



2019 NFL DRAFT PREVIEW





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INTRODUCTION

The NFL Draft. Outside of the season itself, this is the most exciting time of the year for many football fans. Three days where fans become excited and optimistic about how their team has suddenly improved thanks to the players selected.

This year at the UK & Irish Packers HQ, we thought that we would try something different and create our own NFL Draft Preview, including our rankings by position. Everybody else seems to have a go, so why not us?

Our intention in producing this preview is to help inform all of the UK & Irish Packers followers as we head into one of the most exciting NFL Drafts for years, whilst in the process having some fun and most importantly; generating discussion.

We accept that the opinions in this preview are simply that and not everybody will agree with our views and conclusions and that's ok!

We look forward to hearing your feedback and in the meantime, we hope that our efforts will go a little way towards enriching your enjoyment of the 2019 NFL Draft.

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THE PACKERS DRAFT

DRAFT PHILOSOPHY

We are just over one year into Brian Gutekunst's tenure as the Packers GM. That being the case, it's too soon to be certain on many aspects of his philosophy regarding the way in which the Packers conduct the draft—but there are a few things we can be pretty sure of:

- The best player available will always come under extreme scrutiny with regard to him being the next Packers draft pick.
- That said, best player available doesn't always mean that player will be chosen—if there are equal "bests" or the best available is not at a position of immediate need then another direction may be appropriate.
- The Packers will place a high level of importance on selecting high character individuals.
- The Packers will place a high level of importance on a player's athletic profile. This was a philosophy followed by both Ron Wolf and Ted Thompson and one which Gutekunst followed with 2018 draft selections. The Packers will use RAS (Relative Athletic Score) and SPARQ (Speed, Power, Agility, Reaction, Quickness) scores to enable them to identify athletic ability in comparison to other players.
- In Gute's own words "The Packers will explore and look at all possibilities". We can assume that this includes trading down - just as they did in the first round in 2018— or trading up, as they also did in the first round in 2018.
- The Packers and Gute himself will be agile, open minded and flexible on draft day.
- The Packers will be patient - sometimes waiting to see how the draft progresses pick by pick is the appropriate thing to do, rather than jumping in with two feet. Sometimes you have to let the draft board come to you.
- Draft not just for immediate need, but also based upon multi-year strategy (e.g. who is out of contract when? Who is likely to retire and when?)
- And remember, the Players brought in for visits in the weeks leading up to the draft are not necessarily the ones that they draft e.g. Jaire Alexander in 2018.

THE PACKERS 2019 DRAFT OUTLOOK

The Packers head into the 2019 Draft in the unusual position of being able to select almost any position in the first round (with the #12 overall pick). Barring quarterback and running back, a case could be made for Green Bay selecting at any other position with that opening pick.

It's likely that there isn't a cornerback or safety who will be ranked highly enough to be taken at #12, so look for the Packers to possibly select any one of a TE (T.J. Hockenson or Noah Fant), OL (possibly Jonah Williams), DL (possibly Ed Oliver if he drops that far) or LB (either Devin White or Devin Bush). There is a curveball here - WR D.K. Metcalf tested off the board at the combine and the Packers love players with high athletic scores.

However, we have long been proponents that the most value for the Packers may be to trade down a few slots from #12 and pick up an extra second or third round pick. Don't be surprised to see the Packers sit and wait to see who will be interested in trading up to their spot - perhaps a team looking for a QB?

What the Packers do with their second first round pick (#30 overall) will likely depend upon what they did at #12. If they did trade down with their earlier pick, don't be surprised if they use the extra pick they obtained to trade up 5-10 places from #30 to the early 20's; particularly if there is a player that they are set on obtaining. Teams such as Seattle (who only have 4 picks in the whole draft) or Pittsburgh are possible suitors for the Packers.

If the Packers do move up to the early 20's - we would expect that would be because they have their eye on a specific player—perhaps somebody such as TE Noah Fant. But if the Packers stay at #30, it's possible that they select an OL (if they didn't take one at #12). Dalton Risner?

In round 2 (#44), the Packers could go in a number of directions. It's possible that this pick is OL (Chris Lindstrom or Erik McCoy) or S (Juan Thornhill or Darnell Savage Jr.). If not, don't be surprised if it's a WR that the Packers pick here (we like Deebo Samuel of South Carolina).

As we move down into the middle and later rounds, we can see a case for the Packers picking up a RB—either a pass-catching expert or a speed burner. Also, it's likely that across the whole of the draft that they stock up at every defensive position.

DRAFTING FOR THE FUTURE

Come draft time, it is easy to be blinkered by immediate need. Risking derision of some passionate fans, it is always wise to start filling needs well in advance, as the much-heralded policy of using free agency to fill gaps in the roster is expensive and risky.

With that in mind, let us look at what **notable players** are expected to hit free agency over the next few years.

Note: Not all of these players will make it to free agency. Some may be signed to a new contract in advance (i.e - Aaron Rodgers, Davante Adams), others traded and some even cut or lost to injury.

2020 Free Agents – Offense

RT Bryan Bulaga, WR Geronimo Allison, T Jason Spriggs, G Justin McCray, G Lucas Patrick

Bryan Bulaga has long been linked with an awkward talk in the GM's office regarding his future with the team. Every year, the media ply public facing Packers' personnel with questions about Bulaga and his durability. The thinking behind these questions seems to be that Bulaga cannot stay healthy and we need a presence on the line who adds more consistency where health is concerned. Bulaga is an outstanding player and unfortunately, durability has been the reason (or publicly stated reason) why we have seen some players ship out in the past from the line. The decision lies with the team and we need to ask ourselves if we deem health paramount to performance or if they are inextricably linked. His salary is also a factor in evaluating his place with the team. It would be great to have a similarly adept player at the position who could play 16 games a season or at the very least, a less expensive backup who could fill the gap in playing time. That said, it seems time is running out for Bulaga in Green Bay.

Allison is deemed the de facto no.2 receiver in a WR room short on experience but big in stature. His skillset and measurables stack up similarly, if not less impressively, than some of the young sophomore pass catchers set to take the field this coming season. His security of his roster spot lies on his health and how well MVS, ESB and any other receiver who stakes his claim plays this season.

DRAFTING FOR THE FUTURE (continued)

2020 Free Agents – Defense

ILB Blake Martinez, DT Kenny Clark (5th year option available - likely to be exercised),
DE Mike Daniels, DE Dean Lowry, OLB Kyler Fackrell

Not to do a disservice to other players who are also scheduled to hit free agency, we have selected the players currently in starter roles or high on the depth chart.

Of this group, Kenny Clark and Blake Martinez seem the only (almost) dead certs to make it through free agency still with the Packers, with Clark's 5th year option likely to be exercised.

Martinez, who has been criticized heavily in the media, has led the team in tackles the last 2 years running. He tied the NFL lead in 2017 with 144 tackles, coming in 2nd last year.

Mike Daniels, a fan favourite and one of the NFL's top ranked DE per PFF, could be a casualty come next year. We would love to see #76 back in Green and Gold but many analysts see the Packers adding defensive depth and point to Daniels lack of sacks coupled with his lofty price tag as a reason why he could be let walk in 2020. He has long called for a tougher defensive mind-set in Green Bay and would be a massive loss to the locker room with his no BS leadership style. The key to Daniels maintaining a spot on the roster is the Packers adding explosive playmakers at other positions. This would allow him to continue to be an exceptional disruptive presence on the line, opening opportunities for other players to get after the QB.

The fate of Dean Lowry and Montravius Adams depends on how the Packers' organisation sees Mike Daniels' future with the team. Keep an eye on how much playing time these two players see next year. Their level of production coupled with Daniels' play, health and market value will all factor into their future.

The jury is still out on Kyler Fackrell. A player who was widely reported to be struggling in camp each year had an outstanding showing in 2018 with 10.5 sacks. If Fackrell can prove his production wasn't Nick Perry-esque and can be replicated to the same degree next year, he could be in with a shout of securing a contract with the team. If not, we would expect the Packers to move on. Fackrell benefited from the lack of depth at OLB in 2018, getting an opportunity to shine (and shine he did). The Packers added Preston Smith and Za'Darius Smith in free agency this March so Fackrell will be competing with, and being complimented by, these two pass rushers.

DRAFTING FOR THE FUTURE (continued)

2020 Free Agents – Special Teams

K Mason Crosby

Mason Crosby is the all-time leading point scorer for Green Bay and will likely hold that record for many years to come. He is only one of two players left from that Super Bowl winning team and his place on the roster seems as certain as a 50+ yard kick in windy conditions.

The Packers have brought in K Sam Ficken in recent weeks and although most see this as healthy kicking completion, a la the nail-biting Crosby-Tavecchio battle of summers past, others see it as an indication that the Packers might trade Crosby's \$4.8M salary in 2019 for Ficken's \$495k.

2021 Free Agents – Offense

LT David Bakhtiari, RB Aaron Jones, RB Jamaal Williams, G Lane Taylor, C Corey Linsley, TE Jimmy Graham

David Bakhtiari isn't going anywhere. Expect him to benefit from the "extend him early, save on cash in the long run" philosophy in a league that proves if you just wait long enough, you will be the highest paid player at your position - sometimes based solely on salary cap increase, team financing and a savvy agent!

Bakhtiari is a player that will deserve the contract based on his play protecting the Packers' most valuable asset and an extra dollop of guaranteed cash for his razor sharp wit!

Lane Taylor and Corey Linsley have been very fine players for the Packers, inconsistent snap height aside! Their future on the team will rest on their continued performance coupled with how well the Packers bring in developmental backups and guide them without the nurturing tutelage of James Campen. The Packers have churned out some outstanding lineman as of late who have filled the hole left by Pro Bowl players but let's see if that policy stands with the loss of Campen and co.

Jimmy Graham's 2018 season was hailed a disappointment by many and whilst he'll be back in 2019, the time for the Packers to start the search for their tight end of the future is surely here.

DRAFTING FOR THE FUTURE (continued)

2021 Free Agents – Defense

DE Kenny Clark, DT Montravius Adams, S Josh Jones, CB Kevin King

Josh Jones becomes a free agent in 2021 and according to some, the Packers won't wait that long to make the decision on his fate. A safety who plays better close to the line than deep, Jones could benefit initially from a thin safety grouping. This lack of depth and increased potential for playing time will either prove to be a Fackrell-like success or Clinton-Dixon failure.

Kevin King has deterrent height. Some QBs, seeing his wingspan in a split second decision, opt to go elsewhere. More often than not though, the sight of King can be better witnessed nursing an injury on the bench than lining up opposite a wideout. Carrying injury and durability concerns from his college days, he has struggled to stay healthy and his pairing with Alexander hasn't been seen as often as we would have liked. If King continues to struggle with recurring concerns, the Packers will have no choice but to move on as their efforts to plug the gap with older veterans has been met with mixed success.

2021 Free Agents – Special Teams

None

Conclusion

Building a Super Bowl winning roster is difficult if you don't feature the name Bill Belichick on your passport and the Packers are in an excellent position this year to add some real talent in areas of need. How they build for the future will rest with these players making themselves indispensable and avoiding the pitfalls of injury, inconsistency and being outplayed by a younger, less expensive teammate!

PACKERS 2019 DRAFT PICKS

1. 1st Round, Pick 12 (#12 overall)

2. 1st Round, Pick 30 (#30 overall)

Pick obtained from the New Orleans Saints in a trade that sent the Packers' 2018 1st round pick to the Saints, in exchange for the Saints' 2018 1st and 5th round picks and the Saints' 2019 1st round pick

3. 2nd Round, Pick 12 (#44 overall)

4. 3rd Round, Pick 12 (#75 overall)

5. 4th Round, Pick 12 (#114 overall)

6. 4th Round, Pick 16 (#118 overall)

Pick obtained from the Washington Redskins in a trade that sent Ha Ha Clinton-Dix to Washington, in exchange for the Redskins' 2019 4th round pick

7. 5th Round, Pick 12 (#150 overall)

8. 6th Round, Pick 12 (#185 overall)

9. 6th Round, Pick 21 (#194 overall)

Pick obtained from the Seattle Seahawks in a trade that sent Brett Hundley to Seattle, in exchange for the Seahawks' 2019 6th round pick

10. 7th Round, Pick 12 (#226 overall)



**OUR BIG BOARD
THE TOP 150 PLAYERS
AVAILABLE**

OUR BIG BOARD - THE TOP 150 PLAYERS AVAILABLE

The following pages contain our list of the Top 150 players available, regardless of position. This isn't necessarily the order in which we think the players will be picked—in fact, we are certain it won't be.

Firstly of course, teams will have some of the players in a different order to how we see it .

Secondly, teams will focus in on certain positions as they look to fill needs—meaning that some players will go higher than they should, whereas others will drop down the board.

Nonetheless, we find that it very useful through the 3 days of the draft to have a big board so that you can keep notes and see at any given time who may be the best players still available.

To create our Top 150 players (and our Position-by-Position Rankings further on in this Preview), we ranked players on the following basis:

- Tape that we watched since the conclusion of the college football season, zeroing in on players on our draft watch list. This is probably the most important element.
- Our previous rankings, knowledge and notes of players based on previous tape we have watched.
- The combine / pro days - these tend not to change too much what our view already is, but may reinforce what we already know or indeed encourage us to go and re-visit tape.
- Confirmed injury reports or off-the-field concerns reports from teams and/or other reputable sources.
- Rankings of other draft analysts and draftniks don't in themselves change our rankings (we prefer what we see on tape). However, they may encourage us to go and re-visit tape where appropriate.
- We look at players both from a general point of view and from a Packers perspective

THE TOP 150 PLAYERS - Part 1

1. Nick Bosa, DE
2. Quinnen Williams, DT
3. Josh Allen, OLB
4. Devin White, ILB
5. Ed Oliver, DT
6. Kyler Murray, QB
7. Jawaan Taylor, OT
8. T.J. Hockenson, TE
9. Montez Sweat, DE (illness)
10. Jonah Williams, OT
11. Devin Bush, ILB
12. D.K. Metcalf, WR
13. Rashan Gary, DE/DT
14. Brian Burns, OLB
15. Christian Wilkins, DT
16. Dwayne Haskins, QB
17. Clelin Ferrell, DE
18. Andre Dillard, OT
19. Greedy Williams, CB
20. Byron Murphy, CB
21. Cody Ford, OT/OG
22. Noah Fant, TE
23. DeAndre Baker, CB
24. Drew Lock, QB
25. Jeffery Simmons, DT (injury)
26. Dexter Lawrence, DT
27. Marquise Brown, WR
28. Josh Jacobs, RB
29. Jerry Tillery, DT
30. Garrett Bradbury, OC
31. A.J. Brown, WR
32. N'Keal Harry, WR
33. Nasir Adderley, S
34. Dalton Risner, OT
35. Hakeem Butler, WR
36. Chris Lindstrom, OG
37. Chauncey Gardner-Johnson, S
38. Irv Smith Jr., TE
39. Juan Thornhill, S
40. Daniel Jones, QB
41. Johnathan Abram, S
42. Taylor Rapp, S
43. Greg Little, OT
44. Darnell Savage, S
45. Kelvin Harmon, WR
46. Rock Ya-Sin, CB
47. Deebo Samuel, WR
48. Jachai Polite, OLB
49. Dre'Mont Jones, DT
50. Chase Winovich, OLB

THE TOP 150 PLAYERS - Part 2

51. Erik McCoy, OC/OG
52. Amani Oruwariye, CB
53. Mack Wilson, ILB
54. Deionte Thompson, S
55. Zach Allen, OLB/DE
56. J.J. Arcega-Whiteside, WR
57. Julian Love, CB
58. Justin Layne, CB
59. Jaylon Ferguson, DE
60. Parris Campbell, WR
61. Trayvon Mullen, CB
62. David Montgomery, RB
63. Elgton Jenkins, OC
64. Charles Omenihu, DE
65. Riley Ridley, WR
66. Andy Isabella, WR
67. Yodny Cajuste, OT
68. Kaleb McGary, OT
69. Jace Sternberger, TE
70. Tytus Howard, OT
71. Devin Singletary, RB
72. Amani Hooker, S
73. Will Grier, QB
74. Damien Harris, RB
75. Miles Sanders, RB
76. Joejuan Williams, CB
77. Khalen Saunders, DT
78. Terry McLaurin, WR
79. Michael Deiter, OG/OC
80. Oshane Ximines, OLB/DE
81. Anthony Nelson, DT
82. Darrell Henderson, RB
83. D'Andre Walker, OLB
84. Dawson Knox, TE
85. David Edwards, OT
86. Lonnie Johnson, CB
87. Gerald Willis III, DT
88. Joe Jackson, OLB
89. Vosean Joseph, OLB
90. Renell Wren, DT
91. L.J. Collier, DE
92. Emanuel Hall, WR
93. Christian Miller, OLB
94. Jaquan Johnson, S
95. Isaiah Buggs, DT/DE
96. Justice Hill, RB
97. Nate Davis, OG
98. Kaden Smith, TE
99. Blake Cashman, OLB
100. Rodney Anderson, RB

THE TOP 150 PLAYERS AVAILABLE - Part 3

101. Te'von Coney, ILB
102. David Long, CB
103. Ben Banogu, OLB
104. Sean Bunting, CB
105. Connor McGovern, OC/OG
106. Germaine Pratt, ILB
107. Beau Benzschawel, OG
108. Mecole Hardman, WR
109. Josh Oliver, TE
110. Bobby Evans, OT
111. Chuma Edoga, OT
112. Ben Powers, OG
113. Terrill Hanks, OLB
114. Dru Samia, OG
115. Tyree Jackson, QB
116. Kris Boyd, CB
117. Trayveon Williams, RB
118. Antoine Wesley, WR
119. Ryan Finley, QB
120. Marquise Blair, S
121. Daniel Wise, DT
122. Benny Snell Jr., RB
123. Ross Pierschbacher, OC/OG
124. Foster Moreau, TE
125. Max Scharping, OT
126. Jamel Dean, CB
127. Kahale Warring, TE
128. Joe Giles-Harris, ILB
129. Daylon Mack, DT
130. Lamont Gaillard, OC
131. Brett Rypien, QB
132. Elijah Holyfield, RB
133. DaMarkus Lodge, WR
134. David Sills V, WR
135. Mike Edwards, S
136. Isaiah Johnson Jr., S
137. Anthony Johnson, WR
138. Jakobi Meyers, WR
139. Bobby Okereke, ILB
140. Jarrett Stidham, QB
141. Dillon Mitchell, WR
142. Jalen Jelks, DE
143. Sheldrick Redwine, S
144. Terry Beckner Jr., DT
145. Devine Ozigbo, RB
146. Tre Lamar, ILB
147. Michael Jordan, OG/OT
148. Maxx Crosby, DE
149. Bryce Love, RB
150. T.J. Edwards, ILB

POSTION BY POSITION PREVIEW

QUARTERBACK RANKINGS

1. Kyler Murray, Oklahoma
2. Dwayne Haskins, Ohio State
3. Drew Lock, Missouri
4. Daniel Jones, Duke
5. Will Grier, West Virginia
6. Tyree Jackson, Buffalo
7. Ryan Finley, North Carolina State
8. Brett Rypien, Boise State
9. Jarrett Stidham, Auburn
10. Gardner Minshew, Washington State
11. Jordan Ta'amu, Mississippi
12. Clayton Thorson, Northwestern
13. Easton Stick, North Dakota State
14. Trace McSorley, Penn State
15. Nick Fitzgerald, Mississippi State
16. Kyle Kempt, Iowa State
17. Malik Rosier, Miami (Fla)
18. David Blough, Purdue
19. Kyle Shurmur, Vanderbilt
20. Jake Browning, Washington

QUARTERBACK OUTLOOK - Part 1

It's possible that four QBs will be selected in the first round of this year's draft, but don't be fooled into thinking that this class is as strong at the position as last year's—it isn't.

Although he doesn't fit the typical physical prototype for an NFL QB, there's little doubt that **Kyler Murray** will be the first QB taken in this draft and almost certainly the very first player chosen overall. The Cardinals hold that overall no.1 pick and will likely exercise it on Murray, but don't completely rule out a trade with a team like the Raiders looking to move up and grab the exciting Oklahoma prospect (The Raiders currently possess three picks in the 1st round). Despite his lack of size, Murray has a great arm but also throws with touch. He has excellent movement and the ability to make big plays—can he project that ability from college to the pros?

Dwayne Haskins (Ohio State) and **Drew Lock** (Missouri) have long been looked upon as the numbers 2 and 3 prospects at QB in this draft and that will likely be born out as they both could be selected in the top 10-15 picks. Generally, Haskins has been ranked just above Lock, but it's quite possible that Lock could be chosen above Haskins. Haskins has a really strong arm and is an accurate passer from the pocket. Lock too has a great arm and can move enough in the pocket to escape the rush. He has the look of an NFL quarterback. Watch for any of the Giants, Broncos, Redskins and Dolphins to be possibilities to select a QB in the first round.

In addition to Murray, Haskins and Lock it's possible that **Daniel Jones** (Duke) also sneaks into the first round. He has played in an offense which primarily required him to throw short and intermediate passes and therefore is a better fit for a team that doesn't require him to throw it down the field too often. Perhaps the Los Angeles Chargers looking for their QB of the future? Jones is tall and is a decent athlete for his size and has shown a propensity to play through injuries.

West Virginia's **Will Grier** looks like a certainty to be selected on Day 2. He has a good, but not great, arm and is very accurate—an excellent passer from the pocket. He has a tendency to gamble however and whilst exciting, he may need to tone this down in the pros. Seems to play

QUARTERBACK OUTLOOK - Part 2

Buffalo's **Tyree Jackson** has the kind of arm that every NFL team is looking for. He can sling the football at will and has the size to go with it (6-7, 250). He is not a particularly accurate thrower (55.8% career completion rate), which doesn't bode well for the pros. With his physical traits, we expect that a team will take a shot at him as a developmental project somewhere in the middle rounds.

Ryan Finley (North Carolina State) doesn't quite have the arm strength you ideally want in an NFL passer but he's an accurate pocket passer and could flourish in the right system with the right tools. He'll likely get picked in the middle rounds. He looks to us like one of those guys that ends up having a solid NFL career mainly in a back-up role.

Brett Rypien (Boise State) has a decent but not great arm. He's a very accurate thrower with plenty of experience (4 year starter). He is excellent at going through his progressions and finding the open receiver. Tough and will stay in the pocket in order to find the right receiver. He'll be a middle round pick. Brett is the nephew of former Washington Redskins QB Mark Rypien.

Auburn's **Jarrett Stidham** was one of the top ranked QBs entering 2018, but he had a very disappointing year last year which saw him slip down draft boards. He'll likely be a middle round draft pick. Looks decent in most aspects of the passing game—arm strength, accuracy, movement, footwork and passing motion—without being outstanding in any one.

Gardner Minshew (Washington State) has an average arm but makes quick decisions and has a quick release that makes up for some of the arm strength deficiency. Is accurate and throws with touch. Will probably be a mid to late round draft pick.

As we move down the draft board, we have a liking for late round prospect **Easton Stick** of North Dakota State (which boasts Carson Wentz as one of its alumni). Playing at a small-school level, Stick played championship level football throughout his career. As well as a being an excellent passer he's also very mobile and will challenge teams with his feet. Don't be surprised to see a team take him—could it be the Packers?

RUNNING BACK RANKINGS

1. Josh Jacobs, Alabama
2. David Montgomery, Iowa State
3. Devin Singletary, Florida Atlantic
4. Damien Harris, Alabama
5. Miles Sanders, Penn State
6. Darrell Henderson, Memphis
7. Justice Hill, Oklahoma State
8. Rodney Anderson, Oklahoma
9. Trayveon Williams, Texas A&M
10. Benny Snell Jr., Kentucky
11. Elijah Holyfield, Georgia
12. Devine Ozigbo, Nebraska
13. Bryce Love, Stanford
14. Myles Gaskin, Washington
15. James Williams, Washington State
16. Mike Weber, Ohio State
17. Karan Higdon, Michigan
18. Dexter Williams, Notre Dame
19. Ryquell Armstead, Temple
20. Jordan Scarlett, Florida

RUNNING BACK OUTLOOK - Part 1

The top of the 2019 NFL Draft doesn't feature the strongest RB class we've seen in recent years and there'll probably be just one RB selected in the first one and a half rounds (Alabama's **Josh Jacobs**) but then it peaks between the second and fifth round.

Jacobs is a strong, physical runner who will make defenders miss with his moves. He'll be an immediate starter and carry the load for the team that picks him. Jacobs is equally adept between the tackles and getting to the outside and will pick up decent yardage catching the ball coming out of the backfield. If there's one thing he lacks; it's breakaway speed and that's likely why he will have to wait until mid-late first round to hear his name called.

Iowa State's **David Montgomery** is a dual threat running and receiving. He will split out wide and challenge safeties to cover him. Montgomery may be the pick in the second or third round if you are looking for that feature back who is also a huge pass receiving threat. Beware—he had a big workload in college, let's hope that hasn't shortened his NFL shelf-life.

Close behind Montgomery is **Devin Singletary** (Florida Atlantic) who lacks breakaway speed but is a shifty runner who makes defenders miss. His athletic numbers are little better than average (for example, 4.67 in the 40) and this will undoubtedly impact his draft status. As will his lack of proven pass catching ability. We think he'll get selected in the middle rounds, depending on how team' evaluate his questionable athletic ability.

Close behind Montgomery is Jacobs' college teammate **Damien Harris**. Harris is in fact not dissimilar to Jacobs (although Harris is better between the tackles than he is outside) in style and indeed had the greater college production of the two. On film though, Harris doesn't seem to quite have the moves or tackle breaking ability that Jacobs has. That doesn't make him a bad prospect though—he'll likely be a late second round pick.

Likely to get selected in the mid rounds is Penn State's **Miles Sanders**. He is a superb athlete, excellent all-round runner and can catch coming out of the backfield. Sanders was underutilized at Penn State as he spent much of his career (prior to 2018) sitting behind Saquon Barkley.

RUNNING BACK OUTLOOK - Part 2

Darrell Henderson (Memphis) is small (5-8) to be a full time NFL starter but has the skills, and experience to be a productive change of pace back. He's an explosive runner who is a constant threat to any defense. That explosiveness sometimes counts against him as he needs to let plays and blocks have time to develop. Is an excellent pass receiver and will turn short dump off passes into big gains. Didn't face the strongest of defenses in college, so that will be a concern. Likely a middle round pick, but don't be surprised if there's a team that takes him higher than that.

Justice Hill (Oklahoma) is a slashing, cutting type of runner with great speed who makes defenders miss. Is shifty, with good acceleration and is a decent receiver coming out of the backfield. Was the fastest of all running backs at the combine (4.40 in the 40). Probably a mid round draft pick.

Rodney Anderson (Oklahoma) saw his 2018 season curtailed due to an ACL injury that saw him miss nearly all of the year. He was potentially a second round pick before the injury but will now likely get taken somewhere from the third to fifth rounds. When 100%, Anderson is a silky smooth runner who has power and strength. Somebody could get a bargain with him.

Trayveon Williams (Texas A&M) has speed and the ability to accelerate through the hole. He is a productive runner and has a nose for the end zone. Also a decent receiver. Small in stature (5-9) and doesn't break many tackles—this will see him fall to the middle rounds.

Benny Snell Jr. (Kentucky) is a powerful, tough runner who lacks the speed to be go high in the draft. Teams will like his ability to grind out the tough yards, but that lack of speed will hold him back. Is very good in short yardage. Likely a mid round draft pick.

The joker in the pack could be Stanford's **Bryce Love**. Love is an outstanding athlete with the burst to be a threat to score from anywhere on the field. Unfortunately, his senior season was not as productive as his junior year and he undoubtedly would have been a higher draft pick had he come out a year ago. Adding to his woes, Love suffered an ACL tear late in the year and had to undergo surgery. He'll likely get selected in the mid to late rounds but could turn out to be a steal if he can recapture his 2017 form.

FULLBACK RANKINGS

1. Alec Ingold, Wisconsin
2. Andrew Beck (TE/FB)
3. Trevon Wesco (TE/FB), West Virginia
4. Winston Dimel, UTEP
5. George Aston, Pittsburgh
6. Chandler Cox, Auburn
7. Johnathan Vickers, Florida State
8. Bry'Kiethon Mouton, Nicholls State
9. Cullen Gillaspia, Texas A&M
10. John Lovett, Princeton

FULLBACK OUTLOOK

Playing fullback appears to be a dying art in today's pass-happy NFL. The Packers themselves are a great example of this as they went into the 2018 season without a single fullback on the roster (although they did add Danny Vitale to the active roster later in the year).

On that basis, we don't expect many fullbacks to be drafted this year and those that do get selected are likely to come off the board in the later rounds.

Of the few prospects at the position, Wisconsin's **Alec Ingold** is probably the best. He is a good blocker with decent receiving skills and has the ability to pick up the first down in short yardage situations—although in all honesty he didn't get his hands on the football very much in the Badgers' offense. Ingold will probably be a late round draft pick and we expect that he will end up sticking on an NFL roster.

Just behind Ingold are three players who were predominantly tight ends in college but look like their best chance at making it in the NFL is at fullback.

Firstly, there's Texas' multi-purpose **Andrew Beck**. At around 255 pounds, Beck is a man mountain when lined up in the backfield or as an H-back. He demonstrates good receiving ability, particularly when lined up at the tight end spot. He is a good special teams player which will increase his chances of sticking on an NFL roster. He may get drafted late but will most likely wind up being an undrafted free agent.

Next up is hybrid **Trevon Wesco** of West Virginia. Wesco is a big man, who is a decent receiver, and is improving all the time. He has a shot at an NFL roster as a late round pick or free agent.

Nicholls State **Bry'Kiethon Mouton** is a player in a very similar mold to both Beck and Wesco. He's a long shot to make it in the pros but will compete for one of the last roster spots on a team somewhere. Likely to catch on as a practice squad guy.

Further down the board, Princeton's **John Lovett** is an intriguing prospect. Lovett is a do-it-all player who can line-up in the backfield, as a QB, go in motion as an H-back and be a special teams demon.

WIDE RECEIVER RANKINGS

1. D.K. Metcalf, Mississippi
2. Marquise Brown, Oklahoma
3. A.J. Brown, Mississippi
4. N'Keal Harry, Arizona State
5. Hakeem Butler, Iowa State
6. Kelvin Harmon, North Carolina State
7. Deebo Samuel, South Carolina
8. J.J. Arcega-Whiteside, Stanford
9. Parris Campbell, Ohio State
10. Riley Ridley, Georgia
11. Andy Isabella, Massachusetts
12. Terry McLaurin, Ohio State
13. Emanuel Hall, Missouri
14. Mecole Hardman, Georgia
15. Antoine Wesley, Texas Tech
16. DaMarkus Lodge, Mississippi
16. David Sills V, West Virginia
18. Anthony Johnson, Buffalo
19. Jakobi Meyers, North Carolina State
20. Dillon Mitchell, Oregon

WIDE RECEIVER OUTLOOK—PART 1

There's a great variance in the opinion of draftniks as to how many wide receivers will be taken in the first round—anywhere from 1 to 5. Even the identities of most of the potential first round picks change depending upon who you talk to or which pundit's article you read.

Most do agree however, that **D.K. Metcalf** (Mississippi) will likely be the first wide receiver off the board, somewhere in the top half of the first round—some see him as a top 10 pick. Metcalf has height and a huge body for a wide receiver. At the combine he tested like a physical and athletic freak. Has excellent hands and uses his physicality to get open.

Marquise Brown is different to most of the other top wide receivers entering this draft. Brown is small, super explosive and is a home run threat every play he is on the field. That threat will get him selected in the first or second rounds, although his lack of size is a concern—he weighs only around 160 pounds.

Like his namesake, **A.J. Brown** (Mississippi) could go late in the first round or early in the second. Brown has great hands with the ability to come down with the football in a crowd. He doesn't have blazing speed but he's an excellent route-runner and knows how to get open. Often played in the slot in college.

Another who could be a late first rounder, but more likely a second rounder is Arizona State's **N'Keal Harry**. Harry is a physical threat with surprisingly better speed than it appears on tape. Is excellent at winning the physical battle for the football and is shifty after the catch, making defenders miss.

Like both Browns and Harry, **Hakeem Butler** (Iowa State) is yet another receiver who could sneak into the bottom end of the first round but is more likely to go in the second. Butler is extremely tall for a wideout (6-6) and therefore brings a different type of challenge.

Kelvin Harmon (North Carolina State) has great size and strength. He's also a very good route runner and has very good hands. Won't separate through acceleration and speed which is not great. Likely to be a second round pick.

WIDE RECEIVER OUTLOOK—PART 2

South Carolina's **Deebo Samuel** is a probable second round pick. Samuel has good hands and the innate ability to get open even from the tightest of coverages, using his toughness and physicality. He is also a great runner after the catch—is excellent catching short to intermediate passes and turning them into big gainers. Samuel also has a great nose for the end zone. **Could he be the slot guy that the Packers need?** We certainly see him as an excellent fit for Green Bay.

J.J. Arcega-Whiteside (Stanford) is another likely second round draft pick who can beat defenses deep. He is also outstanding in the red zone and knows how to get open in the end zone. Arcega-Whiteside is a great athlete with ideal physical measurements. Needs to learn to use that physique to be able separate from NFL defenders.

Parris Campbell (Ohio State) tested well at the combine—in particular showing speed that wasn't always demonstrated on his game tape. Campbell is excellent after the catch, making defenders miss. Has improved catching the football—needs to continue to work on his skill in this area. Probably a second round pick.

Georgia's **Riley Ridley** is an excellent route runner with good hands. Lacks the out and out speed of some of the other receivers in this draft but knows how to get open. His brother, Calvin, was a first round pick in last year's draft - we don't think Riley will go quite as high as that, but he'll be off the board in the second or third round.

Andy Isabella is one of those intriguing prospects who divides opinion. Not because he won't play at the next level—he will—but because some believe he is a first round talent whilst others place him the region of the third round. What makes Isabella difficult to place is that, playing at Massachusetts, most of his gameday work has been done against lesser opposition and therefore projecting his skills to the higher level is even more difficult to do than usual.

Like Isabella, Ohio State's **Terry McLaurin** splits the views of draftniks. Many, like us, see him as a probable third round pick, but there are some who think he'll go as high as the first. He certainly has potential and his stock improved at the combine but has work to do on catching the football and on separation technique.

TIGHT END RANKINGS

1. T.J. Hockenson, Iowa
2. Noah Fant, Iowa
3. Irv Smith Jr., Alabama
4. Jace Sternberger, Texas A&M
5. Dawson Knox, Mississippi
6. Kaden Smith, Stanford
7. Josh Oliver, San Jose State
8. Foster Moreau, LSU
9. Kahale Warring, San Diego State
10. Dax Raymond, Utah State
11. Isaac Nauta, Georgia
12. Caleb Wilson, UCLA
13. Drew Sample, Washington
14. Alize Mack, Notre Dame
15. Tommy Sweeney, Boston College
16. Zach Gentry, Michigan
17. Donald Parham, Stetson
18. C.J. Conrad, Kentucky
19. Kendall Blanton, Missouri
20. Keenen Brown, Texas State

TIGHT END OUTLOOK - Part 1

Two tight ends from Iowa will be taken in the first round of this year's draft— in fact, both **T.J. Hockenson** and **Noah Fant** could easily be selected in the Top 20. Hock will likely go first of the two, but it just depends upon what teams are looking for.

Hockenson is probably the more complete, all-round player of the two right now. He's a physical in-line blocker who is a good athlete and an excellent receiver in the short to intermediate range. His physicality also shows up in the passing game, as he has a great ability to break tackles. Hockenson also has some of the best hands that we've seen for a TE coming out of college for a number of years. He'll likely go in the top 15 overall and quite possibly as high as the top 10.

At this moment, Fant is not quite the blocker that Hockenson is. However, he is the better all-round athlete of the two and it's just possible that his future upside is bigger. Fant will stretch the field as a receiver and will give strongside linebackers and strong safeties fits in the passing game. They simply won't be able to cover him on deep routes. He demonstrated that speed at the combine, where he was the fastest tight end (4.50 in the 40). Fant will go somewhere in the first round - and that could be anywhere after the top 10 picks, depending on how highly teams rate his potential.

Irv Smith Jr. (Alabama) is a very good receiver who, like Fant, is able to stretch defenses deep. He's also a player that you can split out wide to create size mismatches with smaller defensive backs. At this stage, he's not the blocker that either Hockenson or Fant is - not quite having their physical attributes (he's about 6-4, 240). Could do with bulking up a little and adding more of a physical presence to his game (ideally without losing any of his speed). Smith will go in the second round and could also possibly sneak into the bottom of the first.

Jace Sternberger (Texas A&M) is an excellent receiver who will stretch the field. He can be lined up anywhere as a receiver and like Smith; will create coverage mismatches. Not much of a blocker right now, although this can be developed. Sternberger will likely be a third or fourth round pick.

TIGHT END OUTLOOK - Part 2

Similar to Sternberger is **Dawson Knox** (Mississippi). He has good speed and the ability to stretch the field (averaging nearly 19 yards per catch in 2018). Needs work as a blocker. Knox is steadily improving and will be a project for an NFL team. He'll be a mid round draft pick.

Kaden Smith (Stanford) has the size (6-5, 255) and strength that pro teams are looking for in an NFL tight end. Is a good all-round player without excelling in a single area. Smith has decent hands, runs good routes and can separate. Likely to be a mid round draft pick.

Like Smith, **Josh Oliver** (San Jose State) has good size (6-5, 250) and athletic ability. Has excellent hands and runs good routes in the short to intermediate areas. Teams will love his hard work, attitude and potential. Will be selected somewhere in the middle rounds.

Foster Moreau (LSU) is a mid to late round prospect. Moreau is one of the better blocking tight ends in this draft and certainly more effective in that phase of the game than he is as a receiver. Has a chance to stick on an NFL roster.

The player amongst this group who is not getting a lot of attention, but may be the one to watch in the later rounds, is **Kahale Warring** (San Diego State). Warring wasn't used as much in college as most of the tight ends on our ranking list but is a better prospect than many suspect. He'll be a late round draft pick but could be a steal.

Dax Raymond (Utah State) has decent speed and is a good athlete. Was productive in college, although more so in 2017 than 2018. Raymond has good but not great speed but needs to work on his hands and blocking. Will be a late round draft pick.

Isaac Nauta (Georgia) lacks the ideal size for a pro tight end, which means he may physically struggle particularly in the run blocking game. On the plus side, he knows how to get open and has good hands. Will probably be a late round draft pick.

Caleb Wilson (UCLA) improved his draft stock with an excellent combine, displaying athletic ability and speed. Needs to bulk up physically and improve his blocking. Was a highly productive college player in the passing game with good hands. We think that Wilson is a probable late round draft pick, although some draftniks have him going a bit earlier than that.

INTERIOR OFFENSIVE LINEMEN RANKINGS

1. Garrett Bradbury, North Carolina State
2. Chris Lindstrom, Boston College
3. Erik McCoy, Texas A&M
4. Elgton Jenkins, Mississippi State
5. Michael Deiter, Wisconsin
6. Nate Davis, Charlotte
7. Connor McGovern, Penn State
8. Ben Benzschawel, Wisconsin
9. Ben Powers, Oklahoma
10. Dru Samia, Oklahoma
11. Ross Pierschbacher, Alabama
12. Lamont Gaillard, Georgia
13. Michael Jordan, Ohio State
14. Nate Herbig, Stanford
15. Ryan Bates, Penn State
16. Alex Bars, Notre Dame
17. Terrone Prescod, North Carolina State
18. Bunchy Stallings, Kentucky
19. Hjalte Froholdt, Arkansas
20. Garrett Brumfield, LSU

INTERIOR OFFENSIVE LINEMEN OUTLOOK - Part 1

Note: There are a number of players who could project to either guard or tackle in the NFL. The most notable are Jonah Williams, Cody Ford and Dalton Risner. We have included these three players in our Offensive Tackles Rankings and Outlook.

The top 3 pure interior offensive linemen on the board are remarkably close and they easily could be on our board in any order. All of **Garrett Bradbury**, **Chris Lindstrom** and **Erik McCoy** will go in the first two rounds of the draft and it will only be their fit to the specific needs of a team that will determine in which order they are taken.

Bradbury (North Carolina) is an excellent athlete and great technician at center. He can also play guard should it be required. He sometimes struggles when asked to block a super powerful nose tackle but the overall package is very good. He can often be seen on film getting to the second level and blocking linebackers.

Lindstrom (Boston College) is probably this draft's best all-round guard. He has great feet and the ability to move and whilst he's not physically dominant at the level of a Quenton Nelson, who is? Don't let that put you off Lindstrom—he's strong and physical enough, is athletic and will be an immediate starter at guard in the NFL. He also has some experience playing tackle and can cover that position as a back-up as well.

McCoy (Texas A&M) is a 3 year starter at center, bringing vast experience earned at a high level to whichever team drafts him in round 1 or 2. He's physical and tough but with enough athletic ability to get to the second level in the running game.

Elgton Jenkins (Mississippi State) heads up the next group of players. He looks like the next best center after Bradbury and McCoy. He is strong, physical and excellent as a run blocker.

Wisconsin's **Michael Deiter** brings a versatility that should guarantee him at least a back-up job in the NFL (he has significant starting experience at all of center, guard and tackle). For a Badgers' lineman, he's a good pass protector. Probably a third or fourth round pick.

INTERIOR OFFENSIVE LINEMEN OUTLOOK -

Part 2

Playing at a small school, Charlotte, the tape available on **Nate Davis** wasn't as vast as it was on some other players, but he looked like a good prospect on what we could see. Played both tackle and guard in college but definitely looks more like a guard in the pros (possibly right tackle in a pinch). Is a really fine run blocker who needs work on his pass protection. Likely around a third round draft pick. We really like this a guy as an under the radar pick.

Connor McGovern (Penn State) started at both guard and center in college—and as always, this versatility will help him when it comes to earning an NFL roster spot. Is a fine run blocker who could do with a little work on his technique in pass protection. We see him as a third or fourth round pick.

Beau Benzschawel (Wisconsin) is a strong, physical and powerful guard who is a good run blocker. Also started at OT for the Badgers, so this helps his NFL potential. Needs to work on pass protection and technique to be a success at the next level. Probably a middle round pick.

Next up are two linemen from Oklahoma. **Ben Powers** is an experienced player at guard (having started for 3 seasons) who is a good run blocker. He is also decent pass protector. Powers has prototypical guard size. Is an ok athlete but may struggle in the pros against the speed rushers. Will probably get selected somewhere in the middle rounds.

Powers' teammate **Dru Samia** played both tackle and guard in college but projects to guard in the pros. This versatility will help him earn an NFL roster spot. Samia has excellent technique, particularly in the running game. Could do with adding a few pounds (he's slightly under 300). Like his teammate, he'll probably get picked in the middle rounds.

Ross Pierschbacher played both OC and OG at Alabama. Started throughout his college career so comes with a lot of experience. Not overly powerful. Likely a mid to late round pick.

The late round sleeper on the interior offensive line board is **Ryan Bates** (Penn State) - he played mainly as an OT in college but we see him playing inside in the pros. Look for a team to use a late round pick on him as an intriguing prospect.

OFFENSIVE TACKLE RANKINGS

1. Jawaan Taylor, Florida
2. Jonah Williams, Alabama
3. Andre Dillard, Washington State
4. Cody Ford, Oklahoma
5. Dalton Risner, Kansas State
6. Greg Little, Mississippi
7. Yodny Cajuste, West Virginia
8. Kaleb McGary, Washington
9. Tytus Howard, Alabama State
10. David Edwards, Wisconsin
11. Bobby Evans, Oklahoma
12. Chuma Edoga, USC
13. Max Scharping, Northern Illinois
14. Martez Ivey, Florida
15. Dennis Daley, South Carolina
16. Isaiah Prince, Ohio State
17. Olisaemeka Udoh, Elon
18. Mitch Hyatt, Clemson
19. Tyler Jones, North Carolina State
20. Trey Pipkins, Sioux Falls

OFFENSIVE TACKLE OUTLOOK - Part 1

Florida's **Jawaan Taylor** will likely be the first tackle off the board - probably as high as the top 10 overall. Taylor has all of the physical attributes of an NFL right tackle and brings with it the technique, physical toughness and attitude to be a very fine long time NFL starter at the position. Loves to dominate the edge man opposite him especially in the running game. **Question:** From a position value point of view, is the top 10 too high for a right tackle to get taken?

We expect that **Jonah Williams** of Alabama will be the second tackle selected - somewhere in the top half of the first round. Williams is especially skilled in run blocking, using his size and strength to open holes. A left tackle in college, it's quite possible that Williams will project to guard in the NFL (many analysts have him there) as his physical attributes (e.g. arm length) are perhaps more suited to him playing inside. However, his run blocking skills mean that he may also have a shot at playing right tackle in the NFL. It will be interesting to see how pro teams see him—he's likely to drop down the draft board if they project him to guard rather than tackle.

Andre Dillard (Washington State) will probably be selected in the mid to late first round. Dillard is a good athlete, with surprisingly nimble feet who is an excellent pass blocker which makes him ideal to be a pro left tackle prospect. Not a dominating blocker in the running game.

Like Dillard, **Cody Ford** (Oklahoma) is likely a mid to late first round pick. And like Jonah Williams, it's possible that Ford projects inside to guard in the NFL—his ability to play both positions helps his draft stock. Ford is a tough and physical blocker in the running game where he excels. Could probably work on his pass protection.

Dalton Risner (Kansas State) is a solid, tough and physical tackle who looks like a 10-year starter on the right side for an NFL team. Great run blocker whose pass blocking is improving. Also brings the potential to move inside to cover at guard or even center where he played earlier in his career. Should be a late first or early second round pick. **A possibility for the Packers at #30?**

OFFENSIVE TACKLE OUTLOOK - Part 2

Greg Little (Mississippi) will be a second or third round pick, but mainly on potential. He has great size and athletic ability which hasn't yet been consistently matched by his output on the field. If Little can develop he'll be an excellent pick up for a team that has the time to wait.

Yodny Cajuste (West Virginia) has ideal NFL size for a tackle and is an excellent run blocker. His run blocking skills project him to right tackle in the NFL. Like Little, he'll be a second or third round pick.

At 6-7 **Kaleb McGary** (Washington) has the height that scouts look for in an NFL tackle and he's physical and has the mean streak that you want. But he needs work on his technique particularly as a pass blocker. More of right than left tackle type. Looks like a third or fourth round pick.

Playing at a small school (Alabama State), **Tytus Howard** was an outstanding tackle - very good against edge pass rushers whilst standing up well against the run. Likely a third round draft pick, with teams wondering whether he can bring his performance at the lower level to the NFL. Probably needs some time to develop but looks like he has the potential to be a starter at right tackle in the NFL.

David Edwards (Wisconsin) does everything relatively well without being outstanding in any one thing. Probably a better run blocker than pass protector (as you would normally expect from a Badgers' lineman), but still solid pass blocking edge defenders. Looks like a solid back-up type in the NFL. Likely a middle round pick.

Oklahoma's **Bobby Evans** was a good pass blocker in college but whether he'll stand up to speed rushers in the NFL is another question. Will be a mid round draft pick.

For a long time, we've been shouting about how great a sleeper prospect **Max Scharping** of Northern Illinois is. He's no longer under the radar, but somebody is still going to get a player with a tremendous upside in the middle rounds.

EDGE DEFENDERS (DE/OLB) RANKINGS

1. Nick Bosa, Ohio State
2. Josh Allen, Kentucky
3. Montez Sweat, Mississippi State (illness concern)
4. Rashan Gary, Michigan
5. Brian Burns, Florida State
6. Clelin Ferrell, Clemson
7. Jachai Polite, Florida
8. Chase Winovich, Michigan
9. Zach Allen, Boston College
10. Jaylon Ferguson, Louisiana Tech
11. Charles Omenihu, Texas
12. Oshane Ximines, Old Dominion
13. D'Andre Walker, Georgia
14. Joe Jackson, Miami (Fla)
15. Vosean Joseph, Florida
16. L.J. Collier, TCU
17. Christian Miller, Alabama
18. Blake Cashman, Minnesota
19. Ben Banogu, TCU
20. Terrill Hanks, New Mexico State

EDGE DEFENDERS (DE/OLB) OUTLOOK—Part 1

In today's NFL it's becoming increasingly difficult to differentiate between a 4-3 defensive end and a 3-4 outside linebacker—particularly where that OLB spends nearly all of his time rushing the passer. We therefore opted to group these positions together as “Edge Defenders”. At the top, this is one of the strongest groups of such edge players coming out of college in many years and it is probably the strongest single first round positional group in this draft.

Ohio State's **Nick Bosa** is probably the best immediate plug and play player in the entire draft. He is strong against the run and is a good pass rusher off the edge and from the inside, bringing an explosive first step to the table. Bosa also has the ability to beat offensive linemen with his moves. He is a play disrupter and should get taken in the top 3 overall picks.

Josh Allen (Kentucky) is smaller than Bosa and not the defender against the run that Bosa is. But Allen has a tremendous burst, bend round the corner and technique which makes him a dominant pass rusher—probably the top out-and-out pass rusher in this draft. He'll get selected in the top 5 picks overall.

Mississippi State's **Montez Sweat** blew pundits away with his incredible performance at the combine. He was already high on many draft boards but he showcased athletic ability over and above expectations. Good both against the run and in rushing the passer, expect Sweat to get picked in the top 10 overall. There is a “but” with Sweat—he suffers from what is reported as a minor heart condition, this could impact his draft position with a number of teams.

Rashan Gary (Michigan) divides opinion. Gary is an outstanding athlete who has a huge upside but his on-field production isn't quite as high as the athletic ability would have you believe it should be. However, he was often double teamed in college, allowing teammates to make the play. Gary projects as either a 4-3 end or possibly a 4-3 tackle in the pros. Expect him to be selected somewhere in the middle of the first round—possibly higher.

In the eyes of some, Florida State's **Brian Burns** is every bit the pro prospect that Josh Allen is. Certainly, Burns is an excellent pass rusher and will likely get taken somewhere around the middle of the first round. The downside for Burns is that he is small for his frame and needs to bulk up (without losing his speed) to be able to play more physically against the run.

EDGE DEFENDERS (DE/OLB) OUTLOOK—Part 2

Clelin Ferrell (Clemson) has looked like a potential NFL starter since high school. He is an all-round player who could be a terror in all phases. He has a great first step which puts him on the front foot (literally) against most offensive linemen. The biggest question mark is probably his closing speed to the ball carrier but he has an all-out motor and will make plays with his second effort. Ferrell will be picked in the first round.

Jachai Polite (Florida) has slipped from a surefire first round pick to possibly a third or fourth rounder. Indeed, it's not beyond the realms of possibility that some teams have taken him off their boards altogether. Polite's performance at both the combine and pro day (both physically and mentally) has raised serious concerns about his ability to project to the pros. But when he is on his game, as the tape shows, he can be a dominant pass rusher. If he slips to late in day 2 or even into day 3 of this draft then somebody could get an absolute steal.

Some have **Chase Winovich** (Michigan) sneaking into the lower end of the first round, but we think he's more of a second or third round talent. Winovich is an all-action and motor never stops type of guy who often makes plays with his second effort. He gets after the passer with regularity but is average against the run.

Zach Allen (Boston College) will likely be a second or third round pick. Allen is an all-out hustle player who is excellent against the run and has some pass rushing ability.

Louisiana Tech's **Jaylon Ferguson** is a probable second round pick. He is an outstanding pass rusher, with a great burst and he also stands up pretty well against the run. Very athletic but needs to work on some of his skills and could yet grow further into his 6-5 frame.

DE **L.J. Collier** (TCU) is a solid all-round player who has the potential to grow and develop into a fine NFL starter. He'll probably get selected anywhere from the second to fourth rounds.

Alabama's **Christian Miller** didn't see as much playing time as you'd like out of a potential NFL prospect. But he has a chance and is probably a mid-late round pick.

The sleeper late in the group is **Ben Banogu** (TCU). Banogu is an excellent pass rusher from the OLB spot with great burst. Probably a late round pick but he has a chance.

INTERIOR DEFENSIVE LINEMEN RANKINGS

1. Quinnen Williams, Alabama
2. Ed Oliver, Houston
3. Christian Wilkins, Clemson
4. Jeffery Simmons, Mississippi State (injury concern)
5. Dexter Lawrence, Clemson
6. Jerry Tillery, Notre Dame
7. Dre'Mont Jones, Ohio State
8. Khalen Saunders, Western Illinois
9. Anthony Nelson, Iowa
10. Gerald Willis III, Miami (Fla)
11. Renell Wren, Arizona State
12. Isaiah Buggs, Alabama
13. Daniel Wise, Kansas
14. Daylon Mack, Texas A&M
15. Terry Beckner Jr., Missouri
16. Demarcus Christmas, Florida State
17. Trysten Hill, Central Florida
18. Kingsley Keke, Texas A&M
19. Greg Gaines, Washington
20. Chris Slayton, Syracuse

INTERIOR DEFENSIVE LINE OUTLOOK - Part 1

Like the edge defenders positional group, the interior defensive linemen are also a very talented group at the top of the board. We can expect two players from this group to be selected in the top 10 overall— **Quinnen Williams** and **Ed Oliver**. It's also very possible that as many as six players from this group will be taken in the first round.

Williams (Alabama) may be as good as any player in the entire draft and will come in start immediately for the team that selects him. He is physical, strong, mean and has great technique which enables him to dominate against the run and to generate an inside pass rush—something that all teams are desperate to get. Should get picked in the top 3 overall.

Houston's Oliver is a little bit of an enigma. He started the 2018 season as either the number 1 or number 2 player on pundits' draft boards but slipped a little during the year. Undoubtedly, he was better in 2017 than 2018 but his 2018 was impacted by injuries. His biggest downside is that NFL teams appear to be not quite sure whether he's a 4-3 tackle or a nose tackle (some have even projected him to ILB) - some of that comes from him just missing the prototypical NFL size for all of those spots. But this is a player with an incredible explosion, who gets upfield, disrupts running plays quickly and gets after the passer. He'll be a steal if he gets past the top 10 overall. Could be a dominant force in the pros.

Clemson pairing, **Christian Wilkins** and **Dexter Lawrence** are both likely to get selected in the middle to late first round. Wilkins brings prototypical DT size but also has an up the field burst which means that you could line him up at DE. Lawrence is more of a stay at home run defender—he's a huge man (around 350 pounds) with great strength who it seems is often impossible for offensive linemen to move.

Jeffery Simmons (Mississippi State) is a dominant inside player—tough against the run and able to collapse the pocket when rushing the passer. Simmons suffered a torn ACL in February which will likely keep him out for the entire 2019 season. He also has character concerns from a few years back. But Simmons is such a good prospect that despite the injury and off-the-field concerns, he is still likely to be a first round pick.

INTERIOR DEFENSIVE LINE OUTLOOK - Part 2

Notre Dame's **Jerry Tillery** is the other IDL who may have a shot at being taken in the first round. Tillery shows flashes in both the run game and rushing the passer and has the potential to develop into a very good NFL player. He has a huge frame (6-7) and wingspan. Is inconsistent and needs to remove this trait from his game. Nonetheless, anybody with his physical advantages has real potential—especially if he can catch on at the right team that will help him progress.

Dre'Mont Jones (Ohio State) will probably get selected in the second round. Jones penetrates well as an inside pass rusher and has the non-stop motor that NFL teams like. Could do with bulking up about 20 pounds—as long as he can do it without losing any of his burst and speed.

Khalen Saunders (Western Illinois) is a huge guy (around 330 pounds) who does more than just plug up the middle. For his size he is explosive and can collapse the pocket. The fact that he played at a small school will be a concern to some teams. He's probably a third or fourth round pick.

Anthony Nelson (Iowa) had a good combine, raising his draft stock from the late rounds to probably the middle rounds. He lacks the out and out burst of the top players at the position but has good power and strength. Nelson is very powerful and can contribute at the next level in the NFL.

Gerald Willis III (Miami, Fla) generates good pressure up the middle and is particularly strong against the run. Is capable of tying up blockers in the pros. We see him as a third or fourth round pick.

Arizona State's **Renell Wrenn** will probably be a mid round draft pick. Has played predominantly on the nose opposite the center, so ought to suit a team playing the 3-4. However, his size probably projects better to the 4-3 defensive tackle position. Uses power rather than technique to deliver interior push. How well that projects to the pros will remain to be seen.

INSIDE LINEBACKER RANKINGS

1. Devin White, LSU
2. Devin Bush Jr., Michigan
3. Mack Wilson, Alabama
4. Tre’Von Coney, Notre Dame
5. Germaine Pratt, North Carolina State
6. Joe Giles-Harris, Duke
7. Bobby Okereke, Stanford
8. Tre Lamar, Clemson
9. T.J. Edwards, Wisconsin
10. Ben Burr-Kirven, Washington
11. Cameron Smith, USC
12. Jahlani Tavai, Hawaii
13. Chase Hansen, Utah
14. Dakota Allen, Texas Tech
15. Khalil Hodge, Buffalo
16. Kendall Joseph, Clemson
17. Ryan Connelly, Wisconsin
18. Ulysees Gilbert III, Akron
19. Cody Barton, Utah
20. Josiah Tauaefa, Texas-San Antonio

INSIDE LINEBACKER OUTLOOK - Part 1

The two players at the top of our rankings—**Devin White** and **Devin Bush Jr.** fit the bill of the “new” inside linebacker - reacting to the NFL’s evolution as a pass-happy league by being just as adept in coverage as they are diagnosing and snuffing out running plays.

White (LSU) has moved into the top 10 of all players available and may be as high as the top 4 or 5 overall. White is a hugely athletic linebacker with outstanding speed (4.42 in the 40) and skills to cover running backs as well as the technique to shed blocks and make plays in the running game. He is also well-schooled and is consistently able to quickly diagnose plays. Oh and he’s excellent at timing the blitz from the inside. White’s all-out effort approach will make him extremely popular with his teammates and fans alike and he’ll be a day one starter in the NFL.

Not too far behind White, is Michigan’s Bush Jr. Like White, Bush is super fast and makes plays from sideline to sideline against the run and covering the pass. Bush is all-action with hustle and always seems to be around the football. The only real downside is his lack of size and strength that can make it difficult for him to shed blocks. Nonetheless, Bush is a dynamic player who will likely be selected in the top half of the first round—there are even some who see him being taken before White but we don’t see that happening.

Alabama’s **Mack Wilson** is the third ranked ILB and a probable second round pick. His 2018 season was mixed and coupled with reports that indicated that his interviews at the combine were not great, which probably nixed any chance that he had of moving into the first round. Like both White and Bush, Wilson has very good speed and is able to diagnose plays very well. He’s also a solid, hard-hitting tackler and a team-leader type but is undersized and lacks some strength, which is a concern. Is decent in pass coverage.

Tre’Von Coney (Notre Dame) is very strong against the run and is a solid tackler. Can cover short when required. Isn’t flashy and isn’t the outstanding athlete that White and Bush are but is a decent all-round prospect who has a shot at being an NFL starter. Looks like a mid round pick.

INSIDE LINEBACKER OUTLOOK - Part 2

Germaine Pratt (North Carolina State) doesn't get a lot of publicity when compared to other players in this draft, but don't be surprised if he turns out to be a really solid ILB in the pros. Pratt is very athletic and is excellent in pass coverage (he was a former safety). Look for him to go anywhere between the third and fifth rounds.

Duke's **Joe Giles-Harris** was likely to be selected in close proximity to Pratt—although he didn't help himself with an average performance at the combine and therefore has perhaps slipped a little. Not helped by an injury suffered late in the season. Giles-Harris is a solid run stopper, with some ability to blitz from the inside. He reminds us a little of Blake Martinez.

Tre Lamar (Clemson) is a good run defender who has increasingly improved in pass coverage. He's always on the go and around the football which is what you want from an inside linebacker. Did not have a great combine where he tested poorly and injured his shoulder. He didn't test much better at Clemson's pro day and hence his draft stock has fallen. Probably a mid to late round draft pick.

Ben Burr-Kirven (Washington) is an all energy inside linebacker with the athletic ability to get from sideline to sideline. He has a good burst and acceleration and tested better at the combine than expected, raising his draft stock. Slightly smaller than you'd really like. Has a shot at making a roster as his all-out style will endear him to NFL teams. Burr-Kirven is probably a mid to late round draft pick.

T.J. Edwards (Wisconsin) is another Badgers player who has a chance at making an NFL roster but is a long way from being a sure-fire thing. Is slightly small and not the fastest guy around which raises question marks. Is he able to bulk up a little without losing any of the little speed he has? Looks like a mid to late round draft pick.

Some have **Bobby Okereke** (Stanford) ranked as third or fourth inside linebacker to be taken in the draft, but we see him a lot further down the rankings than that. We think he is a mid to late round draft pick. Can make plays but isn't physically strong.

CORNERBACK RANKINGS

1. Greedy Williams, LSU
2. Byron Murphy, Washington
3. DeAndre Baker, Georgia
4. Rock Ya-Sin, Temple
5. Amani Oruwariye, Penn State
6. Julian Love, Notre Dame
7. Justin Layne, Michigan State
8. Trayvon Mullen, Clemson
9. Joejuan Williams, Vanderbilt
10. Lonnie Johnson, Kentucky
11. David Long, Michigan
12. Sean Bunting, Central Michigan
13. Kris Boyd, Texas
14. Jamel Dean, Auburn
15. Isaiah Johnson, Houston
16. Michael Jackson, Miami (Fla)
17. Saivion Smith, Alabama
18. Jimmy Moreland, James Madison
19. Mark Fields, Clemson
20. Derrick Baity Jr., Kentucky

CORNERBACK OUTLOOK - Part 1

On paper, this CB group is not as good as last years and probably contains more questions than answers. Three players could go in the first round, although it's not beyond the realm of possibility that just one or even none get selected that high.

Greedy Williams (LSU) will probably be the first CB off the board somewhere in the first round but whilst very talented he is also very inconsistent. Physically, Williams is everything you want in a pro CB—he has a great combination of size and speed with excellent athletic ability. But whilst good in coverage, he sometimes appears to lose the football in flight. He also doesn't get up to play the run as often as you'd like from a pro CB. Can appear to be soft.

Byron Murphy (Washington) will probably be selected in the first round—it's even possible he goes above Williams as teams see him as a safer bet. He's not the athlete that Williams is, nor does he have Greedy's size, but Murphy brings a physicality, feistiness and tackling ability to the position that Williams doesn't. He is also excellent going after the football.

Georgia's **DeAndre Baker** is similar to Murphy in size, physicality and playing style. Like Murphy he'll go in the first (or perhaps the second) round— we suspect mid-late first round). It's possible that he could be the second CB taken.

Rock Ya-Sin (Temple) is an all-round solid CB. Not outstanding in any one particular area but he can cover, play man and zone, tackle and will get up to force the run. He is physical and tough and finds and plays the ball. He's aggressive, so can be beaten on double moves. He looks like a solid second round pick.

Amani Oruwariye (Penn State) is a steady player who will contribute quickly to whichever team drafts him. He's not quite the athlete of some of the other corners but makes up for it with good technique. Will probably be selected around the third round.

The player to watch around round 2 or round 3 may be **Julian Love** (Notre Dame). Love may be best suited to being a slot corner where he can bring his toughness, feistiness and ball skills to bear and where his lack of top notch speed won't be so much of a burden. Good player who will succeed at the next level in the right spot.

CORNERBACK OUTLOOK - Part 2

Justin Layne (Michigan State) is a second or third round pick based upon athletic ability, measurables (he's 6-2) and potential more than what some of the on-the-field tape shows. Has strength and can be physical in both coverage and in stepping up to force against the run.

Trayvon Mullen (Clemson) has prototypical size for an NFL CB but was inconsistent in college. Has good closing speed and on occasion demonstrated fantastic coverage skills. Has the potential to develop into a starting player in the pros. Probably a second or third round pick.

Joejuan Williams (Vanderbilt) has excellent size and is tough and physical and will battle receivers down the field. Is perhaps not the athlete some of the others at CB are and doesn't have ideal speed. Probably a mid round pick.

Kentucky's **Lonnie Johnson** divides opinion. Some draftniks see him as borderline first round whereas others have him much further down the board. We think he's worth a third round pick. Johnson has good speed and athletic ability but doesn't necessarily show that on game tape.

Not to be confused with the West Virginia linebacker of the same name, Michigan's **David Long** has great athletic ability and some potential but is probably a developmental project for a team that is already settled at CB. Has top notch speed but we think he could have used the extra year in college (he opted to come out after his junior year). We see him as mid-late round pick.

The late round sleeper at CB may be **Jordan Brown** (South Dakota State). Excelled at a small school level earning All-Conference and All-America honours. Is excellent playing the ball, with good hands for a defensive back and has a good closing burst. Perhaps isn't as physical against the run as he could be, but could learn under the right tutelage in the pros.

Intriguing prospect who is likely not to get drafted but don't rule him out.

SAFETY RANKINGS

1. Nasir Adderley, Delaware
2. Chauncey Gardner-Johnson, Florida
3. Juan Thornhill, Virginia
4. Johnathan Abram, Mississippi State
5. Taylor Rapp, Washington
6. Darnell Savage Jr., Maryland
7. Deionte Thompson, Alabama
8. Amani Hooker, Iowa
9. Jaquan Johnson, Miami (Fla)
10. Marquise Blair, Utah
11. Mike Edwards, Kentucky
12. Sheldrick Redwine, Miami (Fla)
13. Mike Bell, Fresno State
14. Lukas Denis, Boston College
15. Malik Gant, Marshall
16. Ugo Amadi, Oregon
17. Marvel Tell III, USC
18. Evan Worthington, Colorado
19. D'Cota Dixon, Wisconsin
20. Will Harris, Boston College

SAFETY OUTLOOK—Part 1

As much as any position, the order in which the safeties will be taken in this draft is dependent upon defensive system and the needs of a team. Safeties come in many shapes, sizes and with varied skillsets—do you want a box safety? Are you looking for an expert playing as a single high (cover 1)? Are you after somebody that can play in 2 Deep Zone (cover 2)? Is proficiency in covering the slot receiver man-on-man important to what you want your safety to do?

This year's group of safeties has a large number of players in the second to fourth round area but none are so outstanding as to be certain to be taken as high as the first round—although some will have a shot at sneaking late into the opening round.

Perhaps the best first round chance is with Delaware's **Nasir Adderley**. Adderley is a cousin of NFL Hall-of-Famer and Packers great Herb Adderley. Nasir can cover the slot receiver and play deep. In fact, he's excellent in coverage and finds the football well. He's also a good tackler in the open field, although could be a little vulnerable against the run. Adderley was also a highly effective returner on special teams in college. The main downside for Adderley though is the question mark over the quality of opposition he has mainly played against.

Also with an outside chance of being selected late in the first round is Florida's **Chauncey Gardner-Johnson**. CGJ is very good covering receivers in the slot and the ability to play the football. His versatility means that he's a guy that can enable a defense to overcome potential mismatches. Inconsistency is his biggest enemy (but he has loads of potential). We think this means that he's most likely to get picked in the second round.

Juan Thornhill (Virginia) is a very good athlete who is strong in the box playing the run. Is an excellent tackler. Thornhill is also very good in coverage (he has played at CB in the past) and won't disappoint covering backs, tight ends and wideouts. Finds and plays the ball extremely well. Has good, but not great, speed and excelled at the combine, which really helped his draft status. Probable second round pick.

Johnathan Abram (Mississippi State) plays better the closer he plays to the line of scrimmage. Is physical— an excellent tackler who loves to put a big hit on the ball carrier. Is also superb timing up the safety blitz. Probably a second round pick.

SAFETY OUTLOOK - Part 2

Taylor Rapp (Washington) is great in run support and is an excellent tackler (probably nobody better in the entire draft). Very agile and athletic. Rapp can cover the short to intermediate routes but isn't great in deep zones, where he doesn't make significant plays that count—he doesn't have the outright speed to be effective playing deep. Most impactful playing in the box snuffing out running plays, although he seems to like playing as the deep safety. Rapp should get selected in the second round.

Darnell Savage Jr. is intriguing. He is rising up draft boards quickly following his combine showing. It's possible that he could even sneak into the late first round. He's a great athlete (4.36 40) with the ability to play both deep safety and to cover receivers one on one. Good closing speed. Can sometimes be over aggressive and over-run a play. Right now we see him probably being selected in the second or third rounds but it only takes one team to see him as a higher pick for him to be off the board much earlier.

Alabama's single-high safety type **Deionte Thompson** has slipped from a certain first round pick to probably a second or even a third round selection after a 2018 season which finished with him playing inconsistently. Plays downhill, he's good in coverage and can play the run but gets caught out by play-action where his aggressiveness counts against him. Thompson is also recovering from a wrist injury that saw him miss the combine.

Amani Hooker (Iowa) is a versatile safety, who doesn't appear to be overly outstanding in any one particular area but also has no major flaws. Probably a third or fourth round pick.

If **Jaquan Johnson** (Miami, Fla) can put everything together he could be an excellent starting safety in the pros. He potentially has great tools, if he can develop and become consistent. We expect him to be drafted in the middle rounds.

Marquise Blair (Utah) is a really good athlete who is strong and physical. The downside is that he simply doesn't seem to make many plays. A developmental prospect who will likely be taken in the middle rounds.

The late round sleeper at Safety may be **Evan Worthington** (Colorado).

SPECIAL TEAMS RANKINGS

1. Tony Pollard (KR), Memphis
2. Ty Johnson (KR), Maryland
3. Cole Tracey (K), LSU
4. Mitch Wishnowsky (P), Utah
5. Ryan Davis (PR), Auburn
6. Dan Godsil (LSN), Indiana
7. Matt Gay (K), Utah
8. John Baron II (K), San Diego State
9. Jake Bailey (P), Stanford
10. Kerrith Whyte Jr. (KR), Florida Atlantic
11. A.J. Cole III (P), North Carolina State
12. Jack Fox (P), Rice
13. Parker Thome (P), Vanderbilt
14. Austin Seibert (K/P), Oklahoma
15. Billy Kinney (P), West Virginia
16. Tyler Newsome (P), Notre Dame
17. Chase McLaughlin (K), Illinois
18. Sean Smith (P), Dayton
19. Clayton Hatfield (K), Texas Tech
20. Zach Sinor (P), Oklahoma State

SPECIAL TEAMS OUTLOOK

There are four returners who we think have a chance at being drafted mainly for their return skills alone. We suspect, if selected, that they will be late round draft picks.

First up is **Tony Pollard** of Memphis. Pollard returned 7 kicks for touchdowns whilst in college. He is a shifty runner with good speed and brings excitement every time he touches the football. Pollard is also a good receiver and has a decent shot at an NFL roster because of his versatility and nose for the end zone.

Ty Johnson (Maryland) is a decent runner out of the backfield as well as being a good kick returner. He's probably not good enough in either role to make an NFL roster, but as a versatile player doing both, he has a shot.

Ryan Davis (Auburn) is a very fine punt returner and wide receiver. We think that he either makes an NFL roster or ends up on a practice squad somewhere. Is a good runner with the ball in his hands having good, but not great, speed.

Kerrith Whyte Jr. (Florida Atlantic) is the last of our kick returner prospects. He doubles as a running back and has a chance to become the third or fourth runner on an NFL team whilst being their primary kick returner. Good moves and quick enough burst to get past defenders.

Dan Godsil (Indiana) was the only long snapper invited to the combine in February and he didn't disappoint from an athletic standpoint. Don't be surprised to see a team spend a seventh round pick on him. But not the Packers!

There are no kickers or punters likely to go high in this year's draft. But the players that probably have the best chance of being drafted—probably in the late rounds—are kickers **Cole Tracy** (LSU), **Matt Gay** (Utah) and **John Barron II** (San Diego State) and punters **Mitch Wishnowsky** (Utah), **Jake Bailey** (Stanford) and **A.J. Cole III** (North Carolina State).

OUR UNDER THE RADAR GUYS & SLEEPERS TO LOOK OUT FOR

The following is a list of guys, regardless of position, that we think have gone under the radar of many draftniks.

These are players not likely to get selected on the first day of the draft, and probably not the second, but will be in play for day 3. It's possible that some of them won't get drafted at all, but we think they are all intriguing prospects nonetheless, who it's worth keeping an eye on. Unfortunately for us, as time has gone on, some of them are spending less time "under the radar" as pundits spend more time analyzing the lower rounds, but we are still happy to include them here.

These players are listed in no particular order.

- Easton Stick, QB, North Dakota State
- Trace McSorley, QB, Penn State
- Bryce Love, RB, Stanford
- Kahale Warring, TE, San Diego State
- Nate Davis, OG, Charlotte
- Ryan Bates, OG/OT, Penn State
- Max Scharping, OT, Northern Illinois
- Ben Banogu, OLB, TCU
- Germaine Pratt, ILB, North Carolina State
- Jordan Brown, CB, South Dakota State
- Evan Worthington, S, Colorado
- Tony Pollard, KR, Memphis
- Kerrith Whyte Jr., KR, Florida Atlantic



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