



## NFL Draft 2015 Scouting Report: CB Kevin Johnson, Wake Forest

*\*CB grades can and will change as more information comes in from Pro Day workouts, Wonderlic test results leaked, etc. We will update info as it becomes available.*

**Kevin Johnson** is a really solid, nice CB prospect for the NFL. There's not much else to say.

He has average speed (for a CB) with terrific agility, which allows him to move/recover nicely when a WR makes a cut. He has a nice size-reach at 6'0"+. He's a fairly polished technique CB when you watch him on tape. He's a little lanky/thin-framed, and he's been skipping the bench press at workouts--so he's not seen as physical/strong CB, but does show a nice ability to work in coverage.

I would bet against Johnson as a future franchise/shut down corner in the NFL, but he has traits that show it is possible for him to blossom into a top corner. He's likely more of a really solid #2 starting CB in the NFL...with a possible upside to be a #1 cover corner over time.

Johnson showed the ability to stick with college WRs, as well as close in on them to break up passes on shorter timing routes. He wasn't overly physical with receivers, but he gave a decent effort to make tackles/hits and bumps around with WRs as needed. He's definitely more of a finesse CB than a physical/hard-hitting one.

Watching Johnson vs. Florida State (2014), I was not overly impressed. I mean, Johnson hung with the Seminoles WRs sprinting deep for the most part, but he allowed plenty of catches in front him...playing way off the ball a lot. I never watched him vs. FSU and thought...wow, what a talent! I did walk away re-thinking that **Jameis Winston** is the worst supposedly great QB I may have ever seen...he is such a prospect fraud.

Johnson was even worse, to me, against Duke—facing NFL Draft prospect WR **Jamison Crowder**. Everyone knows Crowder is the Blue Devils top target, and their best WR...and Johnson was on him like half the game. I would have expected Johnson to shadow Crowder all contest—he didn't. Crowder had 8 catches for 102 yards and a TD. One of his biggest plays being a quick pass, and Johnson playing too far off, then KJ closing in late and missing the tackle, and Crowder spinning away for a big play. I've seen Eric Rowe and Byron Jones just take away talented receivers from good teams...not so much with Kevin Johnson, for me.

Johnson had a nice ACC career, finishing 5th all-time in passes defended. He was respected by league coaches and his teammates. You really cannot find much in the way of huge negatives with Johnson. My only negative, or question mark is...he is not 'off the charts' great or 'special' on tape. His NFL Combine numbers and workout were 'OK'/good overall, and he did measure with elite agility.



With Johnson, you're likely getting a player who is not going to bust on you. However, I'm not sure you're getting a future star either. You're getting a very safe, low-risk, NFL-talented CB prospect with an upside that he could be a #1 corner for you down the road with a lot of work.

### Kevin Johnson, Through the Lens of Our CB Scouting Algorithm:

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11-times in Johnson's career, he posted two pass breakups or more in a game. That's a pretty impressive amount. You're lucky to see top CBs have more than five-games with 2+ passes defended in a game. Johnson was tested, especially earlier in his career, and accounted of himself well enough.

Johnson faced three ranked teams in 2014 (Clemson, Florida State, Louisville), and he had only 2.3 total tackles/1.3 solo tackles per game. Some of this is his less aggressive play...playing too far off the receiver, and then in no position to make a tackle after a quick pass or slant. Some of it was opposing teams avoiding his side of the field where they could help it.

Johnson's performance numbers point to a CB who will be productive/solid in the NFL.

Physically, Johnson produced high-end agility measurements and a top vertical at the NFL Combine. His 40-time was average/'OK' (4.52). He is definitely NFL-worthy from a physical/athleticism standpoint, but a little short of a 'premium' athlete at CB.

I'm reaching for things to say, because Johnson's college résumé is just nice...solid...rarely with a flaw. His tape his shaky at times, but he obviously has skills.



The Historical CB Prospects to Whom Kevin Johnson Most Compares Within Our System:

If **Kevin Johnson** turns out to be a shorter **Nnamdi Asomugha**, that would be a nice NFL career. **Ellis Hobbs** had a nice little NFL run as well.

CB Grade	Last	First	Draft Yr	College	H	H	W	Cover Rating	Speed Metrics	Agility Metric	Tackle Metric
7.83	Johnson	Kevin	2015	Wake Forest	6	0.2	188	9.59	2.59	11.46	6.97
7.81	Asomugha	Nnamdi	2003	Cal	6	2.3	213	8.49	-0.08	8.54	8.73
6.08	Hobbs	Ellis	2005	Iowa State	5	9.0	192	6.94	2.99	9.02	8.15
10.01	Talib	Aqib	2008	Kansas	6	0.6	202	16.40	6.32	8.14	7.68
5.80	Davis	Cody	2013	Texas Tech	6	1.7	203	7.86	1.58	8.20	11.66

*\*The ratings are based on a 1–10 rating scale, but a prospect can score over 10.0+ and less than 0.0*

**OVERALL RATING** -- We merge the data from physical measurables, skill times/counts from the NFL Combine/Pro Days, with college performance data available on pass coverage/tackles, etc. and grade it compared to our database history of all college CBs, with a focus on which CBs went on to be good-great-elite in the NFL. We found characteristics/data points that the successful NFL CBs had in common in college, that most other CB prospects could not match/achieve.

Scoring with a rating over a **7.00+** in our system is where we start to take a CB prospect more seriously. Most of the future NFL successful college CBs scored **8.00+**, and most of the NFL superior CBs pushed scores more in the **9.00+** levels...and future NFL busts will sneak in there from time to time. **10.00+** is where most of the elite NFL CBs tend to score in our system analysis.

**COVERAGE** -- A combination of on-field data/performance and physical profile data

**SPEED** -- Measurables from a perspective of straight-line speed, burst, etc.

**AGILITY** -- Measurables for lateral movements, quick cuts, body type, speed, etc.

**POWER** -- A look at physical size, tackling productivity in college, other physical measurables. One of the side benefits/intentions here, is to see which CBs may be more of a model for a conversion to playing safety successfully in the NFL. Also denotes CBs who are more physical/will have higher tackle totals...over pure speed/coverage CBs.



APRIL 10, 2015

## 2015 NFL Draft Outlook:

**Kevin Johnson** has been moving up in the mock drafts lately, as he should. As of today, you'll typically see him projected anywhere from picks #20-40. He is somewhat of the de-facto #2 CB prospect for the mainstream, after everyone's #1 **Trae Waynes**. He's not our #2 ranked CB prospect, but I cannot argue too hard if you proclaim him as the #2 Cornerback in the 2015 NFL Draft. He's not on the same level of prospect as our top-3 guys (Jones, Rowe, Roberts). In the end, we do see Johnson going in the 1st-round.

If I were an NFL GM, I'm likely passing on Johnson. Nothing against him, he's a nice CB prospect for sure, but I like three guys (Jones, Rowe, Roberts) ahead of Johnson...and I can probably get my guys after Johnson is off the board. Johnson is NFL-worthy, and deserves 1st-round consideration, but I think there are better-cheaper CB options in this particular draft.

## NFL Outlook:

Johnson probably plays in nickel and dime packages as a rookie, and by year-three, he'll be a starting #2 CB in the NFL, most likely. He'll then go on to a nice, quiet, steady NFL career.

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4/10/2015