Dolphins take Ryan Tannehill with the 8th pick

Contributed by Tony Simmons
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The Miami Dolphins took their quarterback of the future with the selection of Ryan Tannehill of Texas A & M. It is the 1st quarterback Miami has taken in the 1st round since Dan Marino.

nfl.com Overview

Tannehill is a dynamic athlete at quarterback, which could stem from his two-plus years at receiver with the Aggies before becoming their starting signal-caller. In his early starts at quarterback, Tannehill was more of a gunslinger than a refined thrower, but he now has morphed into an efficient pocket passer. Tannehill is a also fierce competitor with the overall tools to be a first-round selection and eventual starter in the NFL. Analysis Strengths When dropping, T is calm and makes it obvious that he is a natural athlete at the position. He has a good feel for pressure and has turned his scrambling ability into a big asset, as he has developed a great feel for extending the play. He is mechanically sound and can anticipate where the receiver will be, and displays fairly consistent accuracy throughout all routes. He is a consummate running threat. Weaknesses

Tannehill has only displayed for one year that he has the arm and decision-making at quarterback to start in the NFL. He did a lot to dispel concerns in his senior year, but he will need to continue to develop and likely won't be a starting option as a rookie.

{youtube}b4yuaF8uRPQ{/youtube}

{youtube}9BATjEpA6nA{/youtube}

{youtube}wBTqxuKi77M{/youtube}

{youtube}Js5si7nyzSE{/youtube}

ESPN Insider Overall Football Traits Production 3 "2007: Redshirt. 2008: (11/0) -- 1--1--100--8-0-0 2009: (13/0) -- 8--4--50.0--60-0-0 2010: (13/13) -- 234--152--65.0--1,638--13--6 2011: (13/13) -- 531--327--61.6--3,744--29--15 Career (2008-'10) - 112 catches--1,596-14.2--10 in 30 games at WR. First start at QB was against Texas Tech in 2010. " Height-Weight-Speed 2 "Excellent top-end speed to go along with slightly above average height and average bulk. Unusually small hands (9), which is a concern at this position. " Durability 3 "Suffered a broken foot while training for the NFL Combine in January 2012. Dr. Robert Anderson, a Carolina Panthers' team physician and renowned foot specialist, repaired fractured fifth metatarsal in Tannehill's right foot later that month. Tannehill did not workout at combine but was ready for late-March pro day. Otherwise, he has been durable throughout career. Started all 19 games since taking over the quarterback job midway through 2010. " Intangibles 2 "Mature, intelligent and hard working. Coaches rave about his intangibles. Team player who switched from QB to WR during redshirt-freshman year. Continued to sit in on QB meetings while playing WR. Replaced original starter Jerrod Johnson during seventh game of 2010 and won first five starts -- including wins over Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas -- before losing the bowl game. Also has delivered in some clutch situations, but team's inability to close out games in 2011 (blew four double-digit halftime leads) raises doubt about his potential to demand accountability from teammates at NFL level. " 1 = Exceptional2 = Above average3 = Average4 = Below average5 = Marginal Quarterback Specific Traits Mental Makeup 2 "Very good football intelligence. Picks up new concepts quickly. Comes from pro-style system and has experience under center, but enters NFL with just 19 career starts at QB and is still a work in progress. Appears to be a natural leader on the field and has clear command of huddle. Shows ability to get through progressions efficiently. Confident in his reads and his arm. However, will lock onto primary target at times (particularly on three-step drops). Still learning value of ball security. Competitive edge gets best of him at times. Not fazed by bullets flying around him, but does force too many throws, typically when protection fails and scrambling room runs out. " Accuracy 2 "More accurate short-to-intermediate than deep at this point. Deep ball sails too often. Shows good touch and frequently leads receivers to yards after catch. Also flashes ability to throw receivers' open Anticipation continues to improve with more game experience. Does a nice job of delivering the ball before receiver breaks (especially on deep outs and comebacks). A&M receivers dropped 64 passes in 2011 and struggled getting out of breaks too often, but Tannehill maintained trust and threw to spots. Has great mechanics when throwing on the run and is one of the most accurate on-the-move passers -- to both sides -- in this

class. " Release/Arm Strength 2 "Has a strong base and a smooth, compact delivery. Looks effortless throwing the football. Gets the ball out quickly and can make accurate throws from a variety of launch points if necessary. Arm strength is not elite but it is well above average. He delivers the deep out effortlessly and with good velocity. Will have no problem making all the NFL throws and can fit the ball into some tight spots when his mechanics are in line." Pocket Mobility 2 "Above-average athleticism and foot quickness within the pocket. Can break contain and buy time to extend plays. Doing a better job of keeping eyes down the field when avoiding the rush, but still reverts to some old bad habits occasionally. A long strider that can move the sticks with feet if gaining the perimeter. Does not have a natural feel in the pocket as this point though. Needs to show more poise and vacates the pocket too quickly. Does an excellent job of avoiding sacks on 'pressure drops'. Has small hands and fumbled eight times during final two seasons, but only lost one. " 1 = Exceptional2 = Above average3 = Average4 = Below average5 = Marginal

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Summary

Tannehill is a unique prospect in that he’s a redshirt senior with only 20 games of starting experience at quarterback – due to playing wide receiver at the beginning of his collegiate career (and playing receiver at high level, no less). Moved to quarterback midway through his junior season. Overall, a fundamentally sound quarterback who needs to clean just a few things up mechanically. Rhythm passer who displays a power arm when attacking intermediate portions of the field. He projects to go in the first round.Mechanics/Release

Quick, compact ¾ delivery. Offensive system has pro-style influences – designed around isolation routes to attack the intermediate areas of the field off 5-step drops from under center and 3-step drops from shotgun sets. Footwork needs to be touched up – most notably getting more push off on his first step in the drop. 3-step tends to get choppy with no crossover. Very comfortable executing play-action from under center. Weight transfer and hip rotation on his deep balls and bucket throws is an issue and he tends to underthrow them. Much more comfortable in traditional drops and play action footwork than most prospects.Mobility

Can throw with accuracy on the run to both the left and right. Gets his hips turned and squared to the target before throwing. Strong, fast runner with build-up speed in the open field, but isn’t overly elusive. Had some long runs on the occasional read-option. Will be very effective on bootlegs and rollouts, and has enough speed to make the backside end play him honest. Was athletic enough to play receiver at a high level early in his college career.Arm Strength

Rhythm passer with a power arm (one of the strongest in this class, arguably the strongest in the intermediate passing game). At his most comfortable in the 5-step drop game, where he can attack the intermediate areas of the field with power throws. Displays excellent velocity throwing out-breaks to the wide side of the field – not limited whatsoever by the wide “field” side in college football (caused by wider hash marks). System calls for many NFL style throws into tight windows, especially along the perimeter, and he completes these with velocity in every game. Can throw his receivers open.Accuracy

When Tannehill’s footwork is on, he displays excellent accuracy in the short and intermediate range passing game. As noted before, his deep ball and bucket throws tend to be underthrown because he will roll his hips up and fail to transfer his weight properly. His best routes are along the perimeter – deep outs, comebacks, deep hooks, and the wheel route to the slot receiver (very good at timing and anticipating the wheel, in particular).Decision Making and Intangibles

This is where many people split on Tannehill.

Way more comfortable running plays off the script early in games than he is down the stretch. Has a basic feel of high/low concepts and reading the vertical planes of the field, but is still raw in this area. Too many mistakes and bad plays came from locking onto his primary target – either not feeling blindside pressure, throwing blind into backside coverage late, forcing the ball, etc. Will press and make a head-scratching throw or two in almost every game. Needs to learn to throw the ball away. The major question with him is how well can he manage a team. He gave the program a major shot in the arm when taking over the starting job as a junior, but then A&M had a number of second half collapses this past year. While he was never solely at-fault, he still made some bad decisions in pressure situations (and

I’d actually argue that when I isolate him from the team, he played very well in most of those losses aside from a play or two). These are the mistakes that are bound to happen with a relatively inexperienced quarterback.

He will face the gun barrel and make a throw even when he knows a hit is coming. Will move and reset in the pocket while keeping his eyes downfield. He feels and reacts to frontside pressure well, and, displays a good internal clock on backside pressures (although he can be inconsistent in this area). Despite being raw, was allowed to make some calls and checks at the LOS (breakdown of changing WRs route to a skinny post based on what the D was showing pre-snap in Northwestern video). Willing and able to make stick throws into tight windows.Additional Information

Set a Texas A&M freshman single-game record with 12 catches for 210 receiving yards, and was voted offensive MVP by his teammates (again, as a freshman). Made Big-12 Honorable Mention at receiver as a redshirt sophomore in 2009. Replaced Jerrod Johnson at quarterback midway through his junior season. In his first start, he set a school record with 449 passing yards.

Had surgery in January to fix a broken bone in his foot. Was not able to participate in the Senior Bowl and will not be able to work out at the NFL combine.Production/Experience

2008: 55 receptions, 844 yards, 15.3 YPC, 5 TDs
2009: 46 receptions, 609 yards, 13.2 YPC, 4 TDs
2010: 8 games, 152-234, 65%, 1638 yards, 13 TDs, 6 INTs; 51 rushes, 75 yards, 1.5 YPC, 1 TD
2011: 13 games, 327-531, 61.6%, 3744 yards, 29 TDs, 15 INTs; 58 rushes, 5.3 YPC, 4 TDsAcademics

Majored in Biology with a 3.6 GPA. Has considered attending medical school to become an orthopedic surgeon.Awards and Honors

2010: First Team All-Academic Big XII
2009: Honorable Mention Big-XII, All-Academic Big XII
2008: Honorable Mention Freshman All-American, Honorable Mention Big-XII

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