



## 2020 NFL Draft Scouting Report: QB Jake Fromm, Georgia

*\*Our QB 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.*

Another 2020 QB prospect whose college career went upside down...all the promise in the world, instant freshman success (Fromm had the national title in his hands, until **Tua Tagovailoa** ripped it away late), franchise QB accolades from the media...

...and then another great QB prospect pushed him for the job (**Justin Fields** in this case), and the fans and coaches had a QB civil war debate on their two stud QBs. Much like Jalen Hurts and Jacob Eason, although Fromm's college career ended up pretty darn good – it feels like it ended flat.

After his freshman 2017 season, Fromm was considered a next great QB prospect for the pros and a future Heisman winner. A year later, he was holding off **Justin Fields** from taking his job. Now that he's entering the draft...the debate on Fromm as viable for the pros is all over the place.

The football world wants their scouting stories to be 'pretty' and 'simple' – guy debuts in college, shows promise, builds on that every season, and goes out with a bang/his best season is his final season...and then we can all love and debate him from there. The problem is there is so much QB talent flooding into college football from high school, and the top guys all want Alabama, Clemson, Ohio State, etc., exposure – we're going to get logjams of talented guys all collected at the same school, with some transferring to a great spot when Plan A doesn't work out.

**Jalen Hurts** lost his scouting momentum because **Tua Tagovailoa** was deemed better by Nick Saban. **Jake Fromm** bumped elite QB prospect **Jacob Eason** in 2017...Eason was the Bulldogs starter and thought-to-be future as a freshman (2016) and then he got hurt first game 2017 and Fromm took over...and took the team to the title game. Eason then went from stud/future star to Fromm-backup to transfer player to Washington... with his NFL prospect status taking a serious hit.

Fromm was on top of the world for one season. Then hot prospect **Justin Fields** was pushing Fromm in 2018. Any Fromm 'bad game' or 'bad moment' led to calls for the 'hot new thing' Fields. When Georgia lost to Alabama in the SEC title game...the calls for Fields got louder. Georgia stuck with Fromm after 2018/going into 2019...and Fields transferred to Ohio State. As Fields racked up wins at OSU in 2019 and had the Buckeyes sitting as the top team in CFB for a while and went to the CFB playoffs... restless Georgia fans took notice as Georgia lost again in the SEC title game.

Fromm's prospect status/debate is more about who he was and was not better than at Georgia than whether he is a good or great or bad talent evaluation for the NFL. Fromm entered the NFL Draft



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early, maybe just to escape further degradation of his prospect status. Had Fromm been able to leave for the pros after his freshman year, he might have been the #1-2 pick in the draft...now, he's not thought of as a 1st-round guy anymore.

It's strange days for top college QB prospects...it's a whole new world in college football and, thus, a whole new conundrum for scouting prospects for the NFL Draft.

All I care about is – can **Jake Fromm** play? Is he a legit NFL QB prospect, and how much so?

I'll say this about Fromm, after watching his tape against Alabama-LSU-Notre Dame-Auburn and in his bowl games – he's a good/decent QB. I have never watched his work and thought he would be a star. However, it's easy to have our measuring sticks 'out of date' on Fromm. These new era QB prospects, the kids raised on passing games and attending elite passing academy's since they were fetuses...the 'OK' ones (to my eye) are totally fine when pushed into a starting lineup in the NFL. Not great, not 'wow', but they are fine...they can hold their own.

To me, Fromm is nothing like **Kyler Murray, Patrick Mahomes, Baker Mayfield, Lamar Jackson, Joe Burrow** type prospects where you watch them and your jaw hits the ground in amazement...but there are only a few of them, and there are plenty of average-good **Daniel Jones, Derek Carr, Sam Darnold, Gardner Minshew** types littering the NFL, who are doing just fine immediately in the NFL. They are not quickly embarrassing themselves like the **Blake Bortles** or **DeShone Kizer** or **E.J. Manuel** or **Geno Smith** or **Blaine Gabbert** or **Jake Locker** type names of yesteryear.

Do I want **Jake Fromm** to be my team's franchise QB? No. He's a dime-a-dozen, at best. Can **Jake Fromm** hold his own in the NFL? I think so.

Fromm has solid NFL attributes and intangibles. He has a good/acceptable NFL size. He has a nice arm with proper mechanics and a quick, effortless release. He reads defenses OK, but not great...never leaves you dumbfounded with improbable money throws. He's not fast of foot but not a stiff either. He's lauded mostly for his leadership skills on top of everything else. NFL teams will enjoy their interviews with him, and Fromm will blend in with his future NFL teammates.

What scares me on Fromm is...that when his name is brought up, everyone in football rushes to say 'great character/leader'. That's nice, but it's the QB prospect equivalent of the person your friends are setting you up with on a date and that the first thing they try to sell you on the other person is 'great personality'. As soon as you hear it, you lean back a bit. Same with QB draft prospects whose outstanding attribute is 'great leader'. It's not a bad thing, but it is his main thing...and that's not the biggest thing I want to know about a QB prospect.

When I watch tape on Fromm, I see that he is comfortable in the pocket but he just doesn't have that 'it' factor throwing the ball. He's not an assassin...he's a game manager, and that's not the worst thing ever, but in this era of ever-improving QB talents flooding the NFL – you're looking for more than 'good game manager'. At least, you want more than that as a 1st-round draft pick consideration. As a 3rd-4th-round



pick guy who comes in to be a backup to an established starting QB...being a game manager is OK enough, I guess. As a future leader of the franchise it's a little underwhelming.

Fromm will be fine in the NFL...I just don't see 'great'. He can be 'good'. He might struggle and be a career backup type. What I don't foresee is... 'star' or 'Pro Bowl'.

## Jake Fromm, Through the Lens of Our QB Scouting Algorithm:

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The biggest thing that has our models rattled...Fromm's last six games of college play. He completed 66.7% of his passes in his final game/bowl game against Baylor. Nice. But the five games prior to that his completion percentage in games was: 44.8%, 46.4%, 47.8%, 47.6%...five games under 49% Comp. Pct. ending his career – how is that possible from a solid college QB?

I'd say it was an injury or something, except he threw for 11 TDs/2 INTs in those five sub-49% games. He was doing well otherwise...what happened? I really don't know...it just feels like Fromm's performance/success peaked as a freshman and has been in a slow steady decline, like a bad stock, for the past two years.

I think Fromm is a bit of a byproduct of his surroundings at Georgia – things went better passing the ball when **Nick Chubb** and **Sony Michel** (2017) had his back...and then a little less exciting when it was **D'Andre Swift** with weaker running mates to roll with in 2018 and 2019. A play action game manager spawned from a high-end run game...that's Fromm's wheelhouse, and college career/draft prospect label potentially. Fromm has to be placed in a situation that suits him...he's not coming in and changing an offense/taking it higher – that's the issue/knock on him.

Fromm did not have a 300+ yard passing game in 2019. He had two 300+ yard games in his 43-game career. He's not a passing game machine at all.

In his career against Alabama (2x), LSU (2x), and Notre Dame (2x), Fromm threw 8 TDs/7 INTs and went 2-4 against them.

Fromm did not rush for a TD or for more than 15 yards at best in a game in his final two seasons of college play.

The overall numbers for Fromm, looking at him against elevated competition/defenses, just are not that exciting.

### *Projected Measurables:*

6'2"/220, 9.5" hands

4.8+ 40-time, 7.2+ three-cone.



**The Historical QB Prospects to Whom Jake Fromm Most Compares Within Our System:**

When I first watched/studied **Jarrett Stidham**, I was immediately impressed and thought he was much better than the scouts were rating.

When I first watched **Jake Fromm**, I was ‘shoulder shrug’. Same when I watched him a 2nd and 3rd time.

I don’t see Fromm and Stidham as great comps, in my mind, but I get the computer model drawing some comparisons – similar sized QBs from the SEC, both considered good, winning QBs, but never fully drawing the ‘great’ label...and with the possibility that the offenses they played in might have weighed on their numbers a bit. Good, talented QBs from this new era who played for coaches/systems that featured the run game more.

Fromm as a lesser/similar Stidham – I think I could understand that. Fromm as a solid **Chad Henne** ‘pro’s pro’ QB, I could see that too.

<u>QB-Grade</u>	<u>LJax Rating</u>	<u>Last</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Yr</u>	<u>College</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>Adj Comp Pct</u>	<u>Adj Yds per Comp</u>	<u>Adj Pass per TD</u>	<u>Adj Pass Per INT</u>
<b>7.044</b>	1.75	Fromm	Jake	2020	Georgia	74.0	220	59.8%	11.4	18.6	65.2
<b>8.211</b>	3.91	Stidham	Jarrett	2019	Auburn	74.3	218	61.3%	11.9	20.5	67.9
<b>5.170</b>	1.15	Henne	Chad	2008	Michigan	74.9	230	52.8%	11.4	20.2	50.2
<b>7.127</b>		Renner	Bryn	2013	UNC	74.5	214	62.2%	12.0	19.2	52.4
<b>2.554</b>		Booty	John David	2008	USC	74.4	218	62.5%	10.8	14.1	101.7

*\*‘LJax rating’ – new for 2020, as we re-do our grading systems to better identify/reward the spread offense QB prospects...looking for the runner-passer talents.*

*\*\*“Adj” = A view of adjusted college output in our system...adjusted for strength of opponent.*

*\*\*\*A score of 8.5+ is where we see a stronger correlation of QBs going on to become NFL good-to-great. A scouting score of 9.5+ is rarefied air—higher potential for becoming great-to-elite.*

*QB’s scoring 6.0–8.0 are finding more success in the new passing era of the NFL (2014–on). Depending upon the system and surrounding weapons, a 6.0–8.0 rated QB can do fine in today’s NFL—with the right circumstances...but they are not ‘the next Tom Brady’ guys, just NFL-useful guys.*



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### 2020 NFL Draft Outlook:

I'm seeing a lot of Fromm projected as a 2nd-rounder, and that's entirely possible...it also falls in with my belief he will not be a 1st-rounder. I think he'll be a middle-late 2nd-rounder, possible 3rd-rounder if his Pro Day doesn't go well. He's a guy more likely to fall from current national rankings than rise from them. He could fall to the 4th-round and it wouldn't shock me.

### NFL Outlook:

He can hang in the NFL, but I believe it will be as more of a backup or low-level starter/game manager for a stuffy offense. He won't be a 'rack huge numbers' QB in the NFL. He will also excite some of his new team's fanbase at first and then they'll find him boring in 2-3 years...kinda like what happened at his time at Georgia. If he sticks around and grinds, he'll be a stable/solid QB who might have like a 2019 **Teddy Bridgewater** or **Ryan Tannehill** moment and people realize – he's not bad, he's OK.

But...that's not really a ringing/exciting endorsement.

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