



Defensive Edges 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.

I do believe that the best player in the draft and the absolute must get is the number 1 guy in the list.

I also need to State that 3 to 10 could honestly go in any order, I really like all these edge rushes and prospects as solid players at the next level.

1. Abdul Carter (Penn State)

Abdul Carter is THE GUY in this draft. He is a complete player and will be a handful day 1 in the NFL. If I am on the clock no matter what number I'm drafting or what needs I may have I'm running this pick in without hesitation. I would take him 1st overall even with the value of quarterbacks in this league.

Strengths:

There are so many places I could start, but let's go with the first thing, this guy is a physical freak, he is super athletic, he is quick, he's hard to stop, bends well, he can set the edge, he can literally do it all.

There is so much to love with Carter, his work rate is relentless every snap, he has moves to get away from offensive tackles, he gets himself sacks with all of his skills, everything looks super natural to him.

Another thing that makes Carter be the guy to take is he can play various roles, whether rushing on the edge, darting up the middle on the blitz, moving to inside linebacker, or going into zone coverage he can do it all and always makes plays.

He played his last few games hurt, and it is said he is still recovering, that doesn't matter, this guy is a stud.

Weaknesses:

None whatsoever, this guy is the real deal.

2. Jalon Walker (Georgia)

Another really solid player in this draft is a Georgia Bulldog, I know we say this every year but they keep producing amazing talent on defense. Walker could easily be the number 2 edge rusher in this draft, there is also versatility with him and I think he will land in the top 15 picks of the draft.

Strengths:

Walker is another super athletic athlete, who uses his speed and explosiveness to get past offensive lineman. When he goes around the edge he uses his bendy body to get around them to land in the backfield.

Similar to Carter, Walker gives 100% every play whether playing on the edge, inside, he can play zone and man. Walker can easily track running backs, receivers and quarterbacks depending on assignment.

Walker appears to be another stud in this draft.

Weaknesses:

The only real weakness I saw, and it is another harsh one, but sometimes Walker is a little slow to recognise runs, however his speed and athleticism recovers well.

3. Shemar Stewart (Texas A+M)

This is probably a little recency bias that Stewart jumps up to 3 in the list, Stewart had a fantastic combine and in the senior bowl, he showed a little more athleticism to help jump up.

Strengths:

When you look at Stewart you can see how he is going to win, he has a huge frame, and with that brings big power and with his athletic ability has surprisingly good speed he is able to get to the quarterback and apply pressure.

One of Stewart's biggest strengths is in the run. He is able to break off lineman to land tackles on running backs.

Weaknesses:

There are a few weaknesses for Stewart that he can develop at the next level, Stewart often doesn't land sacks despite the pressure he can apply. He does show levels of inconsistency with his play.

4. Mike Green (Marshall)

This is another whose stock rose during the senior bowl and combine. There is so much to like when looking at Green who could sneak into the first if not probably early second.

Strengths:

The absolute biggest strength of Green is his ability to land sacks, he is a quarterback Hunter and every quarterback is his target. Green uses his power and speed to get in the backfield. He gets off blocks with ease.

Green uses his bullrush as his main attack method but does have other moves to get to the backfield.

The Marshall edge excels in pass rushing but is still a use in run situations also.

Weaknesses:

He didn't go up against many big colleges so he may need some fine tuning at the NFL level.

5. James Pearce (Tennessee)

Final spot in the top 5 goes to another player who likes sacks. I could very easily have any of the other guys below here but Pearce sacks and pressures edged it.

Strengths:

As soon as the snap is made Pearce shoots out of the block and is quick to get to the quarterback and apply pressure.

Pearce sets the edge really well for Tennessee, he is good in both the pass and run game. He does constantly hunt for sacks and lands lots of them and with him being a solid tackler he is able to get them or tackles for loss on running backs.

Weaknesses:

He does look a little lean and against bigger guys it does show.

6. Jack Sawyer (Ohio State)

7. Mykel Williams (Georgia)

8. JT Tuimoloau (Ohio State)

9. Nic Scourton (Texas A+M)

10. Donovan Ezeiruaku (Boston College)