



### **Wide Receiver Top 10 Prospects**

This is my first time doing full tape watching and evaluating draft prospects in full.

I am basing my decisions purely on what I see, I have given this a great deal of attention, throughout the college season I have watched games due to games being played more in the UK, I have also used highlights as well as watching games as well.

With the playoffs also being shown in the UK and a great deal more attention on this there may be slightly more recency bias in some of these picks.

#### **1. Emeka Egbuka (Ohio State)**

Even before the Championship final Egbuka was my favourite receiver in this draft. There is something special in my opinion with Egbuka. He has had a great college career despite the receivers Ohio State had.

##### **Strengths:**

Egbuka is by far the smoothest route runner in the class. With that Egbuka finds soft spots in defences often as well as breaking away and separating from defenders.

The Ohio receiver also has great hands, he can play aggressively when he is required.

Egbuka is able to take on all routes including sweeps, he motions often as well. His footwork is good especially in the early route which also helps with separation also. If there is traffic he is smooth enough to break free.

Ohio State quarterbacks often went to Egbuka in third down scenarios and he would often bring these in with ease.

Egbuka has played in various roles for Ohio, as well as being a wr1, wr2, and also wr3. He is happy with his roles also. Egbuka played with some fantastic college players and has not looked out of place alongside them.

An underrated aspect of Egbuka's game is he is a red zone threat. He has over 10 touchdowns in the last two seasons.

Weaknesses:

The only real weakness is Egbuka mainly played in the slot, however he did take reps as a wide out but not often due to the personnel Ohio had.

## **2. Tetairoa McMillan (Arizona)**

McMillan is a terrific prospect. He is tall, he is powerful and has made big plays throughout college. Of all the receivers I think he is the best outside receiver by a fair distance.

Strengths:

Let's start with the most obvious, McMillan is a huge target, he is the perfect size and body shape for being a wide receiver. With that he is outstanding in contested situations. He creates mismatches with defensive backs with his size and power.

McMillan has great hands, amazing technical skills and routes, not only that he has incredible body control which also helps him win duals.

Not only that, McMillan is able to create separation and becomes a huge red zone target for quarterbacks.

Weaknesses:

This is another harsh one but McMillan doesn't have a great top end speed. He does show pace but with a little extra he could really be a top receiver in the NFL.

## **3. Travis Hunter (Colorado)**

With Travis Hunter he really intrigues me, it is very clear he will be selected before both other receivers mentioned above, however this is due to his versatility of playing both ways. He is a good solid player both ways, but I am not sure the body could take playing both ways in the NFL.

Strengths:

With that being said, Hunter does have tremendous fitness and an incredible athlete to be able to play both ways now.

The experience Hunter has playing as a defensive back has really helped him playing wide receiver. Hunter often beats corners to balls by attacking the ball and going to high points rather than letting the ball come to him and inviting opportunities. He wins match ups and contested catches with his strength, size and power.

When watching Hunter he is very fluid with his routes and also runs all routes well. He has good speed so can create separation well, and has good hands.

Hunter was a red zone target for Colorado.

Weaknesses:

As I mentioned above I don't think Hunter can play every snap in the NFL, therefore he may only be a package wideout in the future. This is likely to stop his growth as a receiver in the future.

## **4. Luther Burden (Missouri)**

Now we come to Luther Burden. I bet he is one of if not the fastest in the draft class. He will be an interesting player to watch as he could easily develop into a top slot receiver in the NFL.

**Strengths:**

As mentioned above Burden is a lightning quick receiver who is able to create separation from this alone, but he is far from just a speed receiver. Burden gets huge yards after catch due to a change of direction, he forces missed tackles and often lands on soft spots of defences to get those extra yards.

Missouri used Burden in lots of 3rd downs, he has big play potential every catch he makes. He runs all routes well.

Another huge positive for any NFL team thinking of selecting Burden is he also plays a lot of special teams as a kick and punt returner.

**Weaknesses:**

He is a slot only receiver, never really had any reps on the outside.

Burden is also a smaller receiver, so there is a worry in man he could get jammed up at the line at the next level.

**5. Matthew Golden (Texas)**

This is another selection that probably has recency bias, in the UK we saw a lot of Texas games down the stretch, I originally was looking out for Bond but he was banged up. Golden was the star receiver for the side.

**Strengths:**

The biggest strength I saw with Golden is his ability to win the ball from the cornerbacks. Golden has an aggressive style on anything contested. Not only that he has great hands. Some of the other real positives on Golden's play is he creates space and separation, this can be through his route running, speed, his release off the line or understanding the coverage and sitting in the spots.

Golden also plays special teams which makes him look slightly more desirable for NFL teams especially early in his career.

**Weaknesses:**

Golden can be a little bit of a liability in the run game, he doesn't appear to be aggressive enough in his blocking and can give up plays.

There are durability concerns with Golden, and based on his career stats he was a late developer.

**6. Tre Harris (Ole Miss)**

**7. Jack Beck(TCU)**

**8. Xavier Restrepo (Miami)**

**9. Tez Johnson (Oregon)**

**10. Jayden Higgins (Iowa State)**