



NFL DRAFT 2017 SCOUTING REPORT: QB JOSH

DOBBS, TENNESSEE

**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.*

There's a minor debate to be had, but realistically – **Josh Dobbs** is not a legitimate NFL quarterback prospect.

The debate is that Dobbs does have some things going for him. He's very athletic/mobile. A quasi-**Colin Kaepernick** type of runner...and Kaepernick-type quarterback. Dobbs is Kaepernick without the arm strength, but with a better head on his shoulders.

If you forced Dobbs to start in the NFL on opening day 2017, and you set him up in a simple spread offense attack and just let him dump short passes and run at will...he might be respectable enough to hold down the fort. The reality is that in the NFL – most every team – wants nothing to do with that type of quarterback on purpose. The spread offense and improvising QBs are an affront to NFL sensibilities and their phone-book-thick playbooks. Control is desired over unpredictable, risky results.

Dobbs is only good at executing short passes (screens, bubbles), one-read passes, and also adept at taking off and running. Dobbs looks more like a wide receiver playing quarterback...he's long and elusive. He ran for 100+ yards in a game four times in the 2016 season. He ran for 190 yards against Missouri last season. Dobbs can move, and that helps him in the passing game to a degree – his ability to run has to be accounted for. Teams will play off him making sure they don't flush him out of the pocket for a big running play.

Dobbs is just such a poor passer from the pocket and on medium or deep throws that it makes him a very limited prospect for the NFL. You can see it on tape whenever he faces a decent defense. Dobbs had a stretch in 2016 where he faced



Florida, Georgia, Texas A&M, Alabama, and South Carolina, and he completed 55.7% of his passes with 9 TDs/8 INTs. Time and time again I'd watch overthrown wide open receivers 5–10 yards away. If I stripped away his screens and bubble passes, Dobbs might have completed around 40% of his passes against better opponents.

My tape evaluation was clinched watching him in the Senior Bowl practices and in the game itself. In shorts, with no pressure, Dobbs can drive the ball with good velocity. In live action, he gets in a hurry and his mechanics break down. He throws flat-footed or just misfires wildly on too many occasions. In live action, he tends to pre-pick his first read and if it is not there he is going off to the races. He makes plays with his feet on the run or just scrambles and finds a receiver in broken coverage. There is some value in being able to do that – if the NFL will let you. They don't, not on purpose.

Dobbs is a quality young person. He is off-the-charts smart – an Aerospace Engineering major. He's the kind of college young person you root for. He is also the kind of guy that will see where he is drafted, and if he can make enough money as a backup he'll take it for a while. Eventually (or quickly), he'll ditch the NFL and begin his real career. The NFL is not built for him...and he's really not enough of a quality passer to work a spread offense in the NFL anyway.

Josh Dobbs, Through the Lens of Our QB Scouting Algorithm:

Against the toughest opponents (16 total games) on his schedule the past three seasons – Alabama 3x, Florida 2x, South Carolina 3x, Georgia 2x, Arkansas, Texas A&M, Oklahoma, and three bowl games...Dobbs sports an 8–8 record with 21 TDs/13 INTs (13 TDs/0.8 INTs per game). He completed 57% of his passes. He's rushed for 14 TDs. He threw for 300+ yards four times, and under 200 yards passing eight times (50%) in those 16 games. It's not NFL prospect quality work.

Against Alabama, Dobbs went 0–3 with 3 TDs/2 INTs with 151.7 yards passing and a 59.2% completion percentage.

In three bowl games: 3–0 record with a total of 2 TDs/1 INT passing, rushing for 7 TDs.



Dobbs is 6'3.2"/216 with 9.4" hands. A little thin-framed, and hands on the smaller side. Not damning measurables at all, but not ones that will make the NFL look past his tape. I would project he runs a 4.5-4.6+ 40-time with sub-7.0 three cone...it will be his best asset as an NFL prospect.

The Historical QB Prospects to Whom Josh Dobbs Most Compares Within Our System:

Collin Klein makes some sense as a match– was once debated as a #1 overall pick in his heyday as a runner/passers...then was easily exposed as 'not NFL material' at QB. A physically smaller E.J. Manuel has some logic too.



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QB-Score	QB	Yr	College	H	W	adj Comp Pct	adj Yds per Comp	adj Pass per TD	adj Pass Per INT
6.16	Dobbs, Josh	2017	Tennessee	75.2	216	60.7%	12.0	17.5	27.6
6.06	Klein, Collin	2013	Kansas St	76.5	220	63.3%	13.2	24.9	28.4
3.64	Denker, B.J.	2014	Arizona	74.4	185	58.3%	11.3	20.5	33.1
2.25	Whitehurst, Charlie	2006	Clemson	76.8	223	64.8%	10.0	32.3	34.8
7.76	Manuel, E.J.	2013	Florida St	76.1	240	65.2%	12.6	25.4	40.0
-1.96	Owens, Terrance	2014	Toledo	75.1	205	61.8%	10.1	26.2	21.1
0.75	Scheelhaase, Nathan	2014	Illinois	73.4	205	62.3%	10.5	29.2	33.8

**"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 on 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.

2017 NFL Draft Outlook:

I see Dobbs ranked all over the place in January 2017 – as high as the 4th round and as low as the 7th round. His Senior Bowl start helped him a bit. I'll predict the 4th or 5th round. I'm extremely interested to see who is running the Browns. If it is **Hue Jackson** – he's drafting Dobbs as an understudy to **RG3**. The Browns' *Moneyball* guys won't want anything to do with Dobbs.

NFL Outlook:

Drafted. Spends time as a backup. Is a forgotten player over 2–3 years. Leaves the NFL quietly to pursue his advanced engineering career.

