



NFL Draft 2020 Scouting Report: DT Javon Kinlaw, So. Carolina

**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.*

I just did a deeper study on **Derrick Brown** followed by **Javon Kinlaw**, my first two deep dives on the top DT prospects...and anyone who thinks **Derrick Brown** is a better NFL prospect than Kinlaw ought to have his head examined. It's not even close between them.

From the NFL Combine...

6'4.5"/326, 9.0" hands, 34.25" arms = **Derrick Brown**

6'5.1"/325, 10.5" hands, 34 7/8" arms = **Javon Kinlaw**

They are essentially the same body, with Kinlaw a touch taller/more reach with huge hands. We can't compare their speed times because Kinlaw didn't get timed at the Combine, but we know Brown was one of the slower 40-times and THE slowest three-cone. I can tell on tape...Kinlaw is much, much, much quicker than Brown on the field. It's not even debatable.

But is Kinlaw better than Brown? Is Kinlaw a top 10 overall pick type asset? Maybe. I just know I'd take Kinlaw way before I took Brown on sight/tape.

I'm not sure how to classify Kinlaw yet, but I lean more towards good/great than OK/good. Brown is more OK, and possible good...he's not great. Kinlaw is potentially great, I just think he's more 'good' than great.

Let me give the pro and con case on Kinlaw, after watching tape and looking at the data...

PRO:

-- Highly athletic. His initial surge/jump off the snap is sweet...better than **Derrick Brown's**. If Brown had a 1.78 10-yard time, I'd then say Kinlaw might have close to a 1.70 10-yard by comparison.

-- Kinlaw is strong...he's naturally built. He's not a 'big-bellied D-lineman'. He has some sleekness to him, where Derrick Brown is more of a top heavy/midsection heavy prospect.

-- The size, the quickness...it's everything you want in your DT prospect.



-- Kinlaw has good stamina...he looks quick on his feet deep into games, whereas **Derrick Brown** peters out by half-time too much. My opinion.

CON:

-- Not much after his initial surge. Like Brown, Kinlaw gets off the snap quick and can be a handful for a second or two...but then he can be contained. He is blocked out of plays a lot by better O-Linemen. I watched him work against Alabama and Clemson, and I didn't see any signs of true domination...I don't care how he looks against Appalachian State as much.

-- I think I see some 'lazy' here. An initial surge, and then stands around watching a lot. Doesn't chase things much. Doesn't display a ton of urgency...besides that initial surge to try to get to the QB/backfield.

-- Isn't slithery. Doesn't get between blockers and surprise his way into the backfield. He's all full freight train straight ahead trying to blow back a blocker, but good blockers just absorb the initial surge and hold him up. Occasionally Kinlaw's surge is in the right space and he gets into the backfield, but if he surges straight into a blocker (which is his norm), he rarely ever does anything to get past them.

I've seen many less athletic DTs who just have an ability to find their way into creases and crevasses and create chaos that way. Kinlaw (and Brown's) style looks really cool and impressive at first...but it doesn't amount to much that often. If they play 60 plays in a game, and are non-factors in 58 of them...how valuable is that? Football people focus on the two for the sake of the 58. I'd rather see a DT who was a handful 10-20+ plays a game...always demanding double teams and in the backfield more, even if they don't make the play.

Kinlaw has an interesting background. Homeless for a stretch. Bounced from place-to-place with his family crashing with friends and family for shelter. He's a very humble, gritty kid. He's going to make it to a starter in the NFL. I'm just not sure if he has the upside that many think he does, that I hoped he would have. I don't see the full 'it' factor here. Maybe with more work, he'll develop moves on the interior...and that's where his upside does lie. I just expected to see more dominance in college, and I didn't.

Remember **Ed Oliver**? He was a way better prospect than Kinlaw...and you've already forgotten about him.



Javon Kinlaw, Through the Lens of Our DT Scouting Algorithm:

Three career games vs. Clemson: 0.7 solo tackles, 2.0 total tackles, 0.0 TFLs/0.0 sacks per game. His 2019 tape vs. Clemson, he didn't look super-special to me.

2019 vs. Alabama – 4 tackles, 1.0 sacks...he was good not great here, but to be fair he was doubled quite a bit. A sign of respect. I'm not saying Kinlaw is a bad player...just arguing the 'A' vs. 'B' prospect, because some team is about to spend top 15 draft capital on this.

2020 NFL Combine Data:

6'5.1"/324, 10.5" hands, 34 7/8 arms"

No drills/times done

The Historical DT Prospects to Whom Javon Kinlaw Most Compares Within Our System:

He comps mostly with good/very good, successful, productive defensive tackles in the NFL.

DT Grade	Last	First	Draft Yr	College	H	W	Power Strgth	Speed Agility	Pass Rusher	Tackle rating	NT Profile
8.469	Kinlaw	Javon	2020	So Carolina	77.1	324	9.71	7.45	9.42	6.42	8.00
8.487	Brown	Malcom	2015	Texas	74.3	319	9.20	5.67	7.85	8.46	7.25
8.269	Clark	Kenny	2016	UCLA	74.5	314	9.34	5.86	6.97	8.52	8.13
12.169	Wilkerson	Muhammad	2011	Temple	76.1	315	9.15	10.00	11.94	9.42	6.69
8.195	Wilkins	Christian	2019	Clemson	75.2	315	8.68	7.66	7.42	6.62	5.76
10.149	Wilfork	Vince	2004	Mia, Fla	73.2	323	11.24	7.06	9.01	7.44	8.63

**A score of 8.00+ is where we see a stronger correlation of DTs 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 DT.*



All of the DT 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 DT prospect as more of a battle-in-the-trenches type of DT, and/or a DT prospect who has nose tackle capabilities.

Speed-Agility Metrics = A combination of several speed, agility, size measurements. A unique measuring system to look for DTs who profile for quickness, and/or a DT prospect who might have some DE capabilities.

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 DT is likely to achieve high sack totals in the NFL. We know the ‘system’/scheme the DT goes on to play in has a part in future success...but so do the player’s skills and performance history.

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 DT as one more likely to be involved in a heavy amount of tackles, tackles for a loss, and forced fumbles. Lower scoring DTs in this sub-category tend to be more pure ‘pluggers’, and not as active on the stat sheet. It also gives some insight of the ‘toughness’ of a player, if it is possible to quantify that (this is our attempt to).

NT Profile = This is an attempt to show which of these DT prospects has a profile to become a pure nose tackle/‘space-eater’ in the middle. It is not a 1–10 scale rating of a prospect’s skill/profile, it’s an attempt to point us in a direction of what this DT can be useful as (or not). Some DT prospects will grade off the charts on the NT profile, essentially a worst-case scenario of “put him in the middle and just let him be a wall.” There is NFL value in that ‘ability’.

2020 NFL Draft Outlook:

I see Kinlaw with mostly #8-15 draft rankings. He should be taken ahead of **Derrick Brown**, but not sure he will be. I think Kinlaw will go top 15, no later than top 20.

If I were an NFL GM, if I wanted a DT...I would pass on the price/cost of Kinlaw (or Brown). Nothing against Kinlaw, would love to have him but not for the price it is going to take.



APRIL 9, 2020

NFL Outlook:

He's going to be an NFL starter...I just don't know that he becomes a Pro Bowl level or just solid...like **Malcolm Brown**, etc. Kinlaw might become a Pro Bowl'er...and thus the draft value. I don't think **Derrick Brown** will ever sniff a Pro Bowl by comparison.

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