



NFL Draft 2015 Scouting Report: WR DeVante Parker, Louisville

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

**WR-B stands for "Big-WR," a classification we use to separate the more physical, downfield/over-the-top, heavy-red-zone-threat-type WRs. Our WR-S/"Small-WRs" are profiled by our computer more as slot and/or possession-type WRs who are less typically physical and rely more on speed/agility to operate underneath the defense and/or use big speed to get open deep...they are not used as weapons in the red zone as much.*

***2017 Note:** Please note...as soon as I saw **DeVante Parker** working in the NFL, I immediately turned on him. He's a WR with talent but absolutely no heart or interest in what he's doing. I didn't catch it or see it in the college studies. FYI

It's difficult to scout **DeVante Parker**, especially when you watch a slew of top WR tape in a short time frame. You can see Parker is very good, but when you watch he, **Kevin White** and **Amari Cooper** tape all around the same time period...you don't get the same 'jolt' from Parker as you do White-Cooper.

The 'jolt' factor may be a little misleading because I think Parker is so smooth playing WR that it lulls you to sleep a little bit.

A few people have called Parker a "*poor man's A.J. Green*," and I get that. I wasn't jolted by Green the first time I saw him either. We initially rated Green as 'pretty good', but not likely an NFL star, with risk that his thin-frame and moderate athleticism numbers could cause issues at the next-level—a possible injury risk. Green has basically done what he's wanted in the NFL because we focused too much on body types and physical frames too much, which overshadowed the skill set the player had—the innate ability to catch a football amidst the chaos, to play WR at high level. **A.J. Green** had it—so does **DeVante Parker**.

At first glance, Parker looks like a fairly speedy, thin-framed, 'nice hands' college WR. However, the more you watch you him, you can just see the **A.J. Green** nuances. You see the possible greatness in the NFL. The ability to adjust to the ball in flight. The talent to get open often, or when covered tight—to still offer a window to the QB and make pro-style catches.



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A lot of scouts love **DeVante Parker**, so I'm not breaking any news here. In my simple analysis, he has no major flaw to pick at. All his NFL Combine measurables were fine—not off the charts, but nothing negative to pick at...they were all good or acceptable. Parker has terrific skills and instincts. He has an NFL body. He's going to be a nice fit for an NFL team. He's a cross between like an **A.J.**

Green and **Keenan Allen**. WR's that aren't going to 'out-physical' you, but they will 'out-savvy' you--slithering their way open and catching passes you don't think they are going to reach/hold on to. Leaving you wondering, "How'd they do that?"

Parker appears to be clean off the field. He is soft-spoken and humble in interviews I've seen. I don't see any 'diva' tendencies. I'm so impressed with this new breed of young WRs—they are more hard-working professionals, then self-centered boasters.

I cannot find much in the way of negatives or flaws with Parker. I saw him struggle a touch facing 2015 NFL Draft prospect CB **P.J. Williams**, Florida State, who got a little physical with him...but Parker didn't wilt or flop. He just didn't dominate Williams like he did some of the other FSU DBs. Williams is a good CB. He wasn't covered by Williams the entire time, so it's a limited scope...and it's a minor pick. It's about all the 'bad' on him that I can find written in my notes.

DeVante Parker, Through the Lens of Our WR Scouting Algorithm:

When you consider the output pace he produced in 2014, it's astonishing. He missed the first half of the season with a broken foot. He walked back in, played with three different QBs (due to injury and issues), doing so in a tougher stretch of schedule for Louisville--and averaged 7.1 catches, 142.5 yards, and 0.8 TDs per game.

His 2014 pace, stretched into a 13-game season: 93 catches for 1,852 yards and 11 TDs.

He faced two bigger foes in 2014: Florida State and Georgia. He averaged 8.0 catches and 167.0 yards per game against them...'quietly' dropping 200+ yards on Florida State.

Performance-wise, Parker had a great college career, and was going to have a special season if he hadn't missed half the campaign.

Physically, **DeVante Parker** is a thinner-framed, slightly slower **Kevin White**. They have identical height, verticals, hand-sizes. Just like White, Parker is not off the charts in any physical component...but he's not bad in anything either. There are no flaws to pick at physically.

I want to find some fault, and write something clever/against the grain, but I can't.



The Historical WR Prospects to Whom DeVante Parker Most Compares Within Our System:

I have to be honest. I look past the **A.J. Green** comp, and see **Robert Meachem** and **Brian Robiskie** listed--and it scares me a little. Any time, I visually see slender WRs who played ‘smooth’ in college, I worry that they are NFL fake-outs like Meachem and Robiskie. I have a personal bias against slender WRs in most instances. From my studies, I tried to find evidence to feed my fear on it with Parker—I wanted to discount him, but I couldn’t find it. Not in the tape, and not in the data.

*Note: **A.J. Green** initially scored in the 7s for us in 2011. We re-look at all our formulas each year to see if we can improve them, and study what we missed on players like an **A.J. Green**. We run a pretty nice predication percentage of success, so we really look hard to see why we missed on a player, and what could change in our system. We saw Green as ‘good’, but he went on to be a superstar—we don’t miss like that often. We changed some things in our formulas that we think better captures guys with WR skills like Green...guys that aren’t physical wonders but are performance savvy.

<u>WR Score</u>	<u>Draft Yr</u>	<u>Last</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>College</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>Power Strngth Metric</u>	<u>Speed Agility Metric</u>	<u>Hands' Metric</u>
9.53	2015	Parker	Devante	Louisville	6	2.5	209	5.37	7.93	9.11
9.16	2011	Green	A.J.	Georgia	6	3.6	211	5.74	7.20	9.34
8.72	2007	Meachem	Robert	Tennessee	6	2.0	214	6.63	7.69	8.70
7.79	2009	Robiskie	Brian	Ohio State	6	2.7	209	5.08	9.23	9.54
5.25	2010	White	Blair	Michigan St	6	2.3	209	5.68	8.25	7.18
5.85	2011	Binns	Armon	Cincinnati	6	3.0	209	4.34	7.32	8.40
7.37	2006	Avant	Jason	Michigan	6	0.5	212	6.67	5.17	8.16
11.29	2014	Matthews	Jordan	Vanderbilt	6	3.1	212	6.89	7.65	12.84

**A score of 7.0+ is where we start to take a Big-WR prospect more seriously. A score of 8.50+ is where we see a stronger correlation of a Big-WR 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 Big-WR.*

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



Overall WR score = A combination of several on-field performance measures, including refinement for strength of opponents faced. Mixed with all the physical measurement metrics, rated historically in our database.

“Power-Strength” = A combination of unique metrics surrounding physical size profiling, bench press strength, etc. High scorers here project to be more physical, better blockers, and less injury-prone.

“Speed-Agility” = A combination of unique metrics surrounding speed, agility, physical size, mixed with some on-field performance metrics. High scorers here project to have a better YAC and show characteristics to be used as deep threats/to create separation.

“Hands” = A combination of unique metrics surrounding on-field performance in college, considering the strength of opponents played. Furthermore, this data considers some physical profiling for hand size, etc. High scorers here have a better track record of college statistical performance, and overall this projects the combination of performance and physical data for the next level.

2015 NFL Draft Outlook:

DeVante Parker is slipping in national rankings just a bit in the wake of **Kevin White’s** 4.35 40-time at the NFL Combine. Again, I say: Be careful of falling into the trap of Parker being silky-smooth/unassuming, and thus you discount him a little too much (as I tend to do the first time I visually see these type of WR prospects). It gets more difficult not to discount him a bit when comparing to White and **Amari Cooper**. I can see Parker as a universal 3rd-place in the top WR pecking order, but still likely to be a mid-1st-round pick. He’s likely to be selected between picks #11-20 overall.

If I were an NFL GM, I would again reiterate my reluctance for taking WRs near the top of the NFL Draft unless they are beyond special. I think if I passed on Parker, and he went on to instant NFL success...I’ll have a shot at another great WR next Draft, and the next Draft, and so on. There is going to be an economic oversupply of really good WRs coming. I see Parker as a very good NFL WR, but not so beyond ‘special’ I have to reach for him. I’d rather would like to have had **Jordan Matthews** than Parker. Even if you see them as ‘equals’, you could have grabbed Matthews with a cheaper 2nd-round pick last year.

NFL Outlook:

Parker may have a better chance at instant NFL success than Cooper or White, if he slides to around pick #15 overall. Parker may lose a couple of bucks dropping in the NFL Draft, but he becomes more likely to get teamed with a far superior QB and offense as he fades from the top-10 overall. You could argue Parker’s the 3rd-best WR in the Draft but might be the best producing WR as an NFL rookie. So much with these guys has to do with where they land.

