Scouting Report: QB Josh Rosen, UCLA

*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.

You have to be kidding me with **Josh Rosen**. Seriously? I mean, if you wanted to pitch him as a top 100 prospect, a middle-of-the-draft guy who has some NFL skills to take a look at…I get it. The #1 overall QB and/or player in the 2017 NFL Draft? You have to be kidding me.

I get that **Josh Rosen** has QB skills. He's not devoid of talent. He's a much better overall QB/arm talent than the guy he's always mentioned with – **Sam Darnold**. I just cannot believe with all the data…his stats, his weak record in the PAC-12, his injuries, his physical frame, his background – I can't believe people aren't tarring and feathering him as **'Christian Ponder',** because that's exactly who I see right away when I watch him play – solid QB skills but a host of other glaring issues when projecting them as 'top guys'.

First, let's talk about Rosen as a QB…and then we'll unpack all the other issues…

As a quarterback, Rosen might be the most skilled in the draft (which makes this a potentially disastrous draft for QBs). He has a quick release of the ball, nice velocity, and shows some ability to read defenses. He plays like a very poor man's **Jimmy Garoppolo**…in the sense that he moves around the pocket fairly well, and has such torque from his torso on a throw that he can throw flat-footed stronger than many QBs can throw if they put all their body weight behind the throw – like **Jimmy Garoppolo**. He's nowhere near as talented as Garoppolo.

The downside to Rosen at quarterback is that he's very jumpy in the pocket. He tends to fold under pressure. He moves away from a pass rush nicely, at times, but he seems so hyper-aware of people around him that he never looks comfortable. He's ready to fall at a moment's notice. Give Rosen time and he'll make decent throws…with velocity. He's a quick-passer like a **Dak Prescott**. He can get in a rhythm and work nicely in a short passing game. I don't see Rosen as much as a great gunslinger dropping passes medium deep with great renown. He's not awful throwing medium/deep…it's just that he's really good with short, quick, dart throws. He's also not one to sit in the pocket and wait for things to develop medium/deep…because he fears the footsteps of a pass rush.

All the other stuff…

 -- When football people and fans start dialing in on the whole draft process…I think they will all 'turn' on Rosen, even if unfairly. They'll turn on him because of his background – wealthy parents, 'California

cool', former top youth tennis player in the state of California…he has a regal, princely background that a lot of blue collar fans will hate.

Football people should be zeroing in on the background issue as well – as the top NFL QBs tend to be Midwest grinders who are often overlooked…**Tom Brady**, Michigan (via California upbringing)…**Drew Brees**, Purdue…**Carson Wentz**, North Dakota…**Russell Wilson**, NC State/Wisconsin…**Joe Montana**, Notre Dame…**Jimmy Garoppolo** and **Tony Romo**, Eastern Illinois…**Kurt Warner**, Northern Iowa.

Rosen has more of a **Jared Goff** background, but Goff seemed to me to have more of an edge to him…going to Cal and going winless and taking a beating early. Rosen went to a school situation made for a prince. When I studied Goff in interviews, he was comfortable and unassuming, but he didn't mess around, and teammates liked and looked up to him. Rosen is more uncomfortable in interviews…a little glib, a little unsure what to do with his hands when talking, and can come off a tad smug. Rosen just doesn't jump out at you as 'a leader'. There are also rumors of his teammates being a little off put by him…a little too out of touch, 'princely'.

Rosen was pulled from the 2nd half of UCLA's final game in 2017 (v. Cal) when he took a big hit and a hard landing on his shoulder/head – and they thought better to pull him from there. I watched the hit…I didn't see anything huge. It may have been the right thing to do…but it doesn't help change the narrative that he doesn't endure and/or he gets special protective treatment.

Rosen didn't play in the season finale bowl game for fear of him taking another hard hit/concussion…what would have been his third concussion in two months.

 -- If you don't buy the 'regal' label, you have to worry about the 'injury' label.

A shoulder surgery on his throwing side in 2016, missing the end of the season. Hurt a finger and left the Washington game this season. Missed a game with a concussion. Has had a couple of concussions registered already.

I'm not saying all those injuries aren't legit, but considering his slender frame and his background, that kinda screams 's-a-w-f-t'…I'd worry it's a preview of things to come in the bigger, meaner NFL. The shoulder surgery on his right side wouldn't make me excited either. How can you justify giving a mega-million contract to a college kid with decent talent and multiple concussion issues?

It's not so much that Rosen lacks skills, but I don't see anything that jumps out at me on tape as 'wow'…and then why would I pay top money/a draft pick for 'good', and 'good' with all his other issues. It doesn't make any sense.

It's not just the tape: the numbers are not supporting Rosen as a 'top guy' either…

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

Josh Rosen's career record in the PAC-12…10–10. This is the franchise QB savior for an NFL team? He can't even get UCLA to the top of the PAC-12…with a former NFL head coach as his head coach.

0–1 in his lone bowl game.

0–2 career vs. USC.

0–3 career vs. Stanford.

Rosen's signature win was in 2015 against Utah…a game he was 15-of-30 passing in for 220 yards. He hasn't beat a team with eight or more wins in the past two years.

'Winner' will not describe Rosen on the scouting reports.

Nine PAC-12 games this season with 13 TDs/8 INTs…almost a pick per game and not even 1.50 TD passes per game.

Against PAC-12 teams with winning records in 2017 – a 2–4 record, with 7 TDs/5 INTs.

UCLA fired their coach in-season for all the underperformance. I don't know if it was as much **Jim Mora's** fault as it was the giant pedestal **Josh Rosen** was put on…and when he didn't live up to it – the coach was blamed…not the pedestal, or the one who sat upon it.

Rosen had four 400+ yard passing games in 2017…his pass attempts in each of those games: 59-56-60-52. I would expect a nice college QB throwing 55+ times a game to push 400+ yards passing in a college game; I'm not overwhelmed or in awe of it.

Josh Rosen has solid-ish college numbers…just not any real 'wow' numbers to me, to go along with solid tape, but not 'wow'. NFL-worthy? Yes. Top 3 in the NFL Draft…come on.

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

I thought for sure **Christian Ponder** would jump up as a systems comparison for us…then I remembered – Ponder was a good/near-great college QB before his shoulder and arm injuries hit…plus, Ponder could run a little bit. Rosen is not as good as Ponder, as a prospect, and that should tell you everything you need to know.

When I saw the **Garrett Grayson** comp…I said, "Exactly." Rosen is a better Grayson, a more-injury prone Grayson. A more-hyped Grayson.

QB-Score	QB	Yr	College	H	W	adj Comp Pct	adj Yds per Comp	adj Pass per TD	adj Pass Per INT
6.714	Rosen, Josh	2018	UCLA	75.0	218	60.6%	12.8	19.5	40.3
5.076	Grayson, Garrett	2015	Colorado St	74.2	215	58.1%	12.8	21.8	34.7
5.383	Lobbestael, M.	2012	Wash. St	74.6	215	58.6%	11.7	24.0	33.0
3.561	Davis, Austin	2012	So Miss	73.1	221	56.4%	12.0	17.5	39.6
3.945	Carden, Shane	2015	E. Carolina	73.8	213	58.7%	12.1	27.7	46.7
4.231	Griffin, Ryan	2013	Tulane	76.5	216	60.1%	10.6	24.3	47.6
2.626	Kelly, Chad	2017	Ole Miss	73.5	224	61.2%	14.0	17.3	36.3
2.418	Gilbert, Garrett	2014	SMU	75.2	223	62.4%	10.1	33.7	77.9

"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.

2018 NFL Draft Outlook:

As the process begins, Rosen is being assumed as the #1–2 QB/prospect in this draft. I want to say NFL teams will come to their senses…but I'm usually wrong about that. You take media hype + NFL teams who know this trap door with Rosen – but hope they can push/fool high-picking teams to make the

mistake…it's a lethal combination. Bad teams are bad for a reason…and often utilize a critical top draft pick on a not-Pro Bowl caliber player.

The fans will demand this pick of the top-of-the-draft teams…unless the fans turn on Rosen in the next few months. I don't think they will. I think Rosen will hide and try to sit on his prospect lead. He'll avoid throwing at the Combine…or doing much of anything, if he can. Rosen can only hurt himself as a prospect at this point if he is seen/probed more. I'd guess if he's in the 2018 NFL Draft…he's going top five overall, probably top three.

NFL Outlook:

My one-liner on Rosen would be this…he could be great for a five-game stretch in the NFL, but he's not going to be a successful NFL QB for 5+ years.

He would not be in over his head in the NFL if thrown right into play…I just don't believe he has the leadership, build, or pedigree to be a long-term franchise QB. Good in spurts, but not 'the man'…not the face of a franchise.

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