

Stroud		C.J.		Ohio St - 1(2),2023 TEXANS		QB	
LAST NAME		FIRST NAME		COLLEGE		POSITION	FINAL GRADE
6030	218	4.74	10	32.62	77.38		6.4
HEIGHT	WEIGHT	40 TIME	HAND SIZE	ARM	WINGSPAN	SPARQ SCORE	FANTASY RANKING

ATHLETIC ABILITY

SECTION GRADE: 6.8

Quickness Out of Stance

Rapid Acceleration: Stroud quickly accelerates out of his stance, giving him an edge in escaping the pocket.
Initial Burst: His initial burst helps him avoid pressure and extend plays effectively.

Flexibility

Above-Average Flexibility: Demonstrates flexibility that allows him to absorb hits and maintain performance.
Dynamic Movements: Can adjust his body to make throws from various angles and positions.

Feet Agility

Quick Feet: Agile footwork enables him to maneuver in tight spaces and evade defenders.
Effective Play Fakes: Uses quick feet to execute convincing play fakes.

Balance

Stability Under Pressure: Maintains balance when pressured, reducing the likelihood of being brought down easily.
Poise in Motion: Keeps a stable base when moving, ensuring accurate throws on the run.

Speed

Above-Average Speed: Has the speed to escape the pocket and gain yards when plays break down.
Consistent Velocity: Maintains consistent speed when evading defenders.

Body Control

Excellent Body Control: Displays control in changing direction quickly, turning potential losses into positive gains.
Controlled Movements: Maintains control over his body during complex maneuvers and dodges.

Coordination

Seamless Coordination: Exhibits coordination that allows him to execute play fakes and resets quickly.
Integrated Movements: Combines hand and foot movements smoothly for efficient play execution.

Hand Quickness

Swift Hands: Quick hands aid in making rapid decisions and executing play fakes.
Reset Capability: Can swiftly reset his hands and feet to hit his next option effectively.

*C.J. Stroud's athleticism encompasses a broad range of skills, making him a versatile and effective quarterback capable of adapting to various in-game situations.

POISE IN POCKET

SECTION GRADE: 6.4

Excellent Poise: Maintains excellent poise within the pocket, staying calm under pressure.
Instincts and Speed: Utilizes instincts and speed to find running lanes effectively when the pocket collapses.
Downfield Focus: Excels at concentrating on downfield receiving options even when flushed out of the pocket.
Escape Ability: Quickly and effectively escapes the pocket to avoid sacks and extend plays.
Improvement Needed: Needs to improve pre-snap and post-snap reads to enhance his progressions.
Potential for Growth: With continued focus on these areas, he can elevate his game to new heights.

PASSING TECHNIQUE / ACCURACY

SECTION GRADE: 6.4

Passing Technique / Accuracy

Clean Footwork: Demonstrates clean footwork and maintains a solid throwing base, enabling him to make accurate throws.
Effective Play-Action and Rollouts: Athleticism shines in play-action and rollouts, enhancing his passing game.
Solid Throwing Base: Consistently uses a solid throwing base to deliver precise passes.
Overall Accuracy: Generally very accurate, effectively hitting targets on most throws.
Issues with Screens and Short Passes: Occasionally fades when throwing screens and shorter passes, impacting accuracy and ball speed.
Reading Safeties: Needs to improve efficiency in reading safeties to enhance his progression as a passer.
Potential for Growth: Clear potential to become a more formidable quarterback with improvements in these areas.
Consistency: Maintains consistent accuracy on most throws but can miss outside the numbers.
Ball Speed: Needs to ensure consistent ball speed, especially on shorter throws.

*C.J. Stroud's passing technique and accuracy showcase a solid foundation, with areas for improvement that can elevate his performance to the next level.

COMPETITIVENESS / CONVERSION ABILITY

SECTION GRADE: 6.5

Immense Courage and Toughness: Stands calm in the pocket and takes big hits for his team to keep the chains moving.
Ball Security: Consistently prioritizes ball security in the passing game.
Play Extension: Excels at extending plays while keeping his eyes downfield, always ready to make a throw.
Determination: Never gives up on a play, showcasing relentless determination.

*C.J. Stroud's competitiveness and conversion ability highlight his potential as a cornerstone player for any team.

LEADERSHIP / INTANGIBLES / CHARACTER / FOOTBALL INTELLIGENCE

SECTION GRADE: 6.2

Genuine Care: Demonstrates genuine care for his team and the game, embodying the qualities of a good young leader.
Diligent Preparation: Prepares diligently each week, showcasing a strong commitment to success in the NFL.
High-Level Competitor: Consistently competes at a high level, demonstrating a relentless drive to improve.
Boost Football IQ: Needs to boost his football IQ to understand the game at a deeper level.
Improve Coverage Identification: Must improve his ability to identify defensive coverages quickly and accurately.
Faster Progressions: Needs to get through his progressions faster to make better decisions on the field.
Refine Footwork: Must refine his footwork to ensure efficient execution of plays.
Eyes in the Right Place: Needs to ensure his eyes are in the right place to read defenses and execute plays effectively.

GDE	CATEGORY	COMMENTS / DESCRIPTION	GAMES VIEWED	COMBINE RESULTS
6.9	RELEASE QUICK	Stroud has quick set up, quick feet and a smooth effortless release.	2024	VERT JUMP N/A
6.2	2ND CHANCES	Good pocket presence, quick feet & is able to stay up when hit & escape when needed.	Colts	BROAD JUMP N/A
6.8	ARM STRENGTH	He has a strong arm and can make all the throws at QB.	Bears	20 SHUTTLE N/A
6.0	IMPORTANT SNAPS	Stroud is a developing NFL QB and sometimes presses to make plays in key situations.	Bills	3 CONE N/A
6.0	READ DEFENSE	Doesn't do good job of pre snap or post snap reads.		BENCH PRESS N/A
6.0	SHORT ACC	Can fall away on short passes causing innacuracy & ball to die at reception point.		No Full Workout - Choice

6.4	INTERMEDIATE ACC	He excels on interior intermediate throws, but shows innacuracy outside the numbers.	CRITICAL FACTORS	
7.5	20+ ACCURACY	Can make all the deep throws with great arc and accuracy.	SIZE 6.5	ATH. ABILITY 6.5
6.4	ACC. ON MOVE	Keeps eyes up and downfield allowingf him to have good accuracy on the move.	PASSING TECH 6.5	ACCURACY 6.9
6.0	BIG ERRORS	C.J. plays under control most of the time but presses sometimes in major situations.	INTANGIBLES / FOOTBALL SMARTS 6.0	

STRONG POINTS

WEAKNESSES

High-Level Competitor: Consistently competes at a high level, showcasing dedication and skill.

Athletic Frame: Possesses an athletic frame ideal for an NFL quarterback.

Strong Arm: Has starter-quality arm strength, capable of making all necessary throws.

Running Ability: Effective at escaping the pocket and gaining positive yardage with his legs.

Toughness: Displays

toughness by taking hits and staying on the field, showing resilience.

Poised in Pocket: Maintains excellent poise in the pocket, calmly handling pressure.

Downfield Focus:

Consistently focuses on downfield receiving options, extending plays.

Solid Footwork: Demonstrates

clean footwork and a solid throwing base, enhancing accuracy and stability..

Pre-Snap & Post-Snap Reads: Needs to enhance his ability to read defenses before and after the snap.

Progression Speed: Must speed up his progressions to make quicker and better decisions.

Accuracy on Screens & Short Passes: Occasionally fades on screens and shorter passes, affecting accuracy and ball speed.

Reading Safeties: Needs to improve his efficiency in reading safeties to better anticipate defensive schemes.

Refining Footwork: Must continue to refine his footwork for more consistent and precise execution.

Football IQ: Needs to boost his football intelligence to improve overall game management.

SUMMARY / BOTTOM LINE

Currently, C.J. Stroud is viewed as a high-end backup or adequate starter in the NFL, showcasing his potential through an athletic frame, strong arm, and ability to escape the pocket. To elevate his game, Stroud must work closely with coaches/trainers to improve his pre-snap and post-snap reads, speeding up his progressions. Addressing issues with fading on screens and shorter passes will enhance his accuracy and ball speed, while dedicating time to studying defenses will strengthen his football IQ, enabling him to better identify coverages and make smarter decisions. Regular footwork refinement is essential for consistent and precise execution of plays. With a focused effort on these areas, Stroud has the potential to become one of the top 10 quarterbacks in the NFL. By putting his head down and working hard, he can transform into a player a franchise could depend on to lead them into the future.

MIXON		JOE		Oklahoma 2/48, 2017		RB	
LAST NAME		FIRST NAME		COLLEGE		POSITION	6.5 FINAL GRADE
6006	220	4.45	10.25	30.12	74.5	105.33	
HEIGHT	WEIGHT	40 TIME	HAND SIZE	ARM	WINGSPAN	SPARQ SCORE	FANTASY RANKING

ATHLETIC ABILITY

SECTION GRADE: 7.2

Physical Attributes and Skills: At 28, Joe Mixon has the physical attributes and skills to be a cornerstone of any club's offense.

Quickness Out of Stance: Exhibits good initial quickness, getting out of stance and accelerating to hole.

Reaction Time: Demonstrates excellent reaction skills, allowing him to bend and adjust his body to maximize each run.

Feet Agility: Possesses quick feet, enabling him to change direction effortlessly and maintain balance during routes.

Balance: Maintains great balance, even after contact, battling defenders in all situations.

Speed: Consistently showcases speed to get to the corner and create separation from defenders.

Good Coordination: His good coordination helps him maintain balance upon contact.

Risk of Future Injuries: He appears tightly bound, which could risk future injuries.

Conclusion: Athletic Starting running back in the NFL

VISION / INSTINCTS / PATIENCE

SECTION GRADE: 6.8

Great Vision: Allows him to maximize most runs.

Understands Leverage and Angles: Excels in leveraging angles in the run game.

Lacks Passing Game Instincts: Does not exhibit the same instincts in the passing game.

Good Patience: Generally patient but can rush in short-yardage & screen situations.

Growth Potential: Elite vision and instincts, but rushes in pass catching and GL situations.

COMPETITIVENESS / RUN AFTER CONTACT / TACKLE BREAKING ABILITY

SECTION GRADE: 7.0

Undeniable Edge: Mixon plays with a noticeable intensity and aggression.

Excels at Breaking Tackles: Frequently breaks through tackles with ease.

strong hands that allow him to catch passes securely and make plays after the catch.

Hand Quickness: Quick and

Limited Yardage After Catch: Tends to rush after the catch on screen plays & doesn't maximize yardage in open field.

Relentless Physicality: His physical playing style makes him a formidable force on the field.

Demands Multiple Defenders: Often requires multiple defenders to bring him down due to his strength and determination. And his effectiveness can draw safety down into box, allowing for big gains off play action pass.

ROUTE RUNNING / HANDS / OVERALL RECEIVING SKILLS

SECTION GRADE: 6.4

Excels in 0-5 Yard Routes: Shows consistent skill in short routes.

Soft Hands: Reliable in catching passes, rarely misses.

Solid Receiver: Performs well but has potential for growth.

Mastering the Route Tree: Needs to work on mastering various routes.

Improving Route Consistency: Should focus on enhancing the consistency of his routes.

Enhancing Yards After Catch (RAC): Has room to grow in gaining additional yards after making a catch.

BLOCKING - BOTH PASS PROTECTION AND LEAD BLOCKING

SECTION GRADE: 5.5

Pass Protection Needs Refinement: Both effort and technique require improvement.

Run-Blocking Skills: Also need enhancement in both effort and technique.

Become a More Complete Back: Refining these areas would round out his skill set.

Increase Value in Passing Situations: Improved skills would make him more valuable during passing plays.

Three-Down Player: Improving pass blocking, could potentially allow him to stay on the field for all three downs. **NO-**Doesn't block at level of starting running back in the NFL

LEADERSHIP / INTANGIBLES / CHARACTER / FOOTBALL INTELLIGENCE / DURABILITY

SECTION GRADE: 6.8

Leads by Example: Mixon exemplifies leadership with his hard running style

Versatility and

Determination: Mixon's versatility and determination are crucial for elevating team performance..

Durability: Despite his physicality, he averages 14 games per season and consistently plays through minor injuries.

Football Intelligence: Excels on run plays and blitz reads.

Vital Asset: His resilience makes him an indispensable player on the field.

Growth Potential: Needs to enhance his blocking, get complete grasp of the route tree, solidify his separation moves in the passing game, all which would further elevate his performance.

GDE	CATEGORY	COMMENTS / DESCRIPTION	GAMES VIEWED	COMBINE RESULTS
7.0	RUN INSTINCTS	Joe is an instinctive runner who consistently sees/finds holes & can get thru them fast.	2024	VERTICAL JUMP -35
7.0	ELUSIVENESS	He has good elusiveness, with the wiggle and shake to make tacklers miss.	Colts	BROAD JUMP - 9'10"
7.0	CUTBACK ABILITY	Great vision! But he sometimes miss reads blocks, but always looking for advantage.	Bears	20 SHUTTLE - 4.27
7.0	INSIDE RUNNER	Physical runner, who breaks arm tackles & lowers shoulders gaining YAC.		60 SHUTTLE - NA
7.0	OUTSIDE RUNNER	His vision,quicks,agility,and strength make him a good outside runner.		3 CONE - 7.10
6.5	HANDS - RCVING	Joe has good hands and can pluck ball away from body easily.		BENCH PRESS - 21
6.0	ADJUST TO BALL	Mixon is a big running back with good body control allowing him to adjust to most balls.		
6.0	RUN AFTER CATCH	His physical attributes make him a tough tackle, but vision could be better in open field.		
5.6	RUN BLOCKER	Mixon must become more willing and technically sound run blocker.	CRITICAL FACTORS	
5.6	PASS BLOCKER	He has the size & strength to be good, but his desire and technique are lacking.	SIZE 6.9	ATH. ABILITY 6.5
6.9	TOUGHS / RUN STYLE	Plays thru minor injuries & he is a tough runner who likes to punish defenders.	HANDS 6.0	COMPETES 7
7.0	BALL SECURITY	Has very good ball security, only losing 6 fumbles over the last 7 seasons in the NFL.	PLAYING SPEED 6.5	BLOCKING 5.5

STRONG POINTS

WEAKNESSES

Powerhouse on the Field: Joe Mixon is known for his powerful presence on the field.
Big, Strong, and Athletic Runner: Stands out due to his size, strength, and athleticism.
Impressive Agility: Able to slice through defensive lines with ease.
Breaks Free from Arm Tackles: Demonstrates the ability to evade tacklers effectively.
Physical Running Style: Lowers his pads and finishes plays with sheer force.
Potential in Route Running: While his short route running could use refinement, he shows significant potential in this area.
Remarkable Durability: Consistently plays through minor injuries, showcasing toughness.
Commitment to Team: Displays unwavering commitment to his team.
Indispensable Asset: His combination of strength, athleticism, and resilience makes him a key player for any roster.

Occasional Poor Footwork: Can cause slips, impacting big play potential
Prone to Missing Holes: In heavy traffic, he may not always identify the best running lanes.
Open-Field Vision: Could be sharper for better decision-making.
Lack of Flexibility: Appears to lack flexibility, which might lead to future injuries.
Benched on Passing Downs: Due to inadequate pass-blocking technique and lack of separation on routes.
Run-Blocking Motivation and Technique: Needs improvement to be more effective when not carrying the ball.
Commitment on Non-Carry Plays: Showing more dedication in these situations will help him become a complete NFL back and increase his value to any team.

SUMMARY / BOTTOM LINE

Joe Mixon's NFL Career Prediction Short Term (Next 1-2 Years)

Franchise Back: Even without significant improvements, Mixon remains a very good, athletic, franchise back for his team.
Focus on Passing Game: By dedicating himself to enhancing his performance in the passing game, Mixon could start to elevate his status towards elite.
Medium Term (2-3 Years) Achieving Elite Status
Significant Growth: .If Mixon successfully improves his skills in the passing game, he will be mentioned alongside legends like Marshall Faulk and Christian McCaffrey.
Years in League: Mixon will be getting long in the tooth, any organization should take a long look at his future injury situation, when deciding on the commitment that will be made to Mixon in year 10 or 11 of his seasoned career.

Green		Kenyon		Texas A&M 1(15)		OL	
LAST NAME		FIRST NAME		COLLEGE		POSITION	4.8 FINAL GRADE
6040		324		5.28		10.38	34.12
324		5.28		10.38		34.12	83.38
HEIGHT		WEIGHT		40 TIME		HAND SIZE	ARM
						WINGSPAN	SPARQ SCORE

ATHLETIC ABILITY

SECTION GRADE: 5.0

Quickness Out of Stance: Needs improvement. For both run and pass blocking, the ability to quickly set up to block is crucial. He currently lacks the explosive first step needed to consistently succeed.

Flexibility: Shows limited ability to bend knees and sink hips, which affects blocking with a good base and leverage. Flexibility is essential for maintaining proper blocking posture and effectiveness.

Feet, Agility, and Balance: Displays poor foot movement, agility, and balance. Struggles to stay on his feet when placed in awkward positions, which impacts his ability to maintain blocks and stay effective throughout the play.

Body Control and Coordination: Lacks body control and coordination, impacting his ability to adjust and block well in space. Proper control and coordination are vital for handling dynamic defensive players.

Agility and Feet to Re-direct: Needs better agility and footwork to re-direct and slide, especially when adjusting to quick change-of-direction pass rush moves. This skill is crucial for maintaining blocks against agile defenders.

Hand Quickness: Lacks quick hands, which is a vital part of athleticism. Effective hand usage can make a significant difference in winning the initial contact battle.

RUN BLOCKING - IN-LINE / OUT IN SPACE

SECTION GRADE: 4.0

Run Blocking

Drive Blocks: Lacks explosiveness and hip mobility, allowing defenders to penetrate and disrupt plays.

Reach Blocks: Ineffective due to poor explosiveness and football IQ, impacting his ability to engage and control defenders.

Double-Team Scenarios: Proficient with the center but struggles to generate movement and transition to the second level. Effective double-team blocking requires coordination and strength.

Foot Placement: Improper foot positioning limits defender displacement on counter plays, impacting his ability to create running lanes.

Down Blocks: Adequate initial explosiveness but lacks the strength to consistently move defensive tackles. Effective down blocks require a combination of explosiveness and strength.

Cut Blocks: Lacks the quickness needed for successful execution of cut blocks. Proper technique and timing are essential for cut blocking.

Blocking Out in Space:

Zone Blocking: Hindered by poor reach and run angles, impacting his effectiveness in zone blocking schemes.

Man Blocking: Rarely used due to weaknesses in blocking techniques, impacting his ability to engage defenders one-on-one.

Combo Blocks: Shows some effectiveness with the center but fails to generate significant movement or reach the second level, limiting his ability to create running lanes.

Counter Plays: Suboptimal performance in counter plays, needing improvement in blocking techniques and football acumen to effectively execute these schemes.

PASS BLOCKING - ON DEEP PASS DROPS AND SHORT / QUICK SETS

SECTION GRADE: 5.0

Pass Blocking - Deep Pass Drops

Retreats Significantly: Protects against the pass rush by creating space between himself and the quarterback.

Creates Holes in Pocket: Sometimes fails to maintain his relationship with the center, leading to gaps.

Struggles with Loopers: Does not react well to loopers, tends to be more of a catcher.

Vulnerable to Overpowering: Prone to being overpowered and struggling with push/pull moves by defensive linemen.

Zone Drop Execution: Moves to a specific area to form a pocket and shield the quarterback from defenders.

Pass Blocking - Short / Quick Sets

Timing Off the Ball: Gets off the ball on time but starts with a wide set.

Beaten Across Face: Often gets beaten across his face, creating gaps in the pocket.

Struggles with Push/Pull Moves: Faces issues with push/pull moves from defenders.

Overpowered Frequently: Consistently gets overpowered, impacting his effectiveness in maintaining solid pass protection.

INITIAL QUICKNESS - OUT OF STANCE AND INTO BLOCKING POSITION

SECTION GRADE: 5.7

Initial Quickness

Explosive First Step: Lacks an explosive first step, often missing blocks due to this deficiency. Quick initial steps are crucial for gaining an advantage off the snap.

Quick Feet: Feet are slow off the line, causing him to be beaten on initial movements. Quick feet help in maintaining balance and position against defenders.

Snap Reaction: Good immediate response to the snap, but needs improvement in sustaining quickness throughout the play.

Upfield Quickness: Average upfield quickness, lacking the speed and quickness needed to consistently dominate. Quick upfield movement is essential for effective blocking.

First Move Quickness: Can reach the linemen but rarely finishes on the play side. Finishing blocks is key to maintaining offensive momentum.

PLAYING STRENGTH / USE OF HANDS / PUNCH

SECTION GRADE: 5.0

Anchor Strength: Inadequate anchor strength leads to consistent ground loss during plays. Strong anchoring is essential for maintaining position against powerful defensive linemen.

Functional Strength: Lacks the functional strength to maintain effective block control. Effective functional strength allows for better handling of opposing players.

Core Stability: Poor core stability impacts his ability to hold blocks effectively. Strong core stability is crucial for maintaining balance and leverage.

Hip Mobility: Limited hip mobility reduces his ability to block with a good base and leverage. Proper hip mobility helps in positioning and executing blocks.

Upper Body Strength: Insufficient upper body strength to control blocks effectively. Strong upper body strength contributes to better control and finishing blocks. Use of Hands

Hand Utilization: Poor hand utilization, rarely achieving effective placement in blocking. Effective hand placement is critical for controlling defenders.

Hand-Fighting: Struggles with hand-fighting, impacting his ability to control defenders. Mastering hand-fighting techniques can significantly improve blocking effectiveness.

Player Displacement: Moderate proficiency in player displacement when assisting but inconsistent overall. Effective displacement is key for opening running lanes and protecting the quarterback.

Powerful Hand Strikes: Often misses optimal contact points, reducing effectiveness. Precise hand strikes can disrupt defenders and maintain block control.

Punch

Technique

Punch Delivery: Typically catches defenders rather than delivering precise strikes. Accurate punch delivery is necessary for initiating and maintaining blocks.

Punch Timing: Inaccurate punch timing, impacting effectiveness. Well-timed punches can neutralize pass rush moves effectively.

Force of Strikes: When timed well, strikes show significant force. Consistency in forceful strikes can enhance blocking effectiveness.

Basic Technique: Uses sound basic technique with upward thumb orientation and inward elbow positioning. Proper technique is fundamental for effective blocking.

MOBILITY - BLOCKING ON 2ND LEVEL / PULLING / TRAPPING

SECTION GRADE: 4.0

Mobility - Blocking on 2nd Level

Mobility - Blocking on 2nd Level	
Poor Football IQ: Struggles to reach and block linebackers effectively.	
Limited Ability: Often misses linebackers when climbing to the second level.	
Rarely Finishes on Play Side: Inconsistent in completing blocks on the play side.	
Combo Blocks: Needs better hand use and angles to target linebackers successfully.	
Mobility - Pulling	
Adequate Performance: Manages to get a hat on hat but needs improvement in technique for better angles.	
Average Pulling Speed: Nothing exceptional about his pulling speed.	
Mobility - Trapping	
Insufficient Strength: Struggles to generate movement.	
Upright Posture: Affects effectiveness post-contact.	
Lack of Foot Drive: Hindrance in maintaining blocks.	
Trap Timing Issues: Often gets caught up due to poor timing.	
Limited Use in Team Plays: The team rarely runs trap plays due to his limitations.	

SMARTS / AWARENESS / COMPETITIVENESS / INTANGIBLES / TOUGHNESS	SECTION GRADE: 4.5
Smarts / Awareness	
Lacking Football IQ: Results in missed assignments and occasionally going the opposite direction of the play.	
Scheme Recognition: Decent job recognizing schemes, but struggles to react once defensive players start moving.	
Field Awareness: Often fails to finish plays attached to his blocks when advancing to the second level or out in the field.	
Situational Awareness: Improves in crunch time, able to read defensive alignments and make quick decisions pre-snap.	
Post-Snap Recognition: Shows some proficiency in adjusting blocking assignments based on defensive movements.	
Competitiveness	
Inconsistent Drive: Lacks the consistent drive to win and outperform opponents.	
Focus Under Pressure: Stays focused under pressure but needs to improve work ethic to maintain physical condition and hone skills.	
Intangibles	
Physical Toughness: Endures contact and pain well, displaying good physical toughness.	
Mental Resilience: Shows resilience in challenging situations and ability to bounce back from setbacks with a "one snap and clear" mental approach.	
Durability Concerns: Inconsistent performance, particularly in maintaining durability without injuries or physical wear.	

GDE	CATEGORY	COMMENTS / DESCRIPTION	GAMES VIEWED	COMBINE RESULTS
4.0	FOOT AGILITY	Athletic feet but struggles with balance and often has difficulty reaching the second level	Colts 9/8/24	VERT JUMP 26
5.6	INITIAL QUICKS	Struggles with his initial quickness, which affects his blocking success rate	Bears 9/15/24	BROAD JUMP 8'6"
5.0	PLAY STRENGTH	His anchor strength is inadequate, leading to consistent ground loss during plays.	Vikings 9/22/24	20 SHUTTLE 5.12
4.0	RUN BLK IN-LINE	Shows significant weaknesses in in-line blocking techniques	Jaguars 9/29/24	60 SHUTTLE DNP
4.0	RUN BLK SPACE	Does good job getting hat on defender at end of LOS.Currently has no chance in open field.		3 CONE DNP
5.0	PASS BLOCKING	Gets overpowered on short & deep sets		BENCH PRESS 20
5.0	QK. SET - PASS PRO	Sets wide & is susceptible to inside move		
5.0	SHUFFLE & SLIDE	Has average shuffle speed but moves slow laterally, both causing missed assignments	CRITICAL FACTORS	
4.0	PUNCH / HAND-USE	Has force when landed,but typically catches defenders & his punch timing lacks accuracy		
4.0	VS. POWER RUSH	Consistently overpowered by power rush	SIZE 6.5	ATH. ABILITY 5
5.0	VS. SPEED RUSH	Player struggles with speed, has solid punch on outside rush, but not many reps on video.	HANDS 6.5	COMPETES 4.5
4.0	ERRORS	Plays to high,Bad routes to 2nd level; Rarelyfinishes play side;Will miss assignment at times	PLAYING SPEED 5	INSTINCTS 4

STRONG POINTS	WEAKNESSES
<p>Good Snap Reaction: Reacts quickly to the snap and gets off the ball on time.</p> <p>Physical Presence: His size and physical presence make him a noticeable force on the offensive line.</p> <p>Toughness: Displays both physical and mental resilience.</p> <p>Endures Contact and Pain Well: Shows ability to endure physical challenges and maintain performance.</p> <p>"One Snap and Clear" Mental Approach: Bounces back from setbacks quickly.</p> <p>Effective in Double-Team Situations: Especially effective when assisting the center.</p> <p>Good Initial Explosiveness: Down blocks show good initial explosiveness.</p> <p>Adequate on Counter Plays: Manages to get a hat on hat during counter plays.</p> <p>Powerful Hand Punch: When landed correctly, demonstrates great force with thumbs up and elbows in.</p>	<p>Athletic Ability: Lacks ideal athletic ability, indicated by his combine results, suggesting he is more of a developmental player.</p> <p>Drive Blocks: Lack explosiveness and hip mobility, allowing defenders to penetrate.</p> <p>Reach Blocks: Ineffective due to poor explosiveness and football IQ.</p> <p>Double-Team Scenarios: Often fails to generate movement and reach the second level despite assistance.</p> <p>Quick Sets: Problematic due to wide sets and poor angles, creating gaps in the pocket.</p> <p>Push/Pull Moves: Struggles with these moves and gets overpowered frequently.</p> <p>Counter Plays: Hampered by improper foot placement and a lack of strength.</p> <p>Cut Blocks: Lacks the quickness needed for successful execution.</p> <p>Zone Blocking: Hindered by poor run angles.</p> <p>Football IQ: Lacks the necessary football IQ, leading to missed assignments.</p> <p>Defensive Reactions: Struggles to react to defensive movements.</p> <p>Play Finishing: Often fails to finish plays when advancing to the second level.</p> <p>Competitive Edge: Inconsistent drive to win and outperform opponents.</p> <p>Work Ethic: Needs improvement to become a solid starter.</p> <p>Overall Performance: Inconsistent, particularly in maintaining durability without injuries or physical wear.</p>
Developmental Focus	
Intensive Training and Development: Crucial for improvement if the Texans opt to keep him.	
Monitoring Progress: Close monitoring needed to ensure improvements in explosiveness, blocking technique, football IQ, and agility.	
Short-Term Impact	
Backup Role: Might be relegated to a backup role to minimize negative impacts on the field.	
Rotated Positions: Could be rotated to less critical positions while working on deficiencies.	
Mid-Term Prospects	
Dedication and Improvement: If he shows dedication and tangible improvement, he could gradually regain a more significant role.	
Continued Coaching: Focused skill enhancement will be key over the next one to two seasons.	

Collins		Nico		Michigan 3(89)		WR	
LAST NAME		FIRST NAME		COLLEGE		POSITION	8.05
6041	215	4.45	9.38	34.12	78.50	107.9	16.9
HEIGHT	WEIGHT	40 TIME	HAND SIZE	ARM	WINGSPAN	SPARQ SCORE	FANTASY RANKING

ATHLETIC ABILITY

SECTION GRADE: 8.0

Quickness Out of Stance: Exhibits good initial quickness, getting off the line swiftly to initiate his routes.

Flexibility: Demonstrates excellent flexibility, allowing him to bend and adjust his body to make challenging catches.

Feet Agility: Possesses quick feet, enabling him to change direction effortlessly and maintain balance during routes.

Balance: Maintains great balance, even when adjusting to off-target throws or battling defenders in contested situations.

Speed: Consistently showcases speed to stretch defenses and create separation from defenders.

Body Control: Displays remarkable body control, making acrobatic catches and staying in bounds on sideline plays.

Coordination: Excellent hand-eye coordination, ensuring reliable catching ability even in difficult scenarios.

Hand Quickness: Quick and strong hands that allow him to catch passes securely and make plays after the catch.

Playing Strength

Core Strength: Exhibits sufficient core strength to maintain position and fend off defenders.

Power and Explosion: Demonstrates power and explosiveness when accelerating off the line and breaking tackles.

HANDS / PASS CATCHING TECHNIQUE

SECTION GRADE: 8.0

Exceptional Hands: Known for his outstanding hands and reliable catching abilities.

Height Advantage: At 6'4", he dominates defenders on high throws, creating mismatches in the red zone.

Physical Playing Style: Breaks tackles and gains substantial yards after the catch, turning short receptions into big plays.

Remarkable Hand-Eye Coordination and Flexibility: Enables acrobatic catches outside his frame, expanding his catch radius.

Burst of Speed Off the Line: Quick acceleration makes him a constant deep threat.

Willingness to Fully Extend: Always ready to make the extra effort to secure passes.

Excels in Tight Coverage: Skilled at making low catches while maintaining control and balance, even in tight coverage.

RELEASE OFF LOS / ROUTE RUNNING

SECTION GRADE: 8.0

Release Off Line of Scrimmage (LOS)

Exceptional Speed and Instincts: Makes him an imposing figure on the field.

Refined Release Package: Polished release technique makes him elusive off the line.

Physical Stature and Quick Hands: Helps break free from jam coverage effectively.

Swift Acceleration: Quickly accelerates off the snap, creating immediate separation.

Consistency: Regularly adjusts routes to remain a reliable target for his quarterback.

Route Running

Route Adjustments: Consistently adjusts routes based on defensive coverages.

Precision in Inside Cuts: Excels at executing inside cuts with great accuracy.

Adept at Reading Defenders: Uses football IQ to make smart route adjustments.

Counters Defensive Coverages: Effectively counters various defensive coverages with intelligent play.

Smooth Direction Changes: Changes direction effortlessly, maintaining speed and balance.

Effective Against Tight Coverage: Skilled at maintaining control and balance even in tight coverage situations.

Improvement: Could enhance versatility by improving on fades and outs.

Room for

RUN AFTER CATCH / BALL SECURITY

SECTION GRADE: 8.0

Run After Catch

Physical Runner: Uses physicality to gain extra yards after the catch.

Maximizes YAC: Demonstrates great skill in maximizing yards after catch.

Consistent Additional Yardage: Consistently gains extra yardage, adding significant value to the offense.

Breaks Tackles: Frequently breaks tackles to extend plays and turn short receptions into big gains.

Ball Security

Good Ball Security: Maintains control of the ball, minimizing turnovers.

Secure Catching: Ensures a reliable grasp on the ball during and after the catch.

Protective Running Style: Runs with awareness to protect the ball from defenders trying to strip it.

Reduces Fumbles: Focuses on reducing the risk of fumbles through strong handling techniques.

COMPETITIVENESS / BLOCKING

SECTION GRADE: 9.0

Exceptional Competitiveness: Demonstrates unwavering commitment and a relentless drive to win.

True Team Player: Operates at peak performance in every aspect of his game.

Relentless Drive: Occasionally maintains blocks longer than necessary, showcasing his determination and passion for the sport.

Intensity Until the Whistle Blows: Plays with high intensity and maintains excellent blocking technique.

Skillful Defender Mirroring: Displays adeptness at mirroring defenders.

Athletic Posture: Maintains optimal balance and control while blocking.

Swift Route Adjustment: Able to adjust routes quickly to secure crucial blocks.

Contested Catch Situations: Transforms 50/50 balls into 90/10 opportunities with his physicality and tenacity.

Competitive Edge: Consistently wins challenging battles, highlighting his dedication to excelling in every play.

Invaluable Asset: His unique combination of skills and mindset elevates the offense's overall performance and contributes significantly to the team's success.

LEADERSHIP / INTANGIBLES / CHARACTER / FOOTBALL INTELLIGENCE	SECTION GRADE: 8.0
<p>Exceptional Leadership and Character: Demonstrates top-tier playing ability and natural leadership on and off the field.</p> <p>Versatility: Excels at any receiver position, with a particular affinity for executing seam routes from the #3 slot.</p> <p>Unwavering Commitment: Consistently performs crucial, often unnoticed tasks that significantly impact game outcomes.</p> <p>Impressive Talent and Statistics: Brings a powerful combination of skill and performance.</p> <p>Professional Demeanor: Maintains a professional attitude free from unnecessary drama.</p> <p>High Football IQ: Exceptional ability to read high corners and safeties, allowing for unimpeded routes.</p> <p>Significant Contributions: Makes substantial contributions even when engaged in blocking assignments.</p> <p>Franchise Player: Exemplifies the qualities of a cornerstone player for the team.</p>	

GDE	CATEGORY	COMMENTS / DESCRIPTION	GAMES VIEWED	COMBINE RESULTS
8.0	HANDS	Makes tough catches seem easy.	2024	VERT JUMP N/A
7.0	INITIAL QUICKS	Good suddness at LOS, he is more fluid, than he is quick.	Colts 9/8/24	BROAD JUMP N/A
8.0	CLEAN RELEASE	Has release package including hesi,slide & walk off release.Also,avoids jams in open field ,	Bears 9/15/24	20 SHUTTLE N/A
8.0	RELEASE VS JAM	Big powerful man who uses his hands well.He is able to avoid or power thru a jam.	Vikings 9/22/24	60 SHUTTLE N/A
7.0	PATTERNS	Ican run any inside route a pro bowl level. Needs to work on outside routes &seperation.	Jaguars 9/29/24	3 CONE N/A
8.0	ADJUST TO BALL	Long body & great hand eye coordination allow him to catch balls outside his frame.		BENCH PRESS N/A
8.0	RUN AFTER CATCH	Quickly changes to runner after reception. Physical runner,who breaks tackles.	CRITICAL FACTORS	
9.0	DEEP THREAT	Plays faster than 4.45. Can take top off any defense on seams and post.	SIZE 8	ATH. ABILITY 8
7.5	HAND/EYE COOR	Coordinated athlete who smoothly catches and quickly tucks the football.	HANDS 8	COMPETES 8
9.0	BLOCKING	Blocks on Pro Bowl Level!	PLAYING SPEED 8	INSTINCTS 7.5

STRONG POINTS	WEAKNESSES
<p>Excels Under Intelligent Coaching: Maximizes his abilities with effective coaching.</p> <p>Expertise in Vertical Routes: A premier deep threat due to his high football IQ.</p> <p>Exceptional Depth Perception: Makes critical plays downfield and adjusts to passes in flight.</p> <p>Big, Fluid Athlete: Explosive acceleration makes him formidable with and without the ball.High Football Character: Demonstrates relentless effort and passion, embodying skill and integrity.</p> <p>Franchise Player: Consistently makes big plays with on-field intelligence and unwavering work ethic.</p> <p>Elevates Team Performance: Boosts team performance by stretching the field, making crucial catches, and blocking downfield.</p> <p>Versatile Playmaker: Beyond a deep threat, he excels with route-running precision, reliable hands, and yards-after-catch ability.</p> <p>Cornerstone of Championship-Caliber Roster: His on-field impact, locker room leadership, and dedication make him a transformative presence for any NFL franchise.</p>	<p>Sharpening Route Stems: Needs to improve the stem at the beginning and apex of his outside-breaking routes.</p> <p>Enhancing Separation on Out Routes: Could become more effective against defenders by improving separation.</p> <p>False Steps in Off-Man Coverage: Occasionally takes small false steps, delaying his route timing.</p> <p>Increasing Precision in Corner Route Stems: Needs to refine stems at the top of corner routes.</p> <p>Dominance as an Outside Receiver: Must refine technique to dominate both in the open field and the red zone.</p> <p>Mastering Fade and Fade-Stop Routes: Crucial for achieving perennial Pro Bowl status.</p>

SUMMARY / BOTTOM LINE

<p>Expected Conclusion for Nico Collins Over the Next Three Years</p> <p>Year 1</p> <p>Cornerstone Player: Becomes the primary receiver for the Texans, solidifying his role as a true number 1 receiver. His presence is pivotal in the Texans' offensive strategy.</p> <p>Year 2</p> <p>Consistent Dominance: Builds on his previous success, maintaining elite performance levels. His ability to adapt and improve his game keeps him ahead of defenders.</p> <p>Increased Leadership Role: Takes on a more vocal leadership position, mentoring younger players and contributing to team cohesion.</p> <p>Year 3</p> <p>NFL Star: Recognized league-wide as a top-tier receiver. His stats and impact on the game make him a perennial Pro Bowl candidate.</p> <p>Championship Aspirations: Plays a crucial role in the Texans' pursuit of a championship, using his skills to elevate the team's performance in critical games.</p> <p>*Legacy Building: Starts to build a legacy as one of the great receivers of his era, with a focus on sustaining his high level of play and contributing to team success.</p> <p>*Nico Collins' trajectory over the next three years points to him becoming an indispensable asset to the Texans, showcasing his elite skills, leadership qualities, and unwavering commitment to excellence.</p>
--

Fatuski		Folorunso		UCON 6(16), 2018		DL		
LAST NAME		FIRST NAME		COLLEGE		POSITION	6.2	FINAL GRADE
6036	295	5.29	10.25	34.12	82			
HEIGHT	WEIGHT	40 TIME	HAND SIZE	ARM	WINGSPAN			
ATHLETIC ABILITY						SECTION GRADE: 5.8		
<p>Acceleration: Solid acceleration that helps in closing gaps quickly.</p> <p>Change of Direction: Good agility and Impressive quickness with a 4.53-second short shuttle, allowing for rapid lateral movement.</p> <p>Explosiveness: Great explosiveness, demonstrated by 33 reps on the bench press at the combine, indicating significant power.</p> <p>Balance: Maintains solid balance, preventing overextension and maintaining stability during plays. Functional</p> <p>Strength: Occupies 2 Offensive Linemen: In a 4-3 scheme, effectively occupies 2 offensive linemen, freeing linebackers to make plays.</p> <p>Body Control: Demonstrates good body control, aiding in maintaining proper positioning and leverage Agility: Agile in countering cut blocks, showcasing his technical prowess..</p>								
PASS RUSH - INITIAL QUICKNESS / HAND-USE / PASS RUSH MOVES						SECTION GRADE: 5.0		
<p>Pass Rush - Initial Quickness</p> <p>Good Initial Quickness: Demonstrates solid quickness off the snap, allowing for early penetration.</p> <p>Effective Penetration: Successfully penetrates double teams using his quickness.</p> <p>Pass Rush - Hand Use</p> <p>Active Hands: Utilizes active hands to disengage from blockers effectively.</p> <p>Reading and Reacting: Excels at reading and reacting to defeat cut blocks.</p> <p>Execution of Stunts: Efficiently executes stunts to maneuver around blockers. Strong</p> <p>Hand Techniques: Demonstrates strong hand techniques, essential for countering cut blocks and maintaining control.</p> <p>Pass Rush - Moves</p> <p>Flip Hips and Get Skinny: Ability to flip his hips and get skinny to maneuver past blockers.</p> <p>Bull Rush: Uses bull rush techniques to affect the pocket and pressure the quarterback.</p> <p>Speed Rush: Employs speed rush techniques to disrupt the quarterback, though sometimes rushes past the ideal hit point.</p>								
AGAINST THE RUN - BOTH AT HIM AND IN PURSUIT						SECTION GRADE: 6.0		
<p>Great Pursuit Angles: Showcases excellent pursuit angles, maintaining effective positioning against the run.</p> <p>Explosion: Demonstrates excellent explosion, which allows him to disrupt plays quickly.</p> <p>Anchors Well: Anchors effectively, attempting to grab grass if a double team starts to gain movement.</p> <p>Undercutting in Short-Yardage: Uses explosiveness to undercut guards or centers in short-yardage or goal-line situations.</p> <p>Flips Hips and Gets Skinny: Ability to flip hips and get skinny, making him a formidable opponent who commands double teams.</p> <p>Size Limitations: Not ideal size to be a dominant NT in the Texans 4-2-5 scheme, sometimes getting washed out when trying to make a tackle.</p> <p>Impressive Closing Speed: Exhibits impressive closing speed, effectively limiting offensive gains.</p> <p>Overall Strong Performance: Despite size limitations, maintains a strong overall performance against the run, disrupting plays and maintaining effective pursuit angles.</p>								
INSTINCTS / AWARENESS						SECTION GRADE: 6.7		
<p>Exceptional Field Awareness: Displays outstanding awareness, enabling him to read and react quickly to offensive plays.</p> <p>Optimal Pursuit Angles: Maintains optimal pursuit angles, making him a formidable force on the field.</p> <p>Occupies Offensive Linemen: In a 4-3 scheme, effectively occupies offensive linemen, freeing linebackers to make plays.</p>								
High Football IQ: Quick read-and-react skills, particularly against screen plays, highlight his high football IQ.								
COMPETITIVENESS / TOUGHNESS / PLAYING STRENGTH						SECTION GRADE: 6.0		
<p>Competitiveness</p> <p>Relentless Hustler: Always eager to get in on the tackle, consistently competing at a high level.</p> <p>Dynamic Edge: Plays bigger than his 295-pound size, adding a dynamic edge to the team.</p> <p>Consistent Competitor: Maintains a high level of competitiveness throughout the game.</p> <p>Toughness</p> <p>Notable Toughness: Brings significant toughness to the field, mixing it up effectively.</p> <p>Plays Through Discomfort: Despite occasional balance issues, continues to play aggressively.</p> <p>Enduring Resilience: Demonstrates resilience and determination in every play. Playing</p> <p>Strength</p> <p>Formidable Strength: Exhibits strong playing strength, capable of holding his ground.</p> <p>Disruptive Force: Able to disrupt offensive plays effectively.</p> <p>Anchor Ability: Shows the ability to anchor against blockers and maintain position, but can get washed out on wide run plays.</p>								
LEADERSHIP / INTANGIBLES / CHARACTER / FOOTBALL INTELLIGENCE						SECTION GRADE: 6.4		
<p>Exemplifies Leadership: Shows strong leadership qualities on and off the field, motivating teammates through his actions and words. Strong Intangibles: Possesses valuable intangibles that contribute to team cohesion and performance.</p> <p>Excellent Character: Demonstrates high character, consistently exhibiting a strong work ethic and positive attitude.</p> <p>Effort-Driven Individual: Always puts in maximum effort, which inspires those around him.</p> <p>High Level of Football Character: Maintains a high level of football character, emphasizing discipline and teamwork.</p> <p>Well-Coached: Reflects the benefits of good coaching, displaying disciplined and technically sound play.</p> <p>Comparable Football IQ: Football IQ is on par with solid starting defensive tackles in a 4-3 scheme, enabling effective play-reading and reaction.</p> <p>Plays High When Fatigued: Tends to play high when fatigued, but this does not diminish his overall impact.</p> <p>Commitment to Team: Highly committed to the team, always prioritizing collective success over individual accolades.</p> <p>Dedication to the Game: Shows unwavering dedication to improving his game and contributing to the team's success.</p> <p>Intelligent Play: Exhibits intelligent play, making smart decisions on the field.</p> <p>Resilience: Demonstrates resilience and the ability to bounce back from setbacks, further highlighting his valuable contributions.</p>								
<p>*Folorunso Fatukasi's leadership, intangibles, character, and football intelligence make him a key asset to the Texans' defense, showcasing his exceptional qualities beyond just his physical abilities.</p>								
GDE	CATEGORY		COMMENTS / DESCRIPTION			GAMES VIEWED		COMBINE RESULTS
6.5	READ & REACT		Reads offensive strategy well and reacts fluidly to changes in direction.			2024		VERT JUMP 30
6.0	INITIAL QUICKS		Has good get-off and initial explosion on the snap.			Vikings 9/22/24		BROAD JUMP 9'4"
6.0	PLAY STRENGTH		4-3 DT with power and stability, demanding double teams. Lacks ideal size for NT.			Bills 10/6/24		20 SHUTTLE 4.53

6.5	USE OF HANDS	Very good at attacking with quick, strong hands, able to shed blockers/ push the pocket	Patriots 10/13/24	60 SHUTTLE N/A
6.5	SHED BLOCKER	Plays with good leverage & extension, allowing him to shed blocks at a high clip.	Packers10/20/24	3 CONE 7.44
5.9	RUN AT HIM	Good presence and strong at the point of attack. Lacks ideal size for NT.		BENCH PRESS 33
6.5	PURSUIT / RANGE	Great pursuit angles and hustle; can make tackles anywhere in-line.		
6.7	TACKLING	DT with a nose for the ball, loves to get in on tackles.	CRITICAL FACTORS	
6.4	CLOSING BURST	Good closing burst to the quarterback and any ball carrier.	SIZE 5.9	INITIAL QUICKS 6.2
6.5	INSTINCTS/MENTAL	Plays with eyes, has good awareness, strong football character, and a high football IQ.	PLAY STRENGTH 6.0	COMPETES 6.5
6.0	ERRORS	Can fatigue quickly & sometimes gets washed out of playwhile trying to make tackles.	PLAYING SPEED 6.2	INSTINCTS 6.5

STRONG POINTS

Fluid Athlete: Demonstrates fluid athleticism, making him agile and effective on the field.

Sharp Eyes and Good Awareness: Possesses sharp vision and awareness, allowing him to read plays and react quickly.

Effective Hand Usage: Attacks with his hands effectively, aiding in disengaging from blockers.

High Football IQ: Has a high football intelligence, contributing to smart play and effective decision-making.

Relentless Effort: Known for his relentless effort, consistently working hard on every play.

Good Functional Strength: Shows strong functional strength, making him effective in holding his ground and disrupting plays.

Versatile Asset: An asset in base, heavy, and goal-line packages as a 4-3 defensive tackle.

Key Rotational Player: Continues to be a key rotational player for the Texans, contributing significantly to the defensive line.

Impactful Statistics: Through 7 games in the 2024 season, recorded 12 tackles and 1 sack, demonstrating his impact on the field.

***Folorunso Fatukasi's blend of athleticism, intelligence, strength, and effort make him a valuable player for the Houston Texans.**

WEAKNESSES

Limited Pass-Rushing Capabilities: Notable strength in defending the run, but faces challenges in pass rushing.

Lack of True Nose Tackle Size: His size limits his overall effectiveness, particularly in nose tackle roles.

Vulnerability to Being Washed Out: Susceptible to being washed out of plays when attempting to make tackles.

Endurance Concerns: Tends to tire quickly during extended plays, impacting his effectiveness.

Breakdown in Technique When Fatigued: Fatigue often leads to a higher stance than ideal, reducing his effectiveness.

Needs Improvement in Defeating Half a Man: Enhancing this skill would make him more versatile and effective in various defensive situations.

***Folorunso Fatukasi's strengths as a run stopper are evident, but addressing these weaknesses could elevate his overall performance and versatility on the field.**

SUMMARY / BOTTOM LINE

Fatuski is a valuable rotational defensive tackle in a 4-3 scheme, consistently showcasing great effort and high football IQ. Despite his commendable attributes, he lacks the athleticism and size required to dominate at the defensive tackle/nose tackle position. While he serves as a reliable placeholder, the team should keep him until they can secure several true nose tackles. Fatuski is a solid player, but with limited upside for the future.

WARD		JIMMIE		NORTHERN ILLINOS 1(30)2014, SF		DB
LAST NAME		FIRST NAME		COLLEGE		POSITION
5105	193	4.47	9.38	31	77.12	5.52
HEIGHT	WEIGHT	40 TIME	HAND SIZE	ARM	WINGSPAN	SPARQ SCORE

ATHLETIC ABILITY

SECTION GRADE: 6.0

Quickness Out of Stance

Moderate Initial Burst: Jimmie Ward demonstrates a moderate initial burst from his stance, not as explosive as desired for a safety.

Acceleration Limitations: His overall acceleration is limited, affecting his ability to close gaps quickly.

Flexibility

Average Flexibility: Ward's flexibility is serviceable but doesn't stand out, impacting his ability to make sharp directional changes.

Bend and Reach: Has difficulty bending and reaching at high speed, which affects his tackling efficiency.

Feet Agility

Decent Footwork: Shows decent foot agility, allowing him to keep up with tight ends and running backs, but not exceptional.

Slow Change of Direction: Despite drill times, his in-game change of direction appears slower, impacting coverage.

Balance

Solid Balance: Generally maintains balance well but can be thrown off by more powerful opponents.

Recoverability: Struggles to recover balance quickly after initial contact or when beaten.

Speed

Approximate Speed: Plays at an approximate speed of 4.6, lacking the acceleration and top-end speed expected of a top-tier safety.

Limited Burst: Limited burst affects his ability to close on receivers or react to plays quickly.

Body Control

Controlled Movements: Maintains controlled movements but lacks the dynamic body control required for elite-level plays.

Stability: Shows stability in open field but struggles with explosive movements.

Coordination

Basic Coordination: Exhibits basic coordination, which helps him stay in position during coverage but doesn't excel in multi-directional movements.

Synchronization: Hand and foot movements are generally in sync, aiding his overall gameplay..

PASS COVERAGE ABILITY

SECTION GRADE: 5.9

Limited Ball Touches: Due to lack of eye discipline and limited range, resulting in fewer opportunities for interceptions.

Below Average Instincts: Rarely makes big plays due to below average instincts.

Best Suited for Running Backs and Tight Ends: More effective in covering running backs and tight ends rather than quicker slot receivers.

Tendency to Sit on Routes In Press Man: Often sits on routes, making him vulnerable to mismatches against faster slot receivers & double moves.

Below-Average Pass Rusher: Struggles to effectively rush the passer.

Trouble Coming Out of Breaks: Has difficulty quickly transitioning out of breaks, affecting his coverage ability.

Eyes in the Backfield: Keeps his eyes in the backfield too long, missing opportunities to react to the receiver's routes.

Susceptible in Quarters Coverage: Can be beaten over the top in quarters coverage due to delayed reactions and limited speed.

BALL SKILLS / HANDS

SECTION GRADE: 5.0

Limited Interceptions: Averages less than an interception per year over his 10-year career.

Few Passes Defensed: Averages five passes defensed per season.

Not a Playmaker: Primarily covers one man per play without making significant plays on the ball.

Lacks Burst: Limited burst out of his pedal and to the ball carrier.

Restricted Range: Limited range reduces his ability to cover ground quickly.

Poor Depth and Angles: Struggles with depth and angles on deep throws, impacting his effectiveness in the passing game.

Reduced Impact: These limitations collectively reduce his overall impact as a defender.

COMPETITIVENESS / TOUGHNESS / PLAY VS RUN

SECTION GRADE: 5.0

Timid Play Style: Soft playing style that, lacks the aggression typically seen in top-tier defenders.

Low Forced Fumble Rate: Averages less than one forced fumble per 17 contests.

Few Fumble Recoveries: Only two fumble recoveries in his 10-year career.

Low Impact as Leg Tackler: Limited impact when making leg tackles.

Good Position on Crack Blocks: Positions well on crack blocks, but lacks additional effort to make the tackle.

Effective Block Shedding: Sheds blocks effectively using good arm extension and press technique.

Injury Prone: Prone to injuries, having completed a full 16-game season only twice.

***These points highlight Jimmie Ward's areas of concern regarding competitiveness, toughness, and play against the run.**

INSTINCTS / AWARENESS

SECTION GRADE: 5.5

Poor Pre- and Post-Snap Reads: Often struggles with accurate reads on offensive linemen or tight ends before and after the snap.

Awareness of Formations: Fails to properly adjust alignment in response to tight twins or bunch sets.

Late Play Recognition: Late recognition of plays leaves open cutback lanes for the offense.

Susceptible to RPO: Can be fooled by run-pass option (RPO) plays, leading to defensive lapses.

Slow Depth Gain in Cover 3: Slow to gain necessary depth when playing Cover 3, affecting coverage effectiveness.

Poor Eye Discipline: Does not effectively read quarterbacks' eyes as a middle safety or in Cover 2 halves coverage.

***These points highlight areas where Jimmie Ward's awareness and instincts can be improved to enhance his overall defensive performance.**

LEADERSHIP / INTANGIBLES / CHARACTER / FOOTBALL INTELLIGENCE

SECTION GRADE: 5.5

Perceived Poor Football Character: Appears to lack enthusiasm and passion for the game, seemingly playing without fire.

Complacency: Shows signs of complacency, which can negatively impact team morale, especially given his high salary.

Lack of Enthusiasm: Lacks the visible enthusiasm expected from a passionate player.

No Significant Coverage Busts: Avoids major mistakes but also does not demonstrate significant positive impact.

Displays poor eye discipline, affecting his range and coverage effectiveness.

Inconsistent Reads: Struggles with pre- and post-snap reads, impacting his ability to anticipate and react to plays.

High Income, Low Impact: High income may be perceived as unjustified given his level of effort and impact on the field.

Team Morale: His approach and performance may detract from overall team morale and cohesion.

Subpar Eye Discipline:

***These points highlight the areas where Jimmie Ward's leadership, intangibles, character, and football intelligence may be lacking, impacting his effectiveness and**

These points highlight the areas where Jimmie Ward's leadership, intangibles, character, and football intelligence may be lacking, impacting his effectiveness and perception on the team.				
GDE	CATEGORY	COMMENTS / DESCRIPTION	GAMES VIEWED	COMBINE RESULTS
5.5	READ & REACT	Slow to read and react in both run and pass situations.	2024 COLTS 9/8/24 BEARS 9/15/24 VIKINGS 9/22/24 BILLS 10/6/24	VERT JUMP DNP
5.7	MAN OFF COVER	Mostly plays well against tight ends & running backs.		BROAD JUMP DNP
5.9	TIGHT MAN COVER	Mostly plays well against tight ends & running backs.		20 SHUTTLE DNP
5.7	ZONE COVERAGE	Lacks range to be top NFL safety & struggles in all coverages including 1/2,1/3 & 1/4.		60 SHUTTLE DNP
5.6	BREAK & CLOSE	Below-average break,burst & closing speed for a 10 year Vet.		3 CONE DNP
5.8	HIPS / TURN ABILITY	Hips appear tight when opening to cover deep thirds and halves.		BENCH PRESS 9
5.5	TACKLING	Lacks strength & explosion, occasional missed tackles & is a non-physical leg tackler.		
4.0	HANDS - INT / PBU	A non-factor in the passing game against receivers.	CRITICAL FACTORS	
6.5	HANDS - FIGHT BLK	Best attribute is his great extension, press, and release technique.	ATHLETICISM 6	ZONE COVERAGE 5.5
5.0	DEEP SPEED	Lacks the range to effectively play halves,quarters or thirds.	MAN COVERAGE 5.7	COMPETES 5.5
5.5	ERRORS	Poor pass coverage against slot receivers & errors in 1/3, 1/2, and 1/4 coverages.	PLAYING SPEED 5.8	INSTINCTS 5.0
STRONG POINTS			WEAKNESSES	
			*Lacks power and acceleration	
			*Slower change of direction than suggested by drills	
*Able to cover tight ends and running backs			*Limited range and poor eye discipline in pass coverage	
*Good position on crack blocks			*Timid, low impact in tackling and playmaking	
*Sheds blocks well with arm extension and press technique			*Prone to injuries, with poor pre- and post-snap reads	
			*Lacks enthusiasm and seems complacent on the field	
SUMMARY / BOTTOM LINE				
Currently, Jimmie Ward is seen as a high-end backup or an adequate starter. His fit in the Texans' defensive scheme is questionable due to his limited vision, range, tackling ability, and ball skills. Moving forward, he must focus on improving his pre-snap and post-snap reads, speeding up his progressions, and enhancing his football IQ.				
Current Evaluation				
Player Type: High-end backup/Adequate starter - franchise should be looking to replace him.				
Strengths: Effective in a Cover 3 strong safety role, good in press coverage, and using extension techniques.				
Weaknesses: Limited vision, range, tackling ability, and ball skills.				
Future Potential (2-3 Years) Ward should retire after a long career in the NFL				

Understanding the Houston Texans' 4-2-5 Base Defense, Adjustment Packages & Coverages

By **Gerome Williams**

The Houston Texans employ a 4-2-5 defense as their base scheme, a gap-oriented system designed to provide flexibility and adaptability against various offensive formations. This comprehensive overview will explore the intricacies of the Texans' defensive strategy, including personnel alignments, defensive calls, and package variations.

Defensive Calls Structure

The Texans utilize a numbered alert system for their defensive calls, which consists of four key components:

1. First number: Indicates the call-side tackle's alignment
2. Second number: Specifies the backside tackle's alignment
3. Third number: Provides a Blitz, Dog, or Stunt alert (if necessary)
4. Fourth response: Designates the Coverage call

Defensive Personnel Alignment Responsibilities

Understanding defender alignments is crucial when discussing defensive schemes against offensive formations:

- Even-numbered defenders align head-up against offensive linemen
- Odd-numbered defenders are in shaded positions
- Shaded defenders' base alignment places their inside foot splitting the midline of their offensive counterpart
- Wide alignment positions a defender's inside foot to the outside foot of the offensive personnel
- Ghost alignment places a defender outside on air, typically on an open side

Dime Package

The Texans employ an even front in Dime personnel against opponents' receiving formations, particularly effective against 3, 4, and 5 wide receiver sets. This defensive formation features six secondary members on the field, providing enhanced speed and agility. The Dime package is particularly effective against passing plays but can also bolster run defense when safeties and cornerbacks are proficient tacklers.

Bear Front - Short Yardage/4 Minute/Goal Line

In short-yardage, 4-minute, and goal-line situations, the Texans may utilize a Bear front. Key considerations for this formation include:

- **Rip/Liz call:** Made to an offset back, whether in shotgun or with an offset fullback
- **Lite:** Rip/Liz call is made away from the offset back
- **Rip/Liz:** Allows the defensive coordinator to set the front right or left

COVERAGES

The Texans incorporate a comprehensive range of standard coverages from a Cover Four shell, along with balanced blitz packages, into their defensive strategy. This approach ensures that they remain adaptable and unpredictable against a variety of offensive schemes.

Basic Coverages:

- **Cover 1:** Man-to-man coverage with a single high safety.
- **Cover 2:** Two deep safeties with zone coverage underneath.
- **Cover 3:** Three deep zones, typically with one deep middle safety and two deep corners.
- **Cover 4:** Four deep zones, focusing on preventing deep passes.
- **Cover 6:** Combines elements of Cover 2 and Cover 4, typically used to defend against various route combinations.

Blitz Packages:

- **Single Linebacker Dog:** One linebacker blitzes while the others cover or play zone.
- **Double Linebacker Dog:** Two linebackers blitz, increasing pressure on the quarterback.
- **Triple Linebacker Dog:** Three linebackers blitz, often leaving fewer players in coverage but creating significant pressure.

Coverage Variations:

- **Cover 0:** Man-to-man coverage with no deep safety help, often used in aggressive blitz situations.
- **Cover 1:** Man-to-man coverage with a single high safety providing deep help.
- **Void Zones:** Areas left uncovered due to aggressive blitzing, typically addressed by quick pressure on the quarterback to prevent exploitation.

This comprehensive approach allows the Texans to effectively counter different offensive strategies, keeping their defense versatile and robust. By integrating these coverages and blitz packages, they can apply consistent pressure while maintaining solid coverage, enhancing their overall defensive performance.

Versatility of the 4-2-5 Defense

The 4-2-5 defense combines elements from the 4-4, 4-3, and Nickel defenses, creating a versatile platform for defensive strategies. This amalgamation of defensive concepts contributes to its adaptability in various game situations.

Strengths of the 4-2-5 Defense

- Maintains at least 6 defenders in the box, effective against spread offenses
- Offers flexibility in coverage, including man-to-man and various zone schemes
- Facilitates easy disguise of coverage, potentially confusing offensive reads
- Simplifies defender responsibilities through a gap-control scheme
- Provides multiple pressure options with 8-9 potential pressure players
- Allows for quick realignment against formation shifts and motions
- Enables various fronts and stunts to pressure the quarterback with only four rushers
- Promotes fast play and establishes a distinct defensive identity

Weaknesses of the 4-2-5 Defense

- Risk of overcomplication due to numerous blitz and front options
- Potential vulnerability against compressed formations, particularly off-tackle plays
- Possible weakness against ISO plays to the weak side
- Requires a high number of athletic players for optimal implementation

Conclusion

The Houston Texans' defensive approach prioritizes simplicity, enabling defenders to play with speed and confidence. Their defensive packages are meticulously designed to counter any offensive formation. However, the team still needs to address specific areas to enhance their defensive prowess, such as acquiring more nose tackles, a more physical strong safety, and improving depth in reserve corners and backup positions.

By leveraging the strengths of the 4-2-5 defense while actively addressing its weaknesses, the Texans can significantly improve their defensive capabilities and overall team performance. This balanced approach to defensive strategy positions the Texans to adapt to the ever-evolving offensive landscape of the NFL, potentially leading to increased success on the field.

MY PROPOSED ATTACK vs THE 2024 HOUSTON TEXANS DEFENSE

The Houston Texans employ a strategic defensive approach when facing elite wide receivers like Justin Jefferson, Ja'Marr Chase, Tyreek Hill, and Davante Adams. Their primary defensive package is the 4-2-5 (Nickel), which they utilize 90% of the time, regardless of the offensive formation. The Texans also incorporate larger & smaller defensive sets to counter various offensive threats.

The Texans' Nickel back (#5) is a young, aggressive, and fast player but can be exploited through clever offensive tactics. Muddle huddles, unconventional formations, and man-to-man coverage against slot receivers can create mismatches. While the cornerbacks typically don't follow slot receivers, they may do so when facing an exceptional #1 receiver threat. The defense is generally strong in run support but can struggle against quick, agile slot receivers when matched up with the nickel back or safety.

Offensive strategies to exploit the Texans' defense include:

- Large offensive sets
- 4 and 5 wide receiver sets
- Utilizing double in and out routes or pick plays on tight slot formations
- Implementing flood concepts with running back/tight end/motioned wide receiver combinations
- Exploiting the free safety (#20) on the backside, who may be vulnerable to power runs and cutbacks due to slow reads and reactions
- Attacking the undersized defensive line, particularly the defensive tackles, with double teams in the running game

The primary objective should be to force the Texans out of their preferred 4-2-5 package, effectively removing one of their best players from the field. This can be achieved by establishing a strong running game, setting up play-action passes for big gains behind aggressive linebackers and in front of the safeties. Jimmie Ward, who struggles in the deep safety position, should be targeted early and often to gain an advantage.

Additional vulnerabilities in the Texans' defense include:

- Susceptibility to pre-snap movements such as muddle huddles, sprint to line, player relocation & motion
- In Cover 2, the right cornerback (#37) tends to sink with no threat to the flat, while the left cornerback (#24) does not, creating opportunities for "hole shots" on the single receiver side
- The typical down safety (#20 or other free safety) is a non-aggressive tackler prone to missing tackles in run support
- Poor adjustments when transitioning from 2x2 to 3x1 formations

To capitalize on these weaknesses, the offensive game plan should focus on establishing short passes and yards after catch (YAC) opportunities early in the game. This approach can then be leveraged to set up double moves against man, quarters, and thirds coverages for potential big plays later in the contest.