



## NFL Draft 2013 Scouting Report: OLB Jamie Collins, So. Miss.

*\*Our LB 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.*

There are still some positions/prospects under evaluation, but at the time of this writing, I might be willing to argue that Southern Mississippi OLB **Jamie Collins** is the best NFL prospect available in the 2013 NFL Draft. Right now, our computer would argue between Collins and OTs **Lane Johnson** and **Luke Joeckel** as the top players on the draft board.

The intriguing part of a Collins-Johnson-Joeckel debate is -- everyone acknowledges Joeckel and Johnson are top-10 overall prospects for the 2013 NFL Draft. However, Collins has no national/mainstream (or otherwise I have seen) draft ranking as even a 1st-round grade. Most everyone has a 2nd or 3rd-round grade on him (right now).

If our ratings are on track -- then some NFL team is going to have a steal on their hands. The frightening part of that is that the top NFL teams are going to get a crack at him it would appear. Like when Denver "stole" one of our top-rated players for the draft in 2012, DT **Derek Wolfe**, in the 2nd-round last draft...some top team might add Collins to their already great roster. Imagine if Seattle, or San Francisco, or New England lands Collins in the late 1st or early 2nd-round (with a trade up)?

This may be getting too far ahead of ourselves. You may still be reeling from the fact that I am speaking of Collins as if it is a sure thing. It is to our computer, but since no one else is saying this -- you may want some Kool-Aid to drink. Pull up a glass...

**Jamie Collins** began his Southern Miss career as a DB, playing in all 13 games as a freshman. His highlight in that debut season was a 14 total-tackle game versus Houston.

Collins moved to linebacker his sophomore season and was second on the team in total tackles (76). He was also named as an all-conference player that season.

In 2011, Collins was moved to a hybrid OLB/DE type of defender. Southern Miss won the Conference USA title and won a bowl game over Nevada. Collins had 98 total-tackles, and finished among the top-10 in C-USA in tackles, tackles-for-loss (TFL), and sacks. He even had a 97-yard INT return TD.

In 2012, Southern Miss went from champs to chumps with an (0-12) record, and Collins was double-teamed often. Despite the bad scene for the team, Collins led C-USA in TFLs with 20.0...good for 10th best in the nation. Collins also registered 10 sacks and 92 total-tackles...both top-5 tallies in conference.



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Collins has played DB, LB, OLB/DE and excelled at all of them. It is part of what makes him such a unique prospect. He is big enough, and quick enough, to be a rush-end, but also has proven to be a good-great tackler as an OLB. His size and speed also profile him to be a great strong safety as well.

Collins is multi-dimensional, and that helps his NFL resume. However, it is rush-end/OLB where I think Collins shines. The computer really loves the OLB/DE possibility, and we will get to that in a moment. Watching Collins on tape, there are several occasions where he is rushing the QB and gets into the backfield so fast he looks like he was shot out of a cannon. I watched **Jarvis Jones** and **Jamie Collins** tape all in the same day. Jones looks superior rushing the QB on tape (because he is a superior bull-rusher), but Collins is not far behind.

The reason I am gaga about Collins on tape is the same reason our computer is flipping out. Unlike **Jarvis Jones**, who measured horrifically in speed and athleticism at his Pro-Day, Collins was an ace at the 2013 NFL Combine. Let's discuss what that means...

### Jamie Collins, Through the Lens of Our OLB Scouting Algorithm:

**Jamie Collins** is almost like a mini-**Calvin Johnson** playing defense. In fact, I would design red-zone plays on offense for him in the NFL. The reason I say all that is -- Collins measured with a 41.5" vertical leap. I show only three other OLB prospects that hit or exceeded that mark (best was 42.0" by **Keith Rivers**, and **Korey Toomer** last year (a player we love). Most WRs cannot hit that vertical mark. Collins is 6'3"+ and 240-pounds with a mega-vertical...with huge hands and long arm measurements.

I could not recall an OLB prospect that registered an 11'7" broad jump measurement. However, running a query, we did find **Morgan Burnett** hitting 11'8" in 2010...and that is about it. There were hardly any prospects that have even hit the 11" mark. Collins has beyond impressive leg strength/power.

For his size, Collins is tremendously athletic. If he were a WR, he would be a top-5 draft prospect based on athleticism and size. If he were a TE, he might be a top-3 for this draft.

Collins is a big player all around -- 6'3"+, with tremendous vertical, along with a long wingspan and huge hands. Collins is going to be a nightmare on the D-Line in a passing game. He may be valuable for his **J.J. Watt**-like disruption abilities at the line of scrimmage. However, Collins is not a beefy pass-rusher profile. He has a decent OLB/DE size at 240-pounds, but measures with tremendous quickness to allow him to rush the passer effectively, chase would-be ball carriers or drop back in coverage.

Collins is like a Swiss Army Knife of a football player. He is many tools in one, and has on-field performance history to back it up.



The computer shows Collins as an "A+" prospect. However high the grade the computer is one-step shy of calling Collins a mega-elite/get the bust in Canton ready type of prospect. Collins for all his "A+" features is about a "B or B+" grade in speed/agility. Collins has very good NFL speed/agility, but not **Von Miller** elite speed/agility metrics.

The Historical OLB Prospects to Whom Jamie Collins Most Compares Within Our System:

I hate to throw a **Demarcus Ware** comparison around so loosely, but there are many similarities in our system. I would say Collins is more the "offspring" of a combination of Ware and **Miles Burris**. Collins could be an interesting pass-rusher but does not confine himself to going after the QB every play...he has the mindset of a linebacker.

Collins is not the elite pass-rusher that Ware is, but he is a superior tackler and coverage man...a more well-rounded **DeMarcus Ware** without the imposing pass-rush skills. However, our metrics say that some of Collins' physical profile shows the possibility of being a 8-10+ sack guy in the NFL as well as a top tackler.

OLB Grade	Last	First	Draft Yr	College	H	H	W	Tackle Strgth Metric	Spd Agil Metric	Pass Rush Metric
11.30	Collins	Jamie	2013	So Miss	6	3.4	240	10.02	10.07	7.51
11.49	Ware	Demarcus	2001	Troy	6	4.0	251	7.26	12.64	10.31
8.61	Burris	Miles	2012	SD State	6	1.5	246	7.33	9.31	7.91
8.22	Brown	Sammy	2012	Houston	6	1.7	242	7.69	8.38	6.40
12.93	Miller	Von	2011	Texas A&M	6	2.5	246	8.03	15.28	13.99
9.68	Harrison	James	2002	Kent State	6	0.0	242	7.89	5.69	2.85
6.92	Brown	Cody	2009	U Conn	6	2.1	244	6.12	8.56	6.63

*\*A score of 8.00+ is where we see a stronger correlation of LBs 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 NFL elite LB.*

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



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*Tackle-Strength Metrics = A combination of several physical and performance measurements. An attempt to classify the LB prospect's ability to stop the run, as well as a gauge of how physical the player is and the likelihood of higher tackle counts in the NFL. All based on profiles of LBs historically.*

*Speed-Agility Metrics = A combination of several speed, agility, and size measurements...as well as game performance data to profile a LB for speed/agility based on LBs historically. A unique measuring system to look for LBs that profile for quickness, pass-coverage ability, and general ability to cover more ground.*

*Pass Rush Metrics = A combination of the physical measurements, but also proven on-field ability to get to the QB/backfield in college.*

### **2013 NFL Draft Outlook:**

As of today, I do not see any mainstream rankings with Collins among the top-3 OLB prospects for this draft, nor does anyone show him with a 1st-round grade. I would be semi-shocked if Collins is not ultimately a late 1st-round pick. The athleticism, the multi-dimensional possibilities, and the college production warrant a 1st-round selection. Arguably, Collins is a top-15 overall selection...especially now that **Jarvis Jones** is fading based on multiple concerns.

If I were advising an NFL franchise for the draft, I would have Collins on my "*handful*" list. There are only a handful of players (typically) in each draft where you see something that might be beyond special. Collins is right on the border of jumping onto the handful list all-time. However, given that he has a lower draft projection at this point, the opportunity presents itself for a major steal. We have superior "*handful*" grading on **Luke Joeckel** and **Lane Johnson**, but there is no reasonable way to land both of those players...nor would you want to per se. However, a path is there to grab one of the two top/elite OTs and land Collins after that (and thus have the highest rated 2013 NFL Draft).

Collins could be had in the early 2nd-round, and that's worth trading around for...even if you don't have a major need at OLB/DE/SS. You only get rare chances at elite/near-elite talent at a bargain in a draft, so I would act upon it if I thought I could pull off Collins for a steal.

If my team needed an OLB/DE type of prospect, there are a couple well-rated ones to choose from in Collins, **Alec Ogletree** and **Jarvis Jones**. Jones and Ogletree may be gone by pick #15, making Collins a steal the more he stays available. If I had to pick just one of the three at (let's say) pick #15, and I could not trade back...I would take Collins or Ogletree, and in that case I'd probably buck mainstream wisdom and step up to pick Collins.

