



Scouting Report: QB Nic Shimonek, Texas Tech

**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 recently made a weird, bizarre statement about **Nic Shimonek**...one that I think sums up my scouting take...I said, “*Shimonek probably won’t make an NFL roster this year, and may not ever start an NFL game in his life...and I do see him as more of a Texas Tech ‘system’ guy but I’d take him over Blake Bortles to start Week 1 for my NFL team in 2018.*”

I cover a lot of ground with that statement. Four key points...

1: **Nic Shimonek** is seen by the NFL as more of a Texas Tech ‘system’ guy. So, his draft stock is weak now and won’t get any better. He’ll be lucky to get drafted.

2: I see him as more of a ‘system’ guy. The Texas Tech high-volume passing game system just had a glut of NFL talent with **Patrick Mahomes**, **Davis Webb** (transferred senior year), and **Baker Mayfield** (transferred after his freshman year) in it over the past few years.

People want to label all Texas Tech QB producers ‘system’ guys, and that has some logic...but Mahomes broke the mold for some reason...while Webb and Mayfield got tarred and feathered with ‘system’ often (and Mayfield escaped it) – and Shimonek is getting drowned in the label.

I don’t see Shimonek as being as talented as Mahomes-Webb-Mayfield, after studying all of them. He doesn’t have the arm or body or general talent they do (and all three are starting NFL QB material).

3: **Blake Bortles** is a horrific quarterback, and I cannot believe that every single mainstream football scout, analyst, GM, media member and fan on record was conned by him...and many still see hope today.

4: I take Shimonek over Bortles, because Bortles is an abomination, but also because while Shimonek is not as good as Mahomes-Webb-Mayfield – he is still pretty good/capable/not the worst.

You could commit greater crimes than sitting behind **Davis Webb** and **Patrick Mahomes**. Once Shimonek got his chance (a one-year starter in 2017) he produced at a high level. Shimonek is in that weird area of QB talent that the NFL has no idea what to do with – these Texas Tech-type guys (or a **Luke Falk**, **Baker Mayfield**, etc.) have thrown so many passes that the passing game is a comfortable breeze for them. If you let them just take shotgun snaps and work a fast pace...they’d be competent in the NFL day one. The NFL playbook and style are a regression of sorts for these college QBs. They have thrown a million passes, have read all kinds of defenses over the years, and have learned in a system of four- and five-wide and just go-go-go. Then they hit the NFL and are running into a lot of 1970s passing game philosophies...shackling the raw talent.



It is what it is. No sense in bellyaching about it. College passing games and the pros are apples and orangutans for comparison.

Shimonek is going to capture a few NFL scouts' attention. He's not a zero. He has NFL size (6'2"+) but he isn't 'wow' when you look at him. NFL people drool over **Josh Allen's** 'look'...whether he can play QB well is secondary to 'look'. Shimonek has an average-to-below-average arm strength, but it works because he's a solid QB with accuracy and confidence. The eye test will mostly turn NFL people off because they're already preconditioned to not favor Shimonek as it is...he doesn't have any draft 'buzz'.

I remember watching/studying the tape of Shimonek versus Oklahoma this year. Right off the bat he's marching the team down the field and making touch-pass throws medium and deep that are 'big boy' throws. The 'system' got people open...but Shimonek has a great knack for finding the open person and hitting him with the proper pass. It looks so simple, you want to go 'SYSTEM!!' but in reality, in part – Shimonek makes it look easy because he's comfortable playing QB like a lot of these 'system' guys. The game is simple because they have talent and have been exercising that muscle a million times a day at Texas Tech practice and back to high school and 'elite' camps. Meanwhile, Jacksonville has to hide/design dumbed-down plays to work with Bortles. **Blake Bortles** couldn't be a 'system' QB...doesn't have the talent for it. Shimonek is a talented 'system' QB.

Shimonek has a throwback mentality that teams should like in interviews. He left a scholarship at Iowa to walk on at Texas Tech, so he could have a chance to play/throw the ball. Iowa plays a pro system...i.e. stuffy. Shimonek threw a scholarship away to go to TTU (he eventually earned one). In the offseason, Shimonek restores furniture...and has done so for years as a side business to earn bucks for school. While other scholarship QBs had it easy during their football life, Shimonek was getting up early sanding and restoring used furniture and spending afternoons finding pieces to work with off Craigslist...plus, working out, studying film, practicing and keeping his classwork up. While **Baker Mayfield** was getting tackled by police and **Jameis Winston** was stuffing crustaceans down his pants in college...Shimonek was spending late nights with a sander and lacquer. *He's the Ron Burgundy of QB prospects.*

Shimonek has an NFL size. He has grit. He was a team captain. He got benched for a moment in a game in 2017 and pressed/confronted his coach to put him back in...he got back in and was terrific answering the bell. There are things here to work with for the NFL.

I doubt any of them in the NFL will see it or know what to do with it.

Nic Shimonek, Through the Lens of Our QB Scouting Algorithm:

For his career, and mostly played as a starter in 2017 and a backup 2016, Shimonek ended with 39 TD passes and 11 INTs...not a bad run.



Had up-and-down performances against the better opponents in 2017...

4 TD/1 INT, 322 yards battling Mayfield and Oklahoma.

4 TDs/1 INT, 405 yards vs. K-State.

6 TDs/0 INTs, 543 yards in his second start against bowl-eligible Arizona State.

0 TD/1 INT. 137 yards vs. TCU.

0 TD/1 INT, 207 yards vs. Iowa State.

1 TD/1 INT, 330 yards vs. Oklahoma State.

His pattern of performance overall, in our system analysis was ‘not bad’. Not elite but not a fraud either. A hard QB prospect to really grasp because he started one year in a high-output offense and had results that were up and down at times...more up than down.

He came in at 6’2.5”/218 with 9.0” hands and 31.25” arms at the East-West Shrine all-star game.

He projects as a 5.0+ 40-time runner.

The Historical QB Prospects to Whom Nic Shimonek Most Compares Within Our System:

Nothing impressive for a system comparison – **David Fales** is a fringe NFL backup QB...that’s probably Shimonek’s lot in life unless he gets lucky with a break on the roster.

<u>QB-Score</u>	<u>QB</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>
5.995	Shimonek, Nic	2018	Texas Tech	74.5	218	60.5%	11.7	19.8	38.1
4.613	Di Lella, Dan	2012	Albany NY	75.7	233	59.1%	12.2	19.3	31.5
5.183	Harrell, Graham	2009	Texas Tech	73.1	223	64.5%	12.5	15.9	83.4
4.619	Clancy, Joe	2014	Merrimack	74.6	210	63.9%	9.7	14.2	58.2
7.555	Fales, David	2014	San Jose State	73.1	220	67.1%	12.5	15.2	33.4
2.468	Brockman, Casey	2013	Murray St	73.5	236	62.4%	9.5	22.3	49.9

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



FEBRUARY 1, 2018

***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.

2018 NFL Draft Outlook:

Projected as 5th+ rounder, I suspect he falls more than rises as the process goes on. He'll be more a 6th- or 7th-round projection in my estimation.

If I were an NFL GM, I might give him a look in training camp if my QB depth chart was a little weak...but there are more talented sleeper/UDFA guys out there in my estimation. Nothing against Shimonek.

NFL Outlook:

Winds up on a practice squad for a few years, bounces around a bit...might be a guy who breaks through over time. Shimonek has the kinda of grinder mentality, moxie where he just might outwork and outgrind others and gets a shot and becomes **Josh McCown** or **Case Keenum**. He'll need luck and time.

Copyright Statement

Copyright at date and time signed below by R.C. Fischer

All rights reserved. All content is for entertainment purposes only and TFA is not responsible or liable for personal adverse outcomes nor are any game results or forecasting guaranteed. Past results do not predict future outcomes. We are not held liable for any personal losses incurred. We are solely here to produce and provide content for recreational purposes. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law. For permission requests, email the publisher at rcfischer@fantasyfootballmetrics.com

Signature *R.C.* Date 2/1/2018