



NFL Draft 2016 Scouting Report: DE Joey Bosa, Ohio State

**Our DL 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 said it last year over the summer with an early scouting report of him, and I've hinted at it a few times during the NFL Combine week...and I'll say it again: I have no idea why anyone thinks **Joey Bosa** is seriously under consideration as the top prospect in this 2016 NFL Draft class.

We will debate how good, or not good, Bosa is in a moment, but most of my scouting here is from the perspective of advising an NFL team whether they should take Bosa #1 overall or among the first five picks. I would tell them without hesitation they're making a huge mistake if they are considering him among the top five...or top 30.

Over the last several days, I've watched defensive line tape on this draft class like a character out of *A Clockwork Orange*. Watching tape, looking over the statistical data, comparing NFL Combine numbers – I've done a ton of individual D-Line prospect work back to back to back to back...and I can guarantee you that **Joey Bosa** does not stick out among the top DL prospects.

Both his tape and his performance numbers, in terms of the top prospects, are a joke by comparison. I can see that he is a fluid (in movements) defensive end, especially for his size, on tape. He's a very nimble player. There are several nimble players his size available in this draft – it is odd for there to be so many similarly good prospects at D-End. Bosa can move east to west as well as any of the top DL names out there. What Bosa fails to do...is put his gifts to use like the other top prospects. Bosa, to me, given his decent physical gifts, was a bit of a failure in college. Sure there's a moment or two against a Rutgers or Maryland or Northern Illinois, but when it's time to face the high-end teams that OSU battled...Bosa was low/no-impact, barely noticeable on the field – and I'll show you statistics on that in a moment.

When you do see some of the performance numbers, and if you consider what I see on tape, what's even worse is that Bosa is performing moderately while working as a left-side defensive end. He's on a talented defensive front four/talented defensive front seven/talented all 11 guys on defense for Ohio State, and Bosa is taking on the easier side of the offensive line. Bosa should've had tackle, TFL, and sack numbers like crazy...but he didn't.

Bosa is a 3-4 scheme DE prospect for the NFL. It would be a virtual waste of a draft pick using him as a 4-3 defensive end. Bosa's game seems to be more 'hang in place, and try to react to a play' coming his way. He's not a mad dash rusher off the edge, not at all. Even when he is dancing with the right tackle, and trying to read the situation, he's often blocked out/away from making a play that heads towards him. And remember, I'm talking down about him in games against top competition. I see him do



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good/fine against Indiana, Maryland, Illinois...he's good but not great against the middle of the Big Ten pack. However, he kinda disappears in the bigger games – Michigan State, playoff games, Wisconsin, etc.

His NFL Combine data projects much of what I'm talking about on Bosa – he has below-average speed for a top DE prospect, definitely not the speed of a high-end pass-rusher. He does have very nimble feet. He can go side to side quickly, which makes him built more for dancing with blockers, shedding them and making plays side to side. His NFL Combine numbers were not that of a top five overall prospect.

In the end, I would say **Joey Bosa** belongs in the NFL, and that he might be a decent starter for an NFL team, but he'll never live up to the billing that analysts are giving him today. I think this is another case of the label of 'Ohio State' pushing prospects beyond where they belong. To me, I get a weird sense that this is another **Bjorn Werner**-type of hoax/draft disappointment...only one taken with an even higher draft pick.

Joey Bosa, Through the Lens of Our DE Scouting Algorithm:

Here are Bosa's performance numbers versus upper-level opponents:

3.5 tackles, 0.50 TFLs, 0.25 sacks per game = in 4 bowl games/playoffs (Clemson, Alabama, Oregon, Notre Dame)

2.6 tackles, 0.40 TFLs, 0.20 sacks per game = in 5 career games vs. Michigan State and Wisconsin

4.2 tackles, 1.60 TFLs, 0.82 sacks per game = in all his other games less the ones mentioned above

Bosa has 26.0 career sacks. Over half (13.5) of them have taken place in his games vs. Illinois (5.0), Penn State (3.5), Rutgers (3.0), and Maryland (2.0).

In the 2014–15 season national title run for OSU, from the Big Ten title game to the two playoff wins...in that three-game stretch, Bosa averaged 3.0 tackles, 0.33 TFLs, and 0.0 sacks per game.

Keep in mind with all these performance numbers...Bosa is working the easier side of the D-Line vs. the lesser blocking, and is rarely double-teamed (there's no need to).

Bosa had the 12th-fastest 40-time among the DE prospects at the NFL Combine. He would have been 20th in the 2015 class. The 2016 class is pretty slow by comparison, top to bottom. The saving grace for



Bosa is that he ran the second-fastest three-cone drill in 2016...fifth-best if looking at the 2015 NFL Combine DE prospects.

The Historical DE Prospects to Whom Joey Bosa Most Compares Within Our System:

Joey Bosa compares to several good, but not great NFL players. Guys you're happy to have as part of the team, but when it comes time for major contract renewal they won't be top priorities for a team to bring back. They are very good, useful players, but none of them are deserving of a top-five overall draft pick status or 'franchise player' moniker.

I saw someone debating Bosa as a **J.J. Watt**-type of prospect...I don't even have words for that. It's apples and hand grenades for a comparison.

<u>ILB Score</u>	<u>Last</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Yr</u>	<u>College</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>Tackle, Strength Metric</u>	<u>Speed, Agility Metric</u>	<u>Pass Rush Metric</u>	<u>Tackle Metric</u>
5.721	Bosa	Joey	2016	Ohio State	6	5.2	269	7.22	7.29	7.63	6.56
5.296	Ninkovich	Rob	2006	Purdue	6	3.1	260	7.48	4.48	6.99	6.74
4.558	Taylor	Devin	2013	So Carolina	6	7.0	266	6.66	8.59	5.13	7.18
7.002	Jackson	Lawrence	2008	USC	6	4.2	271	9.76	5.26	8.26	7.54
4.525	Bass	David	2013	Mo. Western	6	3.7	262	6.73	4.97	6.32	6.87
4.188	Smith	Preston	2015	Miss State	6	4.7	271	8.54	4.72	6.35	4.91

*A score of **8.00+** is where we see a stronger correlation of DEs going on to become NFL good/great/elite. A score of **10.00+** is more rarefied air in our system and indicates a greater probability of becoming an elite NFL DE.

All of the DE ratings are based on a 0–10 scale, but a player can score negative, or above a 10.0 in certain instances.

Power-Strength Metrics = A combination of several measurements. An attempt to classify the DE prospect as more of a battle-in-the-trenches type of DE, a 'bull-rusher', and/or a DE prospect who has some DT capabilities.

Speed-Agility Metrics = A combination of several speed, agility, size measurements. A unique measuring system to look for DEs who profile more as speed-rush, stand-up DEs, and/or possible OLBs.

Pass-Rusher Rating = A combination of physical measurables, and college performance, graded historically for future NFL profiling. In the simplest of terms, this is an attempt to classify whether a



particular DE is likely to achieve high sack totals in the NFL. We know the 'system/scheme the DE goes on to play in has a part in future success...but so do the player's skills and performance history. "You can't keep a good man/DE down," we'd like to think.

Tackling Rating = A combination of physical measurables, and college performance, graded historically for future NFL profiling. In the simplest of terms, this is an attempt to classify the DE as one more likely to be involved in a heavy amount of tackles, tackles for a loss, and forced fumbles. Lower-scoring DEs in this subcategory tend to be more pure pass-rushers/specialists. This is also our attempt to quantify, if it's possible, the 'toughness' of a player.

2016 NFL Draft Outlook:

You rarely find a mock draft that doesn't have Bosa in the top five overall. Analysts had Bosa as their top guy two years ago, and they are not letting go of that without a fight...facts, data, and videotape be damned. With all his prospect momentum built over two years, I cannot see how he won't be a top five overall pick on draft day.

If I were an NFL GM, I would see **Joey Bosa** as one of the main reasons to trade back out of the top five overall...a sign of just how weak this draft class is for top prospects. There was nothing about **Joey Bosa** that screams 'franchise player'. He's good. He'll be fine, I'm sure. Is he going to radically change an NFL defense for the better once he joins it in the NFL? No way.

NFL Outlook:

If Bosa is a success in the NFL it will be because of his tackle numbers/run-stopping efforts. However, I am rattled by what I've seen on tape with him even in the run game. Too many times against good teams do I see Bosa just shoved away from the play easily. I think his NFL career will be him as a starter right away, a guy with a lot of expectations, but then he will slowly disappoint, and in the end will be seen as a guy who never lives up to the hype. It's unfair because he shouldn't even have this hype to begin with.



2016 NFL DRAFT SCOUTING REPORT

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Signature _____ Date _____

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R.C." It is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and a smaller "C" next to it.

4/1/2016