



NFL Draft 2017 Scouting Report: CB Adoree Jackson, USC

**CB grades can and will change as more information comes in from Pro Day workouts, Wonderlic test results leaked, etc. We will update info as it becomes available.*

This cornerback draft class is loaded. It seems like every other time I start studying another top name prospect's tape, I start thinking – this might be the best corner in this draft. **Adoree' Jackson** is the latest entry into that mix.

Because there are so many talented cover guys in the draft, some of the mainstream analysts are, oddly, using measurables as their divining rod between them in late March 2017. The process always begins with the analysts locking in on guys from the big schools, especially the top four playoff teams – so **Marlon Humphrey**, the two Ohio State guys, and **Sidney Jones** race right to the top. Typically, the mainstream sticks with these big name guys to the bitter end. Not as much this year. Now, 6'3"+ super-athletes that killed it at the NFL Combine like **Kevin King** and **Obi Melifonwu** are moving up the draft boards. Those that don't measure up to *the freaks of nature* DBs are fading. **Adoree' Jackson's** draft stock is starting to slide under this theory.

Jackson had a nice prospect push early in the media – big name school (USC) and a great college career as a dual threat type player. Jackson's resume is an easy first-round pick story in years prior...not so this year it seems. Guys like Jackson are sliding because of 'size'. Sure, Jackson has great athleticism and a very good college career...but he's only 5'10"/186, and that's now a bad thing. Half of the Pro Bowl corners in the 2016 season were under six foot...but that doesn't matter. NFL analysts are usually about 3–5+ years behind the times – so they are still trying to find the next **Richard Sherman** to better cover **Calvin Johnson**...all while the league turns into one dominated by smaller receivers playing in track meets every Sunday, which has been the case the past two years. You want **Adoree' Jackson** on your side to help defend in the track meet.

Jackson reminds me of **Marcus Peters** (who is 1.5" taller than Jackson) – guys who play off the receiver, so much that you worry they'll get eaten alive on short-quick passes, but they just have a knack for anticipating routes and using their superior closing speed and agility to break on plays when they need to or go stride for stride deep. Jackson has great cover skills and is a superior speed-agility guy among this class.

Where Jackson falters as a prospect is in his size. There's no doubt he's a thinner-framed corner at 5'10"/186. Bigger receivers can push him away at the line of scrimmage, but he also usually plays back off the line so that's not as much an issue. He went to *the Deion Sanders school of ole' tackling*, so he's not a big factor in the run game...but that's not why you draft Jackson. You draft Jackson to run with speedster WRs his size, play great in a zone, and bait QBs into making throws he can pick off.



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I would note one thing people are knocking Jackson for... They point to Penn State WR prospect **Chris Godwin's** 9 catch, 187 yards, 2 TD game versus USC as evidence Jackson is not 'great' or is suspect. Anyone saying/writing that is copying someone else's idea, and that original person didn't really watch the tape. Jackson gave up a 30-yard TD to Godwin on a broken play where the QB scrambled around for a long time and then threw a perfect needle-through-thread pass in the back of the end zone, that was reviewed *for about an hour* to see if it was inbounds. Other than that, Godwin had a few other catches...because Godwin is a great WR, but nothing embarrassing. Jackson got hurt and missed time which isn't on Adoree', and Godwin's other long score was not against Jackson...it was a fluke play on the other side of the field. Jackson was solid in coverage in the USC-Penn State game. I didn't see any issues...besides his struggles to tackle, but Godwin is a horse to bring down for any corner.

Jackson is a good dude off the field. He was a USC team captain. He also caught 39 passes for 6 TDs while playing both sides of the field. He also averaged 6.1 yards per carry on 15 career carries. He returned 4 kicks and 4 punts for TDs...8 return TDs in his career. He picked off 6 passes and returned one of those for a score. How many cornerback prospects posted 15 TDs in their college careers? I think NFL teams need to sacrifice the 1–2 inches they fear and just consider how unique a performer Jackson is as a cover corner and return man.

Adoree Jackson, Through the Lens of Our CB Scouting Algorithm:

Six career interceptions – all six against Bowl teams.

Led the PAC-12 in kickoff return average (29.5) and punt return average (15.8) in the 2016 season.

2016 PAC-12 Defensive Player of the Year and Jim Thorpe Award winner.

#2 in passes defended in the PAC-12 (since 2005).

Caught 6 passes in a game in 2015 against Utah. Had 131 receiving yards against Arizona State in 2015.

In three bowl appearances: 5.0 tackles, 0.3 INTs, and 43.0 receiving yards per game with one receiving TD and 31.5 yards per kick return, 1 KR TD as well.

NFL Combine data...

5'10.0"/186, 9.3" hands, 31.4" arms

4.42 40-time, 6.62 three-cone (Pro Day)

10 reps bench press



Jackson's stats on CFB Reference: <http://www.sports-reference.com/cfb/players/adoree-jackson-1.html>

The Historical CB Prospects to Whom Adoree Jackson Most Compares Within Our System:

Adoree' Jackson as the next coming of **Terence Newman** makes a lot of sense. Perfect comp.

CB Grade	Last	First	Draft Yr	College	H	H	W	Cover Rating	Speed Metrics	Agility Metric	Tackle Metric
8.26	Jackson	Adoree'	2017	USC	5	10.0	186	9.33	6.58	10.11	5.79
7.92	Newman	Terrence	2003	Kansas St	5	10.0	193	8.63	4.60	10.45	5.59
9.15	Trufant	Desmond	2013	Washington	5	11.5	190	9.85	8.32	11.15	7.57
10.06	Hall	Leon	2007	Michigan	5	11.2	193	10.98	10.68	11.65	6.42
8.21	Wheatley	Terrence	2008	Colorado	5	9.5	187	9.10	9.60	6.95	6.04
8.89	Foxworth	Dom.	2005	Maryland	5	11.1	184	8.80	8.03	11.73	6.11
7.05	Taylor	Jamar	2013	Boise St	5	10.5	192	7.64	6.81	7.10	7.76
6.21	Robinson	Patrick	2010	Florida St	5	11.2	190	7.33	5.90	7.77	6.54

**The ratings are based on a 1–10 rating scale, but a prospect can score over 10.0+ and less than 0.0*

OVERALL RATING -- We merge the data from physical measurables, skill times/counts from the NFL Combine/Pro Days, with college performance data available on pass coverage/tackles, etc. and grade it compared to our database history of all college CBs, with a focus on which CBs went on to be good-great-elite in the NFL. We found characteristics/data points that the successful NFL CBs had in common in college, that most other CB prospects could not match/achieve.

Scoring with a rating over a **7.00+** in our system is where we start to take a CB prospect more seriously. Most of the future NFL successful college CBs scored **8.00+**, and most of the NFL superior CBs pushed scores more in the **9.00+** levels...and future NFL busts will sneak in there from time to time. **10.00+** is where most of the elite NFL CBs tend to score in our system analysis.

COVERAGE -- A combination of on-field data/performance and physical profile data

SPEED -- Measurables from a perspective of straight-line speed, burst, etc.

AGILITY -- Measurables for lateral movements, quick cuts, body type, speed, etc.

