' could surprise as a second-day defender capable of contributing immediately.

Positives:

Lanky build with room for additional growth. ... Has at least adequate pure game speed to be the last line of defense. ... Takes good angles in pursuit. ... Reads the quarterback and gets a jump on the ball. ... Flashes a late burst to close. ... Good open-field tackler. ... Has the lateral quickness and balance to break down in space and wraps up. ... Agile enough to slip blocks and make tackles near the line of scrimmage. ... Durable. ... Has never missed a game due to injury at Clemson.

Negatives:

Lacks the bulk many teams prefer at safety. ... A reliable open-field tackler, but lacks the explosiveness to be an enforcer in the middle. ... Isn't a natural playmaker. ... Loses sight of the ball and doesn't have natural hands for the interception. ... Surrounded by legitimate NFL talent and has been allowed to freelance as a centerfielder. [SI ANALYSIS \(link\)](#)

BIOGRAPHY:

Three-year starter who totaled 82/2/8 as a senior after 78/2/2 the prior year.

POSITIVES:

Forceful, run-defending safety best between the numbers. Aggressive up the field, shows a burst of closing speed, and is physical. Willingly comes up the field to defend the run or screen passes. Displays solid ball skills in the middle of the field when facing the action.

NEGATIVES:

Does not consistently play within himself, takes improper angles to the action, and misses tackles. Late reacting in coverage and indecisive.

ANALYSIS:

Clemons is a hard-hitting safety with good size. He struggles moving sideline-to-sideline, yet he would be effective as a backup in a zone system or as a traditional strong safety.

PROJECTION:

Sixth Round ["EXPERT" COMMENTS](#)

ESPN Scouts Inc

"Clemons is an instinctive quick-twitched safety that displays elite closing burst. However, he needs to improve as a playmaker and take better angles to the ball."

TSN War Room

"Clemons has good physical tools, making him a good developmental project for Bill Parcells and Tony Sparano."

[COMBINE INFO \(link\)](#) Chris Clemons, S

Wonderlic: 16

40 Yard Dash : 4.41 seconds

Bench Press : 19.0 reps

Vertical Jump : 37.5 inches

Broad Jump : 127.0 inches

3 Cone Drill : 4.39 seconds

20 Yard Shuttle : 7.27 seconds

ANDREW GARDNER

6 (181) OT

GEORGIA TECH

6'7" - 304 lbs

4.96 - Senior

VIDEO CLIP

{youtube}1PVKw0QzhsE{/youtube}

Uniform #64 30 seconds into the clip.

[ESPN INSIDER \(link\)](#)

OVERALL FOOTBALL TRAITS

Production - 2

Georgia Tech red-shirted Gardner in 2004. He started every game in 2005 and every game in 2006 at left tackle. Gardner started all 13 games of the 2007 season at left tackle. He started the first nine games of the 2008 season before sustaining a season-ending shoulder injury.

Height-Weight-Speed - 2

Prototypical height, adequate bulk and adequate top-end speed.

Durability - 4

Tore labrum in shoulder during the ninth game of the 2008 season, underwent surgery to correct the problem and missed the remainder of the year. Shoulder not strong enough for him to work out at the Combine.

Character - 2

Majoring in management and there are no off-the-field incidents to our knowledge.

OFFENSIVE TACKLE SPECIFIC TRAITS

Strength/Toughness - 3

Relentless but has shown just adequate upper body strength and lower body strength appears marginal on film.

Agility - 3

Shows adequate lateral mobility both a run blocker and a pass blocker.

Awareness - 2

Uses inside arm to help offensive guards when initially left uncovered, keeps head up and stays in position to pick up delayed blitzes coming off the edge. Moves to the right when Georgia Tech overloads to that side and rarely makes mistakes.

Pass Protection - 4

Extends arms once in position and can ride edge rushers past the pocket. Footwork is a bit inconsistent and occasionally overreacts to the defender's initial move but usually slides feet well enough to recover and can handle double moves. Doesn't bend knee enough in pass protection and is going to have problems holding ground against bull rushers at the NFL level.

Run Blocking - 3

Keeps elbows tight to frame and generally gets excellent hand placement but doesn't deliver a violent initial punch. Plays with a wide base and stays balanced but doesn't get under defenders' pads enough and doesn't always drive legs once locked on.

1 = Exceptional

2 = Above average

3 = Average

4 = Below average

5 = Marginal [TSN INSIDER \(link\)](#)

Strengths:

Shows good lateral quickness. Fires off the snap and gets his hands on defenders quickly. Uses intelligence and good angles to get position on defenders. Rolls his hips well on contact. Gets into his pass set quickly. Is effective on seal blocks.

Weaknesses:

Lacks speed and quick-twitch ability. Plays too high, and gets beaten by double moves. Does not use his hands well to punch defenders, and falls off blocks. Lacks foot quickness to maintain blocks. On run blocks, rarely uses his arms to lock out defenders. Struggles to adjust to quick defenders in the open field.

Bottom line:

Although Gardner did well as Georgia Tech's starting left tackle, he lacks the speed and quickness to play that position in the NFL. He gets by largely on his intelligence and must improve his technique to have a chance of making it as a backup guard/tackle. [NFL.COM ANALYSIS \(link\)](#)

Overview

Gardner earned his second consecutive first-team All-ACC recognition in 2008 despite missing the final four games

following surgery on a torn labrum in his right shoulder. He had played through the injury most of the fall, which was no surprise given his streak of 48 consecutive starts up to that point. Although not particularly special in any one area, Gardner's sturdiness and dependability up front is not overlooked by NFL teams. Had an arm span of 34 1/2 inches and a hand span of 10 inches at the combine.

ANALYSIS

Strengths: Good height with adequate build on the edge. Plays strong, attacking his opponent through the whistle in pass protection by punching and continually extending his arms to keep his man outside the pocket. Keeps his feet moving, which keeps him locked on his man. Will go through the whistle on his man when necessary. Good movement to the linebackers, giving good effort to get his hands on quicker defenders in space. Effectively uses angles to direct speedy defenders around the play. Gets low on cut blocks, which he did quite often in Tech's option attack as a senior. Steady player, hard worker.

Weaknesses: Not the elite athlete most teams want at left tackle. NFL speed rushers may give him problems due to his average lateral movement and tendency to overextend or miss his punch. Inconsistent initial quickness off the ball. Needs to prove strong enough to play inside or on the other side of the line. Does not recover quickly or retain his balance after the initial hit while cut blocking, and sometimes whiffs on the cut itself. Struggles to sustain in space because he overextends and lacks recovery speed. [SI ANALYSIS \(link\)](#)

BIOGRAPHY:

Four-year starter at left tackle awarded all-Conference honors every season since his freshman campaign. Started 48 consecutive games for Georgia Tech before being sidelined in early November with a torn labrum in his left shoulder.

POSITIVES:

Efficient and intelligent blocker with a good feel for his position. Quickly sets in pass protection, displays outstanding blocking vision and overall awareness. Stays square, keeps the defender in front of him, and makes good use of body positioning to seal opponents from the action. Strong, anchors at the point, and works hard until the whistle blows. Makes great use of angles and gets the most from his ability.

NEGATIVES:

Lacks top footwork and lateral blocking range. Does not get much movement as a run blocker. Marginal skills in motion.

ANALYSIS:

Gardner is an average athlete but a terrific football player. He lacks great upside, yet at the same time, he has a polished game. Gardner could handle the left tackle position in an offense that primarily runs the football, or he could be used on the strong side if he adds bulk to his frame and improves his playing strength.

PROJECTION:

Fifth/Sixth Round	"EXPERT" COMMENTS	ESPN Scouts Inc
"Gardner is a relentless blocker who possesses just adequate overall strength. However, he has excellent upside in terms of agility and athleticism. He will need some development in terms of footwork." COMBINE INFO (link)		
Andrew Gardner, OT		
Wonderlic: 32.		
No combine numbers	J.D. FOLSOM	
7 (214)	OLB	
WEBER ST	6'3" - 230 lbs	
?? - Senior	VIDEO CLIP	MIAMI DOLPHINS.COM (link)

Overview

Two-year letterman at Weber State ... Transferred from Snow Junior College in Ephraim, Utah in 2007 ... Played in 12 games with six starts as a senior in 2008 ... Recorded 76 tackles (27 solo), four tackles for loss, an interception and a forced fumble ... Recorded eight tackles and a fumble recovery against Portland State ... Had a season-high 14 tackles and an interception against Northern Arizona ... Started 11 games as a junior in 2007 ... Recorded 73 tackles (30 solo), two sacks, 5.5 tackles for loss a fumble recovery and an interception ... Earned All-Big Sky Conference second team honors ... Had four double figure tackle games with a single-game best of 11 against Northern Arizona ... Posted quarterback sacks vs. Montana State and at Northern Colorado ... Recorded 69.5 tackles, 10 tackles for loss and three quarterback sacks at Snow in 2006 ... Named first-team All-Western State's Football League and second-team NJCAA All-America ... Honored as first-team NJCAA Academic All-America team ... Helped Badgers to an 11-1 record and second ranking in the NJCAA ... Did not play football from 2004-05 on a two-year LDS Church mission to Santa Cruz, Bolivia ... Majored in zoology.

High School/Personal

Married to Micah ... Wife was 2007 Weber State's volleyball MVP ... Played quarterback and linebacker at Salmon (Idaho) High School, where he earned second-team all-state honors as a senior ... Was a national qualifier in team roping on the high school rodeo team as well ... Full name is John David Folsom, born August 19, 1984. [COMBINE INFO \(link\)](#)

UNDRAFTED ROOKIE FREE AGENT ADDITIONS

Jared Bronson
TE
C Washington
6'4", 253 lbs, 4.76

Bronson gives the Dolphins another rookie tight end, joining fifth-round pick John Nalbone, and five overall. The Dolphins are expected to return veterans Anthony Fasano, David Martin and Joey Haynos.

But Bronson (6-4 1/2, 255) ran the 40 in the 4.7-range and was a good blocker in college, in addition to totaling 502 yards and six touchdowns last season despite missing six games with a shoulder injury.

Bronson comes from good stock. His father, Gordon, played tight end for the University of Washington in the 1970s.

"He's one of those under-the-radar type guys who could come in and impress," agent Michael Hoffman said. "He has that kind of talent.

"He has all the tools, but coming from one of the small schools one thing he needs is coaching." PBP

Mark Lewis
OG
Oregon
6'4", 308 lbs

Lewis started all 25 games the past two seasons at the University of Oregon. He was known for his strength and power, including a 580-pound squat lift. PBP

Ryan Baker
DE
Purdue
6'4", 295 lbs

Baker, at 6-4 1/2 and 295 pounds with the ability to stop the run, seems well-suited to play end in the Dolphins' 3-4 scheme. He bench-pressed 225 pounds 34 times at the scouting combine.

Agent Brett Tessler said his client had offers from a number of teams playing the 3-4 or 4-3 alignment.

"There's not anyone better to learn from than these guys," Tessler said of the Dolphins' coaching staff. "He's a perfect fit." PBP

Orion Martin
LB
Virginia Tech
6'2", 262 lbs

Martin, a former walk-on at Virginia Tech, had 7.5 sacks last season as a defensive end. But at his size (6-2 1/2, 262 pounds) his best shot in the NFL might be as a rushing linebacker in the 3-4 scheme, agent Drew Smith said.

Martin didn't stand out at the scouting combine with a time 4.81 seconds in the 40-yard dash, but he ran the second-fastest 10-yard dash, underscoring his explosiveness.

"He has the mentality that goes into being an undrafted rookie," Smith said of his client, who had offers from three other teams. "He's one of those guys who'll get over not being drafted and just go to work." PBP

Chris Williams
WR
N Mexico St
5'8", 163 lbs, 4.28

86 Catches
1,271 Yards
9 Tds

Williams ran 4.28 40 at his pro day. A running back and high jumper in high school, Williams has been brought in primarily as a return man, but could fit into certain packages on offense. PBP. SirVincent Rogers

OT
Houston
6'3", 312 lbs

Anthony Kimble
RB
Stanford
6'1", 217 lbs

OVERALL FOOTBALL TRAITS

Production - 1

2004: Stanford red shirts Kimble who lines up at receiver that year. 2005: Kimble moves from wide receiver to running back during spring practices. He starts the first six games of the season before an injury (see durability) forces him to miss next two contests. He plays a backup role for the final three games of the season. Kimble rushes for a total of 244 yards and two touchdowns on 66 carries. He also catches 14 passes for a total of 145 yards and two touchdowns. 2006: Kimble starts all 11 games rushing for a total of 470 yards and two touchdowns on 114 carries. He catches 19 passes for a total of 156 yards and returns eight kickoffs for a total of 108 yards. (13.5-yard avg.)

2007: Kimble starts seven games rushing for a total of 509 yards and eight touchdowns on 115 carries. He catches 12 passes for a total of 64 yards and returns 18 kickoffs for a total of 385 yards. (21.4-yard avg.)

2008: Kimble appears in all 12 games and rushes for a total of 717 yards and six touchdowns on 120 carries. He catches 15 passes for a total of 120 yards and one touchdown and returns eight kickoffs for a total of 187 yards. (23.4-yard avg.)

Height-Weight-Speed - 3

Above-average height and bulk but top-end speed is marginal.

Durability - 4

2007: Separates shoulder during TCU game and misses five games with the injury. 2006: Misses one game with an undisclosed injury. 2005: Misses two games with undisclosed injuries.

Character - 2

Leader on and off the field. Self-starter that motivates himself.

RUNNING BACK SPECIFIC TRAITS

Competitiveness - 3

Runs downhill and will lower shoulder to finish runs. Flashes effective stiff-arm and ability to keep would-be tacklers at bay. However, lacks proper lower body strength for the position and struggles to push the pile in short-yardage situations.

Vision - 3

Patient runner that sets up blockers extremely well. Does a nice job of locating hole, making one cut and getting vertical. Recognizes and exploits cutback lanes quickly.

Explosiveness - 3

Play faster than clocked time indicates. Has the burst to get to the perimeter and turn the corner. However lacks the second gear to run away NFL defensive backs when reaching the open field.

Balance/Change-of-Directions - 4

Runs with good overall balance and can bounce off arm tackles but stiff in the hips and lacks elusiveness to make defenders miss.

Passing Game - 4

Although will fight the ball and drop passes should catch on occasion, can snatch the ball of the air and flashes above-average ball skills for position. Gets to the flat quickly but rounds breaks in routes and struggles to separate from man coverage. Good technique in pass protection but needs to be much more aggressive.

- 1 = Exceptional
- 2 = Above average
- 3 = Average
- 4 = Below average
- 5 = Marginal

Brennan Marion

WR
Tulsa
5'11", 187 lbs, 4.50

Overview

Elite production numbers due to the Tulsa system.

Strengths

Adequate size and speed. Will block. Shows sure handedness. Tough. Gets to his spot and camps there.

Weaknesses

Not real big or fast. Numbers are somewhat inflated by the system, although he did have to share the wealth with 8 other pass catchers. No outstanding characteristics or outstanding flaws.

Projection

6-7th rounder

Nate Longshore

QB
Cal
6'5", 233 lbs
(coming in for a tryout)

Longshore (6-foot-5, 233 pounds) is coming in for a tryout this weekend and made John Beck even more expendable.

He threw 51 touchdown passes and 31 interceptions in four seasons with the Golden Bears, but his career tailed off. He had 40 TDs as the starter in 2006-07, but only had 8 TDs and three starts last season.

Cal coach Jeff Tedford has a good reputation of coaching quarterbacks, but Longshore is going to find a potential logjam at QB behind Chad Pennington, Chad Henne and Pat White. PBP