

Offensive Tackle Top 10 Prospect

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 recentency bias in some of these picks.

I will also state, of all the positions I struggled with the offensive line, both tackles and interior.

1. Will Campbell (LSU)

With the tackles this season it is rumoured a lot will move inside or it's not the deepest of talents, however I believe the top 3 especially will be good NFL players and I think that Will Campbell will be a top player straight away.

Strengths:

There are a lot of strengths and a lot to like about Will Campbell. He is outstanding in pass protection. He is able to manoeuvre defenders around so they do not get to the quarterback. Even sometimes when it appears he may be beaten he uses his huge strength to protect. When watching Campbell his footwork looks impressive and can quickly correct himself when required.

In the run game he moves defenders also to create run lanes, he also moves really well so is happy doing swing tackle work.

This guy is easily a day 1 starter in the NFL, and he is also likely to be one of the better players in the draft.

Weaknesses:

Maybe a bit harsh, sometimes in the run game he can have players a bit close and does not use his length fully which may lead to holding calls.

2. Kelvin Banks (Texas)

The Texas tackle Banks comes in at 2 but I do think the top 3 guys could all be really good in the NFL. I also think if Banks didn't play hurt last year he maybe the number 1 tackle taken.

Strengths:

There is a lot to like about Banks' aggression especially at the start of his blocking, he is ferocious and bullies defenders.Banks's in pass protection is fantastic, he uses his big size, length and power to beat defenders.

In the run game he moves defenders well, he has good body control and with his strength it makes it look easy at times. He's happy to come in on swing players and clear defenders at the next level and is fairly mobile. He can create good lanes for the backs to rush through. He is a day 1 starter in the NFL. A lot of teams should look at these top couple of tackles.

Weaknesses:

The only real weakness I saw was every now and again Banks didn't finish his blocks as well as he started them.

3. Josh Simmons (Ohio State)

Personally I believe if Simmons didn't get a season ending injury he could have been the number 1 tackle in this draft. But with that he falls to 3.

Strengths:

When in pass protection Simmons never seems to be flustered or looks under pressure. He moves really well and has great balance. He is a good size and uses his reach well to move defenders offline.

When watching him in the run game he is excellent and arguably the best run blocking tackle in this group. He easily creates running lanes for his two talented backs. He is mobile to move to the next level should he need to.

For me this is another day 1 starter in the NFL, this is as long as his knee is ok and holds up well before the season kicks off, any setbacks and it could mean he takes a few weeks off to be fully recovered.

Weaknesses:

The only real concern for me with Simmons is the injury. I think he will be a solid pick.

4. Josh Conerly Jr (Oregon)

At 4 I went with Conerly out of Oregon. Now this one is more of a long term projection, there are a few issues Conerly will need to resolve before becoming a starter but overall there is a great deal to like.

Strengths:

Conerly is really solid in pass protection, he is happy to take on speed rushes and uses his size and frame to his advantage.

In the run game he is OK, he can create lanes for his backs, and he is a fairly mobile tackle.

Conerly may not be a day one starter but he could easily be a starter in the future. There may be some corrections he needs to make but yone taking him could have a really good tackle in the coming years.

Weaknesses:

Some Conerly can take up some bad positions and can not move his feet quick enough to correct it so can be caught giving up pressures. He also isn't the most athletic of tackles but these are things he can work on.

5. Armand Membou (Missouri)

Next up is the Missouri tackle Membou. There are talks of him heading inside, which does also land him a spot in the guard list too. Membou is Completely battle tested also.

Strengths:

Membou is a terrific athlete for a tackle. He moves well, and uses his power and strength to keep his quarterback safe in pass protection and create good running lanes for a back. Membou has been a left tackle for Missouri, so it will decrease his value slightly but he will happily do what is asked of him.

I personally would not want to see Membou moved inside. He is a better prospect as a tackle over a guard.

Weaknesses:

When going up against bigger guys Membou did give up pressures. He can also sometimes be over eager with his blocks, so he can work on that. But overall he is a top prospect.

- 6. Cameron Williams (Texas)
- 7. Marcus Mbow (Purdue)
- 8. Jonathan Savaiinaea (Arizona)

Also mentioned in the guards and it is believed they will potentially switch to guard at the next level.

- 9. Aireontae Ersery (Minnesota)
- 10. Emery Jones (LSU)