



## NFL Draft 2019 Scouting Report: DE Maxx Crosby, E. Michigan

*\*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.*

Who are the top two DE/EDGE prospects everyone always refers to for this draft? **Nick Bosa** and **Dontez Sweat**.

After that, they talk about **Brian Burns** and **Clelin Ferrell**.

They might talk about **Josh Allen** (KY), but some think of him more as an outside linebacker vs. EDGE rusher. To-may-to/to-mah-to.

Not mentioned with those names...not mentioned in the top 100 prospects...not mentioned in the top 200 prospects (for some) is Eastern Michigan defensive end, **Maxx Crosby**...a 6'5"/255 pound EDGE rusher who ran a faster three-cone (6.89) and shuttle (4.13) than any of the players mentioned above...in fact, ran the fastest shuttle and three-cone of any 6'3"+ defensive prospect at the 2019 NFL Combine – yet, the guy cannot get the time of day as a draft prospect. Why? One big reason is that he didn't go to Clemson or Alabama, etc.

There are three DE prospects that I show in our system who were 6'3"+/245+ and ran below 6.90 three-cone and below 4.15 shuttle at their NFL Combine: **T.J. Watt** and **Jake Bequette** (Arkansas). Watt, you know. Bequette was a stud for Arkansas and was a 3rd-round Bill Belichick pick in 2012...he got hurt a bunch, tried to convert to tight end, never really 'made it' and retired after a few seasons. And the third is Crosby.

If I pull the same search for prospects we classified as 'OLB' prospects, then we find **Demarcus Ware** and **Leighton Vander Esch** as 'making that cut'.

If I then filter these five players down to those who ran a 4.75 or faster 40-time, then we lose Bequette. The players with the size-speed-agility combination of **Maxx Crosby** are **T.J. Watt**, **Demarcus Ware**, and **Leighton Vander Esch** (who was really more of an ILB prospect). Not bad company...and nowhere on the list do you find Bosa-Sweat-Burns-Ferrell-Allen, etc.

Crosby is not just an athlete with no performance to go with it... He's posted 35.5 TFLs, 18.5 sacks, 127 tackles, 8 forced fumbles the past two seasons.

Watching his tape – he's a menace. He looks a little tall and gangly, but he makes it work on the field. He was ruthlessly aggressive as a 4-3 defensive end for EMU. He plays like he's trying to (legally) kill people every play. High energy and effort...he's always on the move and seeking out a ballcarrier. He is a nice



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pass rusher, but he also plays the run well. As teams started doubling him, etc., he worked less as a pass rusher and more all-over – 6.7 tackles per game his final eight game in college...a high count from a 4-3 DE.

You watch his tape versus Purdue in 2018...it's all you need to know. Purdue was an eventual bowl team from the Big Ten. Eastern Michigan had been bad for a while. EMU went to Purdue and upset them opening day 2018. Crosby was coming off a 11.0 sacks/16.5 TFL season in 2017, so Purdue gave him extra attention...and some pretty good cheap shots too. Crosby kept answering the bell, including ramping up his aggressiveness and fighting back on the cheap plays with some of his own 'edgy' moments. Crosby tries to dislodge the ball from ballcarriers any chance he gets – and against Purdue he forced one fumble and nearly another with a giant karate chop/punch to players arms and elbow drops/chops at the ball as well.

I mention all this to say, Crosby plays with a chip...all the time. He's not just a unique athlete who tries to run past blockers with his gift. Crosby will mix it up and chases everything all over the field. He reminds me a bit of **Carl Nassib** – a pass rusher destined to be undervalued in the draft and in the NFL, but when given a chance...things happen (like Nassib...drafted highly in 2016 and then cut by CLE 2018, and then becomes a high-producing starter for Tampa a few games after joining the team).

Let this last statement for this section 'drop the mic'...

The Patriots have met with several defensive end prospects between the Senior Bowl and NFL Combine. The DE prospect they registered an hour-long informal meeting (longest registered) at the Combine was **Maxx Crosby**.

### Maxx Crosby, Through the Lens of Our DE Scouting Algorithm:

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In his last 15 games, Crosby has registered 2.5 or more TFLs in a game six times. He's 11th all-time in the MAC in TFLs (since 2005) and he left a year early for the draft.

7 or more tackles in a game in six of his last 14 games...a high number for a 4-3 DE.

6 forced fumbles in his last 14 games.

Crosby has returned a fumble and an interception for a TD in his career, which is very rare for a defensive end.



2019 NFL Combine Measurables...

6'4.7"/255, 9.75" hands, 32.8" arms

4.66 40-time (8th best among the EDGE prospects), 1.60 10-yard (6th best among the EDGE prospects), 4.13 shuttle, 6.89 three-cone...2nd best agility time of any player 240+ pounds at the Combine (**Chase Winovich** nudged him out with a 4.11)

DNP bench press, 36" vertical, 10'2" broad jump

Crosby didn't do the bench press. In 2017, he recorded 14 reps in a private workout...which is below average for a serious DE prospect. When you see Crosby on tape, you see a 'lesser' upper body than most/all the top EDGE guys – but that's where the upside is too. If Crosby converts 5-10 pounds to upper body muscle working with NFL trainers...watch out!

The Historical DE Prospects to Whom Maxx Crosby Most Compares Within Our System:

What has had my attention all along on Crosby...is how much our computer models thinks it sees a **T.J. Watt** clone. I mean, like a spitting image.

<u>DE 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, Strngth Metric</u>	<u>Speed, Agility Metric</u>	<u>Pass Rush Metric</u>	<u>Tackle Metric</u>
<b>8.557</b>	Crosby	Maxx	2019	E. Michigan	6	4.7	255	8.94	10.90	9.28	5.84
<b>8.298</b>	Watt	T.J.	2017	Wisconsin	6	4.4	252	8.49	11.47	8.54	5.73
<b>7.018</b>	Fitts	Kylie	2018	Utah	6	3.6	263	9.45	10.59	7.61	4.81
<b>8.849</b>	Barr	Anthony	2014	UCLA	6	4.7	255	6.87	9.08	8.14	8.28
<b>7.262</b>	Te'o-Nsheim	Daniel	2010	Washington	6	3.4	263	9.71	9.50	6.76	7.27
<b>10.107</b>	Scott	Trevor	2008	Buffalo	6	5.0	256	11.22	14.98	9.02	5.80
<b>11.034</b>	Barwin	Connor	2009	Cincinnati	6	3.5	256	10.25	13.33	12.26	6.01

*\*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.

### **2019 NFL Draft Outlook:**

I've not seen Crosby in the top 100 overall on any rating service I sampled. He's mostly between #150-250 overall. A radical value coming, likely selected day three.

**If I were an NFL GM**, Crosby has my attention. He's the kind of guy that provides top 75 type value with a #150+ pick cost. Teams like the Patriots can't get to, and don't want the contract that comes with, the Bosa-Sweat, etc., type prospects at the top. So, they take guys like Crosby later and get a tremendous bargain. I would go for it that way too as an NFL GM.

### **NFL Outlook:**

**Carl Nassib** is the cautionary tale...drafted by the Browns #65 overall, a shock pick at the time from the new Moneyball guys. **Hue Jackson** is possibly the worst NFL coach/evaluator of talent to ever walk a sideline in the NFL, so he mostly snubbed Nassib. When Nassib was forced into the lineup, he produced...but never really got the time of the day for the Browns. The genius duo of Hue Jackson and Gregg Williams actually CUT Nassib pre-2018 opening day. Nassib landed with Tampa Bay, and became a

