

## Miami takes TE Dion Sims with their 2nd pick in the 4th round.

Contributed by Tony Simmons  
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With pick #106, the Dolphins took TE Dion Sims from Michigan State. Sims will come in and fill that void at TE that the Dolphins lost when Anthony Fasano signed with Kansas City. Big man comign in at 6'4 7/8, 262 lbs, but suprisingly athletic. Soft hands to secure the ball away from his body and a load to bring down after the catch. Very solid inline blocker, which is something the Dolphins wanted and had with Fasano. Sims still can improve as an inline blocker and has had injury issues and maturity issues while at Michigan State.

{youtube}QyutgYUJsMQ{/youtube}

{youtube}u0oKsK8MCHQ{/youtube}

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{youtube}Ka9V1qvZYAQ{/youtube}

### ESPN INSIDER

### DRAFT ANALYSIS

What he brings: Sims has

excellent size, and while he isn't a blazer he is agile for his size and shows above-average body control and hands as a pass catcher. He does a nice job of being physical and using his frame to shield defenders to secure contested throws. He flashes a strong inline power base and can get into position to seal off defenders, but can work on playing with more consistent pad level as a blocker.

How he fits: The Dolphins lost Anthony Fasano in free agency; he was their only real pass-catching TE, but certainly not elite in that area. They replaced Fasano with veteran UFA Dustin Keller, who has virtually the same skill set. The backups are probably better blockers than receivers, although Charles Clay has a chance to give them something in the passing game if he can stay healthy. As this coaching staff tries to get the TE more involved in the pass offense, it really has a need for that matchup, pass-catching TE. Sims doesn't appear to be that guy, although he has a solid skill set.

### OVERALL FOOTBALL

TRAITS Production 3 2009: (13/0)-11-133-12.1-3 2010: Redshirt. \*See  
Character2011: (14/3)-12-99-8.2-3 2012: (12/10):36-475-13.2.-2 Height-Weight-Speed 2  
Prototypical height and length (33.1). Big frame and above-average bulk for the position. Massive hands (10.4). Top-end speed is slightly above-average and good considering size. Durability 4 Missed nearly three full games with an ankle injury in 2012. Played second half of the 2011 season with a broken hand. Intangibles 2 Has reportedly matured during time at Michigan State. However, suspended for the 2010 season for his role in a crime ring that stole more than 100 laptops from the Detroit Public Schools. Pleaded guilty in September of 2010 to receiving and concealing stolen property and was sentenced to one year of probation and 15 hours of community service. Reinstated in March of 2011.

### TIGHT END SPECIFIC TRAITS

Separation Skills 3 Average burst and doesn't show the ability to make crisp 90-degree cuts but fluid athlete for size. Shows some wiggle and savvy at the top of stem. Changes speeds and tempos breaks well. Throws upper body moves at safeties when attacking deep coverage. Excels at locating and settling into pockets in zone looks.

Ball Skills 2 Has some problems adjusting to passes thrown behind him but catches most everything thrown between pads. Appears to have big hands. They swallow the football on film. Can extend arms and snatch balls thrown above head out of the air. Former basketball player that knows how to use frame to box out and makes plays in traffic. Shows the ability to high point fade routes in the red zone. Big Play Ability 3 Doesn't have the vertical burst of elite receiving tight ends but long strider with enough speed to challenge downfield. A bigger threat after the catch than frame would suggest. Not going to run away from NFL pursuit but light on feet and flashes the ability to make the first defender miss. Catches the ball in stride. Can lower shoulder and pick up yards after contact.

Competitiveness 2 Not a mauler that wears defensive ends down with a relentless four-quarter effort but above average effort as a blocker. Tough receiver that doesn't shy away from contact and makes plays over the middle. Runs hard and fights for yards after contact. Turns into a defender and looks to make play after interception.

Blocking 2 Technique needs work. Can do a better job of sinking and changing directions in pass protection. However, can improve in those areas and already an above average blocker for the position. Quick enough to get into position and has he balance to sustain once locked on. Above average upper body strength and flashes a strong punch. Smooth climbing up to the second level and covering linebackers. Does an excellent job of cutting off backside and creating cutback lanes.

NFL.COM

OVERVIEW

Although Sims only played in two games as a senior and had just four catches for 86 yards (21.5 avg.) and one touchdown, people were well aware of his skills from the year prior. As a junior, Sims earned first-team all-state, first-team all-area and first-team All-Oakland County honors. He hauled in 29 passes for 604 yards (20.8 avg.) and three touchdowns. 11 of his 29 catches resulted in gains of 20 or more yards. He also showed off his athletic ability, as he also started at linebacker, where he recorded 39.5 tackles, with seven resulting in losses including 2.5 sacks.

Michigan State was eager to inject some new talent into their offense, and thus Sims saw the field immediately. He appeared in all 13 games, catching 11 passes for 133 yards and three touchdowns. Sims took a redshirt for the 2010 season, but came back in 2011 and saw action in all 14 games. Sims caught 12 passes for 99 yards and three touchdown receptions. He played the second half of the season with a broken hand. In his redshirt junior season, Sims caught 36 passes for 475 yards and two touchdowns.

## ANALYSIS

**STRENGTHS** Has a massive frame, which makes him an inviting targets for quarterbacks to throw to. Soft hands and who catches the ball off of his frame. Uses his size to shield defenders from making a play on the ball. Tough to tackle with the ball in his hands, falls forward. Gains speed in the open field. Understands positioning and shows nimble feet as a run blocker. Good foot quickness as a pass blocker.

## WEAKNESSES

Has trouble adjusting to difficult throws. Stiff in the hips, and not overly flexible. Slow to get off the line of scrimmage, takes time to get out of his stance. Not a mauling blocker like his size would indicate. Hands are often outside of the frame of the defender. Lunges at his blocking assignments. Will have his head down when blocking

## NFL COMPARISON

Scott Chandler

## BOTTOM LINE

Sims is an intriguing prospect mostly due to the open field speed that he possesses on a 6-foot-6, 285-pound frame. Sims is a good pass blocker, and has a soft pair of hands. However, he doesn't always use his size in the run game, and he struggles to bring in the difficult catch. He will likely be a mid-round selection.

## SPORTING NEWS (TSN)

## QUICK TAKE

(from NY Jets through

New Orleans) Sims is a big-bodied, athletic tight end with the upside to develop as a short-area, high-level pass catcher. His lack of route-running and blocking skills is what caused him to fall despite ideal NFL size.

## SCOUTING ANALYSIS

With ideal size, Sims' natural strength and bulk should allow him to be a plus blocker. However, he's a bit low off the line and overextends as a run blocker far too often. His hand and body positioning lacking development as a run blocker despite having ideal hand strength and four years' experience.

Sims struggles to drive through contact as a run blocker, lacking ideal leg drive and willingness to work downfield in running situations. On the edge, he struggles to meet and engage consistently, and he doesn't work to the edge very well to seal in run support. He flashes the ability to sink his hips in pass protection, and might be actually better suited early in his career as a No. 2 tight end.

As a pass catcher, he's a bit slow off the line and lacks the short area burst when he's not an in-line tight end. He's stiff at times when turning at the top of his route and doesn't open up quickly enough to position his body. He doesn't adjust his route to the defense and runs through linebackers instead of finding gaps in the defense well enough. He is a natural athlete in the open field and flashes in space with his ability to regain his balance.

Sims flashed the ability to work as a pass and run blocker, and an open-field runner after the catch. But his lack of polish as both a route runner and blocker is concerning and doesn't bode well for his development. With loads of upside, he's a worthwhile late-round project. &mdash;Eric Galko, Optimum Scouting

## SCOUT.COM

Sims caught only 49 passes during his Spartan career. He scored eight touchdowns. Sims was primarily a blocker and a pretty good one at that. This is a big bodied tight end that catches the ball very well. He has straight line speed but is stiff in his movement.

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