



Scouting Report: QB Tyree Jackson, Buffalo

**Our QB grades can and will change as more information comes in from Pro Day workouts, leaked Wonderlic test results, etc. We will update ratings as new info becomes available.*

I wasn't prepared to fall in 'like' with **Tyree Jackson**, but I have. The first preview tape I watched of him...I saw a tall guy with a couple good throws, but his accuracy numbers were so flimsy (55.3% in 2018, 55.8% career) and I could see all the incompletions on tape – I quickly put Jackson in the box that his accuracy numbers said he fit in. I also, likely, had a bias – I saw everyone going nutty for 'tall' (6'7") and 'big arm' and 'mobile' and I saw the inaccuracy, poor mechanics as a passer and a stiff/overrated runner and I gravitated to running away from what the scouts were running towards.

Now, I'm running to catch up to the scouts, but I think I'm going to catch up and surpass them. And I'm stunned by that. I'm not sure I've had such a change of heart on a prospect's abilities since I first previewed **Dak Prescott** and then did a deeper study. My conversion on Jackson was bigger than the one on Dak when I started studying deeper.

I'm not going to tell you Jackson is an elite QB, but I am going to make a case that Jackson should be taken more seriously than just 'raw' and 'tall'. I will try to make a case that Jackson belongs as a top five prospect and is the **Drew Lock** the mainstream is looking for...only way better than Lock.

My pitch for Jackson is summed up in this statement: I think Jackson has a lot of hidden new-era (spread offense) passing skills and is a great QB coach and smart NFL head coach away from being a competent NFL starting QB within 1-2 years.

I say 'hidden' because all the commentary the mainstream will give on Jackson is 'tall' and 'strong arm' and 'raw'. And they're right but they're missing the reality of how 'raw' Jackson is...what 'raw' means.

The 'raw' label gets applied to any QB who has physical tools but doesn't look like **Tom Brady** or **Peyton Manning** (and I mean that figuratively and literally). It also gets applied when you look and see 55% completion percentage on college. I could never watch one game tape on Jackson but notice that he is 6'7", see three handpicked best of his rocket throws on a tape, see his season-by-season Comp. Pct., and say 'raw' to sound like a real official football scout.

Here's what changed my mind on Jackson...because I thought 'raw' too in my first preview -- it was easy to go there ('raw') in the preview scouting and watching him at the Senior Bowl. What changed my mind with deeper study of tape: I don't believe he's that 'raw'. He's actually a pretty capable pocket passer. He's not all bubble screens and bombs. Jackson actually sits in the pocket and makes 'all the throws', and he will make throws over the middle after reading the situation. **Dwayne Haskins** is a mostly no-read, throw to the play call and/or simple flare passes or crossers – ask Haskins to sit in the pocket and make NFL throws in tighter windows...forget it. Jackson...he can make those throws pretty well.



Now, Jackson is not **Tom Brady**...or even **Jarrett Stidham**, in accuracy and reading defenses from the pocket. I'll see Jackson make 2-3 great throws over the middle or to the sidelines and then force the next one and flirt with danger too often, or his pass to the open person gets away from him. He's not perfect, but he's a heck of a lot better all over the field than I ever thought he was. I didn't realize it until watching him play against teams like Temple or Troy (bowl game). Against elevated competition (for Buffalo), Jackson showed signs of very good accuracy and aggression as a pocket passer.

I think the problem with Jackson is easy to spot...and totally fixable (potentially).

Jackson doesn't have the issue most fake news top QB prospects do – he's not afraid to sit in the pocket when things are muddy and he's not just all bubbles and bombs. Jackson has very good accuracy on all kinds of throws...not just a perfect pocket set up. Jackson throws a lot of passes on the money when he's scrambling, or against his body, or with pass rushers bearing down and he slides away a little or if in safe conditions. He's got a natural touch. Making the throws and selecting the right receiver are not his big problem.

His main issue, to me, is his mechanics. Jackson tends to dip backwards and throw off his backfoot...which cuts his arm speed in half and slices into his accuracy numbers. Many fake QB prospects have the same issue, for example **Drew Lock** stands like a statue and throws all arm way too much and he floats balloons inaccurately. Lock shows me no feel at all for QB play at a high level. Kinda like **Josh Allen** – great arm talents who occasionally make 'wow' throws under perfect conditions and make everyone forget the heavy dose of terrible/erratic or gunned blindly into double-triple coverage throws.

Jackson doesn't always look bad when his mechanics are off either. Jackson generates natural velocity from all kinds of arm angles and foot positions. However, sometimes (and sometimes for no reason) he will lean back and throw half-speed or lean back and wind-up (with his lanky body) and take too much time from the start of the process to the end.

I think Jackson's backfoot throwing is fixable. It's not a 'fear' issue (then it wouldn't be fixable...like **Jameis Winston** and **Sam Darnold** for example). Jackson is not afraid in the pocket...it's just sloppy mechanics from time to time. He doesn't have the grace to be sloppy in the NFL...not if he wants to become a solid starter. When Jackson is throwing properly/perfectly, he might have the strongest arm in the draft class...but he is also accurate, despite his lower completion percentage. **Drew Lock** and **Josh Allen** – they ARE their lowly Comp. Pct. They have no feel for pure quarterback play. They throw to spots and hope the arm gets them through. Jackson actually reads the field and can throw accurately on the move. A lot of Jackson's incompletions that I watched on tape were balls thrown to the right receiver near or on the money. He's not a 'wild thing' throwing bullets five feet over receivers' heads (see Lock and Allen). Jackson has a natural touch with most all of his arm angles.

I would also say, after watching Jackson's game tapes – some of his interceptions and incompletions were 'smart ones'. Watching him against Temple, he had his lone INT on a 4th & 3 near the red zone



where he went downfield instead of going safe, and he had to make the throw because it was 4th-down, nothing to lose. He underthrew it/his receiver didn't help. He was also picked on a 2-point conversion in that game...he forced it because he had nothing to lose, it was a 2-point conversion. During the normal game flow, Jackson is smart with the ball. He'll throw it away as needed. Against Ohio, a big loss, he had two picks – one a 3rd & 10 bomb that acted like a punt and another throw on the money deflected into the air and right into a defender's arms. He forces some passes time-to-time but not anything egregious...most of his negative result throws had logic behind the gamble. A very nuanced thing (the circumstances surrounding the INT) that 'metrics' alone/numbers alone cannot illuminate.

I really think a decent NFL pocket passer is hiding in Jackson. My theory is enhanced even more when you consider his 6'7" size – he can see and deliver on passes over the middle with some ease because he has such a unique vision of the field (and he's got the arm and touch to deliver). I think his size will buy him more time and grace to learn in the NFL. If a 6'2" QB prospect no one cares much about makes a sloppy throw – it's easy to ditch him for some other 6'2" prospect. Jackson is the kind of size/presence that will make coaches take extra time with to see if they can unlock him to his fullest.

I think there is a very nice upside pocket passing QB here...to my shock. Our computer scouting model grades cannot go all the way with Jackson – because the weaker Comp. Pct. is something that is usually the kiss of death for college prospects. On this one, you're going to have to trust my scouting eye – I think there is something good hiding here.

Jackson will also have to go to a place that can help tighten him up. He goes to the Rams to work with **Sean McVay** for 2-3 years – and he might really have a future. He goes to Seattle to work with **Pete Carroll** and **Brian Schottenheimer**...or with **Mike Zimmer** or with **Doug Marrone**, you might as well forget he ever existed.

Jackson seems like a hard-working, humble kid from the interviews I've watched and listening to his teammates speak about him. He seems to be coachable. He accounted for himself well at the Senior Bowl week. I hope he gets the right place/environment to work and grow in the NFL.

I also believe Jackson could be fine thrown into an emergency situation as starter in the NFL in 2019. He's not needing a ton of transformation. He has a lot of good instincts already, just needs some tweaking – like Dak Prescott or Derek Carr entering the NFL. If he gets the right training, Jackson goes from nice backup to future NFL starter in short order.

Tyree Jackson, Through the Lens of Our QB Scouting Algorithm:

In his last 17 games, **Tyree Jackson** posted a 13-4 record (including a 12-win in 13-games stretch) with 37 TDs/13 INTs in that span.



Also consider Jackson played home games outdoors for Buffalo...and that's not going to help push numbers. He completed 43.8% of his passes for 111 yards against lowly Kent State – how can we take Tyree seriously with those types of numbers against sad Kent State? Well, what if you consider there were 50 mph wind gusts going on during the game?

Also consider, he didn't have the greatest team around him...and was still leading his team to a division title, conference championship game and a bowl game. Buffalo lost its conference championship game after leading 29-10 into the 3rd quarter (an eventual 30-29 last minute loss). They led their 2018 bowl game 24-21 mid-3rd quarter before stumbling at the end (a 42-32 loss to Troy).

People think of Jackson as a 'mobile' QB because he has a cool highlight of him running for a 70+ yard TD against Army in 2017. Really, Jackson only runs when he has to. He's not all that quick, but he can move OK...it's just his long legs, long strides take him a bit to get going. I'd say he's a 4.7+ runner, which is good. He also has a nice sense in the pocket for avoiding pressure/tackles. He will keep the ball on spread option runs near the goal line but he's not a ball hog in the run game. Most all his running plays were him running from the pocket on broken plays/blocking.

At the Senior Bowl, Jackson measured 6'7"/249 with 10" hands and 35" arms. He was a sub-6-foot, less than 150-pound QB starting high school who started to grow every year and kept growing into college. He learned his QB play well before he had the amazing physical tool advantage.

The Historical QB Prospects to Whom Tyree Jackson Most Compares Within Our System:

If I could take some of **Cardale Jones** and **Brock Osweiler** and make a better QB prospect...then it might be **Tyree Jackson**. Jones had the arm and size at his peak in college, but never got any better...never was with a college or NFL team who took him seriously and developed him (my opinion). OSU/Urban Meyer never wanted him to start...and sabotaged him (my opinion) after he literally carried OSU to a title and walloped Alabama in the process of the greatest out-of-nowhere, emergency three-game start/run you'll ever see in college.

Cardale went from **Rex Ryan** to **Sean McDermott** to **Anthony Lynn** in the pros...so, essentially, no help. **Brock Osweiler** was tall and capable, but ultimately couldn't throw like Tyree does over the middle (or anywhere in the field).

It's a mixed bag of computer comps...thus is the upside/downside gamble on Tyree.



<u>QB-Score</u>	<u>Last</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Yr</u>	<u>College</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>Adj Comp Pct</u>	<u>Adj Yds per Comp</u>	<u>Adj Pass per TD</u>	<u>Adj Pass Per INT</u>
7.729	Jackson	Tyree	2019	Buffalo	79.0	249	57.6%	13.2	17.5	37.7
7.512	Jones	Cardale	2016	Ohio State	76.5	240	57.1%	15.6	17.6	34.9
7.880	Osweiler	Brock	2012	Arizona State	79.2	240	63.5%	11.5	19.3	37.3
7.640	Wentz	Carson	2016	No. Dakota St.	77.5	230	62.4%	13.4	15.6	55.9
6.131	Lalich	Peter	2013	Cal (Pa)	76.1	235	62.8%	14.1	14.8	32.9
5.912	Johnson	Jerrod	2011	Texas A&M	77.1	251	57.5%	12.3	16.9	39.4
6.062	Kizer	DeShone	2017	Notre Dame	76.2	233	57.1%	12.3	18.0	47.7

*“Adj” = A view of adjusted college output in our system...adjusted for strength of opponent.

**A score of 8.5+ is where we see a stronger correlation of QBs going on to become NFL good-to-great. A scouting score of 9.5+ is rarefied air—higher potential for becoming great-to-elite.

QBs scoring 6.0–8.0 are finding more success in the new passing era of the NFL (2014–on). Depending upon the system and surrounding weapons, a 6.0–8.0 rated QB can do fine in today’s NFL—with the right circumstances...but they are not ‘the next Tom Brady’ guys, just NFL-useful guys.

2019 NFL Draft Outlook:

I see **Tyree Jackson** moving to the top 150 overall on prospect rankings since his invite and showing at the Senior Bowl. He’s starting to sneak into the top 10 among the QB group in some places. I think he’s likely to catch another wave of momentum at the NFL Combine and shoot himself into the top 50-75 and into the top 5 QB rankings. He should be ahead of **Drew Lock** for everybody, but he won’t be...for anyone but us, I bet. In the end, I would guess Jackson as a late 2nd-round/early 3rd-round pick...I believe he will get that **Logan Thomas**-esque momentum from the NFL Combine and drive himself up the draft board in a year where no one in the mainstream loves anyone from this draft class all that much.

If I were an NFL GM, I’d have an interest in Jackson as my developmental quarterback. I’d take **Jarrett Stidham** as the better QB and better value, so there’s that... I’d have an interest in Tyree, but I’d see better bargains. Tyree deserves a higher draft pick and time to develop. I wouldn’t be that GM to do it, because I know I’d do better, but many GMs’ should take this plunge.



2019 NFL DRAFT SCOUTING REPORT

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NFL Outlook:

No QB prospect ever had the 'depends on where he lands' label applied that was more pertinent. Jackson could really be a legit NFL starter with some work and grooming. He could get lost easily in a place with terrible coaching or one having a coaching transition from his year 1-to-2.

I'd bet a nickel this is **Bruce Arians'** kinda QB. Arians either drafts Jackson or Minszew, I'd lean towards Jackson...Jackson as the **Logan Thomas** correction on what he got wrong years ago.

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Signature _____

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "R.C." It is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Date _____

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