



Scouting Report: QB Layton Rabb, Northwestern St.

**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.*

Layton Rabb (pronounced Robb) might be the best small school QB prospect for the 2019 NFL Draft, but although there might be something workable here for the NFL. he's not tracking up to the standard or bringing me the enthusiasm levels I had with recent under-the-radar sleepers **Kyle Slotter** or **Chad Kanoff**.

Rabb has an interesting background/resume for the NFL. His dad was a small school (Tarleton State) college QB. As was his brother (West Texas A&M), who also plays professionally in Germany. **Layton Rabb** broke his brother's high school records in high school and was an all-academic and all-District performer in both football and basketball.

Rabb redshirted as a freshman (2014), played sparingly in 2015, and got into some mop up duties in 2016. In 2017, he took over as the starting QB and went on a two-year (2017-18) run throwing 60 TD passes in 19 games...with only 11 interceptions. He was a Harlon Hill (D2 Heisman) award nominee both his seasons as a starter.

When I saw Rabb's size (6'3"+) and stats as a starter, weeks before conducting deeper studies, I went and watched some quick YouTube tape and saw that the size checked out and he had a decent arm. In a 2-3 minutes look, he seemed intriguing. I put him on the list for a deeper scouting report. As I began to study him this week, I assumed Rabb would be a 'good' D2 quarterback but not really a serious NFL talent...just a guy racking up numbers, nicely, at the D2 level. However, I have to say...the more I watched Rabb's work, the more impressed I was.

Rabb has the build and throwing motion of a young **Philip Rivers**...they have that passer mechanic where it looks like they are shoving the ball like a shotput when they pass, but it comes out quickly and gets to where it needs to go in a hurry.

As I watched game tape, I kept trying to find a fault to pick on, but mechanically, there wasn't much to mark down. Rabb has nice feet...bounces around in the pocket well and can take off and go if he needs to. He's definitely faster than **Philip Rivers** ever was. Rabb also has a nice touch to his passes – his throws tend to be on the receiver, in stride – whether completed or not. Rarely did I see him force passes egregiously or blindly. He was a traditional drop-back passer who threw passes all over the field...not just bubbles and bombs.

My knock on Rabb is – he did get lazy in the pocket on some throws. Standing still and trying to 'arm' the ball instead of always stepping in and zipping it. It almost looked, at times, like Rabb was so comfortable, so unpressured that he got complacent and a little sloppy – which is correctable, potentially. It's also



easy to slap the 'raw' label on him. Tearing apart D2 defenses is one thing but jumping up to the NFL class and doing the same...not sure Rabb is ready for that. Princeton QB prospect **Chad Kanoff**, in 2018, was a shell of his college self in his NFL rookie preseason. Whereas **Kyle Slotter**, 2017, FCS QB prospect, looked like an NFL starter from the first snap of his NFL preseason work (at least to everyone except the Denver "brain" trust...) and that's rare. Rabb feels more like he's going to get overwhelmed in his rookie training camp.

Rabb has a lot of the physical tools you look for in an NFL quarterback, but he has nowhere near the mental training/experience. He played college games in front of fewer people than he played in front of in Texas high school play. He hasn't been under the big bright lights the top QB prospects have. No one knows how he will hold up, mentally, on a bigger stage but...there are enough skills showing to at least kick the tires on in the NFL.

Layton Rabb, Through the Lens of Our QB Scouting Algorithm:

The most concerning thing for me from Rabb's data is his 58.0% Comp. Pct. in his 2018 season. How do you not complete 65%+ of your passes as a senior who's looking towards the NFL? I get that his receivers were nothing to write home about but still...you have to do better than 58.0%. Rabb's numbers (and tape) point to a guy more interested in throwing deep and getting the sweet big play payoff than meticulously chopping away at a defense...bringing up the question of whether he could change his game at the next level.

Rabb faced three ranked D2 teams in 2018...West Florida, Texas A&M-Commerce, and Tarleton State. His numbers in those two games: a 1-2 record, 51.7% Comp. Pct., 2.3 TDs/0.3 INTs, 289.3 yards per game.

Rabb looks like a legit 6'3"+ if not 6'4"+. We would project him as a 4.8+ runner. His longest run in 2018 was 21 yards and he rushed for 4 TDs on the season. Not a big-time runner, but he can move around well enough.

The Historical QB Prospects to Whom Layton Rabb Most Compares Within Our System:

Rabb mostly compares with forgotten D2/FCS players of prior years'...not great for any draft mojo.



<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>
5.933	Rabb	Layton	2019	Midwestern St	75.5	220	60.1%	14.2	11.8	44.1
4.555	Bauer	Drew	2017	Minn-Deluth	74.6	211	62.4%	14.6	12.5	53.6
4.792	Nadler	Liam	2016	Gannon	77.0	236	55.2%	14.2	14.0	56.2
5.149	Washington	David	2017	Old Dominion	74.4	214	59.0%	14.7	7.8	30.4
4.367	Lindley	Ryan	2012	San Diego St	75.5	230	52.1%	13.2	18.8	43.8

*“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.

QB's 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:

Pretty much no shot of getting drafted.

If I were an NFL GM, I'd be aware of Rabb and if desperate for QBs to throw/look at in camp, I might call Rabb for a training camp look/opportunity, but I'm not seeing enough to make any special plans to get him onto my team's preseason roster. It would be great if he could get 2-3 years training/development and then make a run at the NFL.

NFL Outlook:

Won't make an NFL roster, but might have a shot to play in the XFL or the other football minor league thing starting up.

