

## Miami adds much needed CB in 2nd round with Jamar Taylor

Contributed by Tony Simmons  
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The Miami Dolphins addressed another big need in this draft, as the Dolphins selected Boise State cornerback Jamar Taylor with the 54th pick in the 2nd round.

Taylor has very good size at 5'10 5/8, 192 lbs and the kid is strong, as he did 22 reps @ 225 lbs on the bench press at the NFL Combine. Very good speed as he ran a 4.39 40. Very good back pedal, smooth change of direction and fluid hips and zone aware. Good ball skills and playmaking ability. Scheme diverse and very solid tackler. Jamar is a very good fit for what Miami likes to run defensively.

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### ESPN INSIDER

### DRAFT ANALYSIS

What he brings: Taylor has

prototypical size and plays with great balance, and shows above-average change-of-direction skills. He has great eyes in coverage and does a great job maintaining strong position. In addition, he flashes an extra gear to recover and the ability to locate and play the ball. Taylor is willing to step up in run support, but could become more physical and efficient in that area.

How he fits: This wasn't a great perimeter cover group in 2012, partly because of injuries and partly because of inconsistent play. Miami's best corner, Shawn Smith, is gone, along with Bryan McCann. The Dolphins did add a premier free agent in Brent Grimes from Atlanta, but this secondary only produced 10 interceptions last season. Big plays and creating turnovers wasn't a strength. The Dolphins love to play aggressive man-to-man schemes, which seem to fit Taylor's skill set, and he will likely will be given a great chance to start at left corner, while other players can compete for the slot corner position. This pass defense really needs Taylor to be productive quickly.

### OVERALL FOOTBALL TRAITS

2009: Redshirt  
Career: 9 TFL, 4 sacks, 6 FF.  
2010: (12/12) 29-2-0  
Height-Weight-Speed 2  
Excellent top-end speed. Hand size is average (9.1). Possesses a shredded and compact build with prototypical bulk. Shorter arms (30.6).  
Dealt with a knee injury early in the 2009 season and eventually redshirted. Missed four games in 2011 dealing with a nagging hamstring injury.  
Intangibles 2 Possesses a tireless work ethic both in the weight and film room. A selfless player. Graduated in May with a communication degree and 3.5 GPA. Currently taking classes toward a master's in kinesiology. Did not start against San Jose State in 2010 for undisclosed disciplinary reasons.

### CORNERBACK SPECIFIC TRAITS

Shows above-average overall instincts. Plays with his eyes and shows very good field awareness. Keys quarterbacks eyes and while maintaining proper leverage and positioning in zone coverage. Displays good anticipation and route recognition skills to jump or squat underneath throws. Shows good patients in zone bail or back pedal and does not get overzealous vs. double moves. Maintains poise and does not panic when caught out of position.  
Instincts/Recognition 2  
Cover Skills 2 Shows the ability to hold up in both zone and man coverage at the next level. Possesses a compact build that provides him very good balance in coverage. Feet are constantly underneath his frame and changes direction seamlessly. Clean in his hips and can rotate quickly to turn and run with receivers downfield. Possesses above-average closing burst and recovery speed.  
Ball Skills 3 Overall ball skills are adequate. Flashes playmaking instincts but still has room for development in that area. Tracks the ball well in the air and generally takes a quality line to the point. Extremely aggressive playing the ball and flashes the leaping ability and strength to hold up in one-on-one downfield and red zone situations. Hands are above-average but will have some drops on a few throws he should make. Transitions quickly after making the catch and looks to create.  
Run Support 3 Active in this area. Does not shy away from contact. Can line up near the box and gets through clutter well and shows ability to absorb blocks. Can do a better job of using his hands when engaged with bigger receivers to shed blocks. Does a nice job of dropping pad level upon contact. Breaks down well in the open field to secure the tackle.

NFL.COM

OVERVIEW

Boise State's offense most often grabbed headlines over the past decade, and rightfully so with Kellen Moore and others putting up big numbers during the program's rise to prominence. But the Broncos had four defenders drafted in 2012, including defensive end Shea McClellin, who went to the Bears in the first-round. Five BSU defensive backs have been drafted in the last seven years, as well; and Taylor looks to have the physicality and athleticism to be the next one hearing his name called in Radio City Music Hall.

Taylor starred at famed Helix High School in San Diego before heading to Idaho. He played in all 13 games as a reserve his true freshman season (24, two for loss, interception) before redshirting in 2009 due to the team's depth at the position. Taylor earned a starting job in 2010 (35 tackles, 3.5 tackles for loss, two sacks, two pass breakups, three forced fumbles) and also started the first nine games of 2011 before a stress fracture in his leg forced him to sit four full games plus most of another. He returned at less than 100 percent for the Broncos's Las Vegas Bowl win over Arizona State, returning an interception 100 yards for a touchdown (he finished the year with 27 tackles, two for loss, two INT, six pass breakups). As a senior, Taylor started every game while registering 51 total tackles, 3.5 went for loss including 2.5 sacks. He added nine pass breakups, four interceptions, and three forced fumbles. His senior season earned him first-team All-Mountain West honors.

ANALYSIS

STRENGTHS

Not afraid to get physical with receivers, often redirects their routes with strong hands. Very good straight-line speed. Works well in press-bail coverage. Fluid hips, smooth in turns and out of the back pedal. Shows the athletic ability to make plays on the football in contested situations. Will stick his nose in the run game when he is able to set the edge.

WEAKNESSES

Recovery speed is questionable. Poor technique in press

coverage. Gives up too much ground on outside breaking routes. Can be fooled by play action, jumps up to allow free receivers behind him. Must bring in more difficult interceptions where he needs to use his hands away from his frame. Inconsistent tackler in space, can break down to wrap legs but also gives weak cut efforts.

NFL COMPARISON

Drayton Florence

BOTTOM LINE

Taylor is

a physical and athletic cornerback looking to be the sixth Boise State defensive back to be drafted by NFL teams over the last eight years. He missed most of the second half of 2011 with a stress fracture in his leg, but returned with a vengeance during his senior year by excelling in man coverage on downfield routes. Since he remained healthy during his senior year, Taylor is poised for a second day or mid round selection, but he would be wise to improve his play against the run when in space.

SPORTING NEWS (TSN)

QUICK TAKE

(from Indianapolis)

The Dolphins join the cornerback run to address a need. Taylor is a fluid cover man with natural instincts to make plays on the ball.

SCOUTING ANALYSIS

Taylor has great strength and speed. Even without elite height, these qualities allow him to compete with the elite receivers. Taylor plays at a high speed and looks even quicker with his great reactionary skills. He was asked to play man to man in both the off position and press coverage. He must refine his balance and ride the receiver more in press coverage.

Taylor has a tight back pedal and fluid hip movement which allow for him to turn and run with receivers. He needs work on his tackling but show the willingness to come into the box and stick his nose into the play. Taylor can be plugged into any system but will excel when in zone scheme or off man scheme which allows him to use his great reactionary abilities.

Taylor must prove he can compete with elite competition. Taylor also must check out medically because of leg injuries. For a team looking for a hard-nosed worker and player, Taylor fits that mold and will produce in any scheme with the ability to play on special teams if needed. — Chad Dinkins, Optimum Scouting

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED (SI)

POSITIVES

Taylor is a smooth

athlete with the top end speed to run with any receiver down-field. He displays quick feet in his pedal and is able to consistently flip his hips and maintain spacing coming out of transition while in man coverage. He is physical with his man in press coverage which allows him to sustain inside leverage. In zone coverage he does a solid job of keeping the play in front of him and displays the burst needed in transition to close effectively from off his target. He displays outstanding ball skills as he times his break and reach around well, and when he can cut off the route he attacks the ball in the air to consistently come down with the interception.

NEGATIVES

While at Boise State Taylor was able to compensate for his limited smaller frame by playing aggressive and physical in man coverage, but he will still need to bulk to his frame in order to compete with bigger NFL receivers. His size and strength limitations are particularly noticeable against the run, as he struggles to shed blockers at the POA when he

allows them to get on top of him quickly off the snap. He is also not a consistent tackler, as he tends to duck his head and dive at the ball carrier instead of holding his ground and wrapping up.

#### ANALYSIS

If Jamar Taylor were an inch taller and ten pounds heavier the media would likely be talking about him as a top 15 prospect, because his athleticism and coverage skills are second to no one in this draft class. He has the elite long speed needed to run with any NFL receiver down-field and an outstanding combination of quickness, instincts and a willingness to play physical in man coverage. When the ball is in the air he acts as if it were meant for him, as he works hard to establish inside positioning and cut off routes, allowing him to high point the ball in front of his man for PBUs and INTs. His thin frame will limit his effectiveness at the next level against larger possession receivers, as well as his ability to shed blocks in time to get involved against the run. Overall, if he can add another 10-15 lbs. of muscle to his frame he could develop into the best CB from this draft class, and is clearly worth a late day one selection.

#### SCOUT.COM

Taylor was a three-year starter and first team All-Conference member in 2012. This is a corner not afraid of contact. He's a good athlete that runs well. Taylor is solid in man coverage. Taylor had a big senior season with four interceptions.

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