NFL Draft 2018 Scouting Report: WR Tre'Quan Smith, C. Florida

*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" <u>are</u> profiled by our computer more as slot and/or possession-type WRs who are typically less 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.

I wasn't planning on doing a full **Tre'Quan Smith** study because nothing in our initial data run warranted a serious look. I ran his numbers as a 'smaller'/speed WR profile as well as a 'bigger'/taller WR option in our system…doing so because Smith is a 'tweener' – not tall/thick enough to be that over-the-top/#1 guy (he's 6'1"+/203) but not a tiny/skinny/speedy water bug flying around the field either. He's somewhere in between. For Central Florida, Smith worked mostly as a 'go deep' guy. No matter how we profiled him, though, he got mediocre grades from The Computer.

But the other day, our own **Xavier Cromartie** hit me up asking, '*why no love for Tre'Quan?*' So, because Xavier had more positive vibes on him than I did, out of respect for the world's foremost mock drafter I went out and took a deeper look.

I watched Tre'Quan in several games and I saw the same exact guy every game. I cut my studies short. He is who our system says he is – mediocre for the pros…college good, not-so-hot for the pros.

Smith isn't a sure-fire bust or silly to be discussed as an NFL WR. I'm sure he's going to make a roster and be around the NFL for a bit. However, what I saw on tape was the same as I saw in his output and measurables. Everything is OK, nothing is 'wow'.

It's the tape…or the manner in which Smith produced solid output that's a problem for me. I saw the same play/pass over and over with Smith. Consider that he worked in a pretty slick offense and the opposing defense had a lot of things to account for. Central Florida didn't go undefeated by luck. On most pass plays, Smith would sprint off the line and head straight downfield. Every so often, the QB would look his way and see Smith with a step or two on the defender and toss him a deep ball and Smith would make the catch and race untouched into the end zone. Taking a sample of 10 TDs from his 2017…80% were Smith running past one-on-one coverage, catching a pass wide-open and continuing on unscathed for a score.

There were not many real NFL routes, or designed bubble screens, or slick slants, or Smith over-the-top of physical coverage. It was play after play of Smith on a jail break along with the other receivers and Smith would occasionally get a step and get one delivered on the mark -- and 'bingo'. I'd lay 50% of the 'blame' for his big plays on the offense being so well-designed that players were getting open a lot. 30% on the QB finding Smith open and delivering some on the mark. 20% on any skill to Smith. All Smith had to do was run fast and catch uncontested passes.

You might think – *well, credit to Smith for his speed getting open*. Hmmm…logical, but not really in this case. Yes, but no. Smith has 4.49 speed…that's good (great for college…awesome for the AAC conference). He has poor 10-yard speed (1.60) but the nice 40-yard…he runs straight line deep very fast for American Athletic Conference DBs. If he gets a step downfield in the chaos of the pass patterns UCF ran…Smith could pull away for easy catches and scores. Much of Smith's resume is – one big play a game, and then a lot of nothing exciting.

On top of all that…I don't believe Smith has very good hands. He doesn't look totally smooth catching the ball. And most of his work is 'safe' deep, and usually open/unencumbered. When he goes between the hashes near defenders he loses focus too easily. Plus, his hands just don't look that natural to me on tape.

Colorado State WR **Michael Gallup** has a similar physical profile, and nice college output too, but his performance was vastly different from Smith's. Gallup worked with a lesser offensive scheme and he worked a lot time between the hashes and on various other pinpoint routes. Gallup was a worker, and you could see he had an 'it' factor getting open and being physical after the catch. Smith has the game of **John Brown** (former Cardinal now Raven)…get open for one big play every so often and offer nothing else of real value. Gallup is 10x the pro style WR that Smith is.

You're getting a nice physical profile with Smith for the next level, but if you look closely enough…you'll see you're getting a pretty 'empty', bland, mediocre at best random playmaker in college…less likely to make those plays in the pros. I'm just not impressed for the pros here.

Tre'Quan Smith, Through the Lens of Our WR Scouting Algorithm:

Just one of Smith's 22 career TDs came against a top 50 defense in CFB that season (2015 vs. Stanford). Most all of Smith's TD catches have come against #80 and worse ranked defenses in their given season.

Half (11) of Smith's 22 career TDs came in five games (of 37 games played).

The three toughest defenses he's faced in the past two seasons are Temple (2016) and his two bowl games (Arkansas State and Auburn). In those three games, Smith averaged a solid/OK/mediocre 3.7 catches, 79.0 yards and 0.33 TDs per game.

Only one of Smith's 13 TDs in 2017 was from inside the 20…he's a deep ball, not inside-dirty profile of a WR. And he's really not that fast for the NFL.

2018 NFL Combine measurements

6'1.6"/203, 9.5" hands, 33.38" arms

4.49 40-time, 1.60 10-yard, 4.50 shuttle, 6.97 three-cone

12 bench reps, 37.5" vertical, 10'10" broad jump

The Historical WR Prospects to Whom Tre'Quan Smith Most Compares Within Our System:

Matt Hazel is a great comp – not good enough to matter in the NFL, but not bad enough to be out of the league right away. Constantly bouncing on and off teams and having moments in the preseason, never really sticking but gets signed to teams if they are in a pinch. Good enough for the NFL but not good enough to have an impact…*the Tre'Quan Smith story*…

WR Score	Draft Yr	Last	First	College	H	H	W	Power Strgth Metric	Speed Agility Metric	Hands Metric
4.569	2018	Smith	Tre'Quan	C. Florida	6	1.6	203	5.29	2.90	6.89
2.929	2014	Hazel	Matt	Costal Carolina	6	1.0	198	7.52	4.26	5.95
2.957	2016	Lucien	Devin	Arizona State	6	0.4	201	7.35	3.83	7.36
4.345	2011	Doss	Tandon	Indiana	6	2.0	201	2.35	6.19	7.47
2.392	2007	Jones	Onrea	Hampton	5	11.1	202	9.63	4.98	6.07
6.009	2016	Payton	Jordan	UCLA	6	1.1	207	8.81	5.98	9.01

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

2018 NFL Draft Outlook:

He's projecting as a #80-150 prospect. I think he's more 100+ than taken in the top 100. **Xavier Cromartie**, as of this writing has him on the edge, but outside the top 100.

If I were an NFL GM, I have little interested in using a pick on a one-dimensional WR…when that one-dimension isn't that great.

NFL Outlook:

Fringe NFL player and disappears from our mind/the NFL about 4-5 years from now.