

Dolphins trade back into the 3rd round and take CB Will Davis

Contributed by Tony Simmons
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Miami traded one of their 4th, 5th and 7th round picks to get back into the 3rd round to Green Bay and took CB Will Davis of Utah State. Davis has nice size at 5'11 1/4. 186 lbs. Excellent man cover corner and is very fluid, athletic and flexible. Effortless pedal and transition with speed to run deep. Very good ball skills and hand quickness. The Combine top performer in the 3 cone drill with a 6.52. The biggest issue for Will is he needs to get stronger to deal with bigger wide receivers.

{youtube}NMgu6l9kDNU{/youtube}

{youtube}ZCDCJ6jiSko{/youtube}

{youtube}aJ0OcybS0ZM{/youtube}

{youtube}FeyYFKRrAME{/youtube}

ESPN INSIDER

shows quick feet and flashes playmaking instincts. However, he can be overaggressive and will gamble, and lacks the elite instincts to recover when caught out of position. Davis can also struggle to turn and locate the ball when caught in trail position. However, he has upside with his athleticism and instincts, and can potentially add depth to a secondary.

How he fits: This was not a good cover group a year ago, and they lost solid veterans in Bryan McCann and Shawn Smith, but they did pick up an elite CB in free agency in Brent Grimes. By adding two corners already, they have a better chance to play their aggressive man-to-man schemes. That allows them to blitz and take more chances, and they can now put a pretty good sub package on the field, which is a must against spread offenses like New England's.

2008-'09: Western Washington but DNP.

2011: Utah State (13/5) 35-6-0

Speed 3 Good top-end speed. Possesses prototypical height and cut but a bit lean. Adequate arm length (31.4) and hand span (9). Durability 3 Suffered an elbow injury during training camp of the 2011 season and limited his play earlier on in the year. Intangibles 3 All-WAC Academic in 2011. Played just one year of high school football. Originally enrolled at Western Washington but program was cut during his redshirt freshman year. No off-the-field issues that we are currently aware of.

TRAITS

Instincts/Recognition 3 Inconsistent in this area. On one hand flashes ability to read routes, anticipate and jump underneath throws. However, will gamble and lacks discipline at times. Vulnerable to double moves. In zone coverage can get aggressive and get caught out of position at times. Needs to learn how to maintain strong position in zone coverage without tipping his cap to opposing quarterbacks. Shows good diagnostic skills vs. the run. Cover Skills 3 Movement skills are average-to-slightly below average. Changes directions well laterally and shows ability to turn and run with receivers downfield when aligned in press. However, has some tightness in hips and ankles. Can labor to open hips when having to make a sudden 180 degree turn in off man. Did not show ability to recover against double move. Also needs to take a few extra steps when gathering at the top of his pedal or zone bail. Will round off breaks on occasion. Closing burst breaking forward is good but lacks a second gear to recover when caught in trail. Appears best suited for a heavy zone scheme and may have issues holding up in man coverage on an island at the NFL level. Ball Skills 3 Adequate in this area. Flashes anticipation to get a quick break on the ball. Aggressive playing the ball. Had an interception in five straight games to end the 2012 regular season but was not consistent playmaker throughout career. Hands are good but will have an occasional drop. Inconsistent turning and locating the ball in a timely manner when back is turned to quarterback.

Run Support 4 Willing in this area when hand is forced but does not appear to welcome contact. Picks and chooses his battles. Works to get off blocks but can struggle against more physical receivers. Wrap-and-drag down tackler. Needs to learn to tackle with better pad level. Also needs to continue to improve strength in this area.

Production 3
2010: De Anza Junior College (CA) 38-8-8
2012: (13/13) 64-17-5 Height-Weight-

OVERALL FOOTBALL TRAITS

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CORNERBACK SPECIFIC TRAITS

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avis only played one year of football at Central Valley (Wash.) High School, logging seven interceptions, while also tallying 33 tackles, two forced fumbles and one fumble recovery. He also played wide receiver, making 16 catches for 135 yards and four touchdowns. Davis also earned three letters in basketball and four in track. Davis was an honorable mention all-league honoree and team MVP as a senior in basketball and was a two-year starter.

After high school, Davis originally enrolled to play football at Western Washington, but the program was cut during his redshirt-freshman season. Davis then went to De Anza College, and earned first-team all-Golden Gate Conference and first-team all-state honors after posting eight interceptions, returning two for touchdowns.

In 2011, Davis transferred to Utah State, where he played in all 13 games and logged five starts. He recorded 35 tackles (3.5 for loss) and six passes defended. In his senior year, Davis played in 13 games and recorded 64 tackles (4.5 for loss), 17 pass breakups, and five interceptions (one returned for a touchdown). He was named first-team All-WAC.

ANALYSIS**STRENGTHS**

Tall end/linebacker hybrid with

excellent length. Definitely not contact-shy, extends his long arms to land a strong punch on blockers, can disengage to chase plays from behind or grab ballcarriers coming into his area. Also willing to mix it up when challenged. Long strides allow him to cover ground quickly when closing or after his strong get-off with his hand down, but also shows enough bend and short-area quickness to avoid linemen. Lines up against slot receivers and tight ends, managing to stay with them in the open field in spite of his size. Flashes quickness and bend to beat tackles around the corner, can counter with an inside rush or spin move. Also quick enough to flatten down the line to make plays on inside runs. Willing to stick his shoulder into a lead blocker to free up other defenders.

WEAKNESSES

Limited football experience. Could stand to add more weight and strength. Overaggressive nature. Susceptible to getting beat by double moves. Lacks the recovery speed to catch up to a receiver that has run by him. Has issues with beating blocks from the receiver. Will lower his head and give sub-par tackling efforts.

NFL

COMPARISON

Alterraun Verner

BOTTOM LINE

Davis has good

length, foot quickness, and ball skills for the position. Although his recovery speed is a question, he's a fluid athlete with good hips who can make plays on the football. Davis can be beaten deep when he gets overaggressive, but he has more successes than failures in this department. Davis should be a middle-round selection.

SPORTING NEWS (TSN)**QUICK TAKE**

(from San Francisco

through Green Bay) The Dolphins were attracted to Davis' burst and ability to make plays on the ball. He could be used as a slot cover man to complement fellow draftee Jamar Taylor, an outside starter.

SCOUTING ANALYSIS

Davis is athletic, play faster than he times and has a slender build and good height. He has great hip flex to turn and run with receivers after their breaks. He makes his biggest impact in coverage because his hands are always around the ball.

Davis shows great ability to track the pass with great timing to go battle a receiver in the red zone or down the sideline. He is a willing tackler but must refine his fundamentals and not lunge when coming up in run support or on a receiver crossing the field. His upper body strength isn't great but has the feet and athleticism to play press coverage.

Davis isn't a project but isn't a finished product either. He must show he can play better versus the run.— Chad Dinkins, Optimum Scouting

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED (SI)**POSITIVES**

Davis is a very

smooth athlete with the quick feet to help him plant and drive on the ball. He shows the loose hips that allow him to turn and run with receivers down field. Once the ball is in the air he shows the skills to track and attack the ball at its highest point. He has a nice frame and does a nice job of being physical when in tight man coverage

NEGATIVES

Will is a bit slender and needs to add weight to continue to be physical with receivers at the snap. Although he runs well he lacks the elite speed to play catch up if a receiver gets behind him. He is limited by his lack of experience and can be beat easily on double moves because he will play too aggressive at times. Needs to improve technique especially tackling

ANALYSIS

Will Davis took a roundabout way to Utah St after his

original school, Western Washington drop its program and he detoured to a Junior College. After transferring to Utah St., Davis instantly made the quick transition and made an impact on defense including 5 starts. Athletically he is very good, but raw. He has a nice back pedal and the agility to match up against most receivers. He has good speed but lacks a burst that would be needed to recover if beat. Overall Will Davis is worth a 4th round pick and could develop into a starter at the NFL level. At worst he could play the nickel and add quality depth for just about any defense.

SCOUT.COM

Davis had a big 2012 campaign with five interceptions and 24 pass breakups. He has shown he can play in man coverage. Davis can change directions and a quick burst. He has enough speed to run with receivers.

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