



## NFL Draft 2020 Scouting Report: DT James Lynch, Baylor

*\*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.*

Our computer models were flashing at me four candidates for ‘top DT prospect’ in the 2020 NFL Draft class...

**Derrick Brown**...in part because football society was so strong on him, and our grades were OK/good not great on him, but we went deeper to see what we might have missed.

**Javon Kinlaw**...same reason as Brown + Kinlaw had a lot of positive athletic attributes to go with.

**Khalil Davis**...because his 40-time is arguably the best ever from a DT prospect for his size/class.

**James Lynch**...because of the higher-end production metrics in our system + solid+ athleticism.

I’ve also previewed (game tape) and/or ran numbers on another 40+ DT prospects. After this first surge of data and tape – **James Lynch** looks like the best defensive tackle in the 2020 class, to my eyes, to my scouting. We’ll see if the computer agrees with my assessment in the end.

The battle for ‘best’ of 2020 comes down to Kinlaw v. Lynch, and the ‘winner’ probably comes down to what you like in a defensive tackle.

The NFL coaches LOVE big guys who are quick...whether they are effective at making plays, getting past blockers – that’s secondary. The most important thing for most NFL coaches is looking at a 300-pounder ram forward into the O-Line, and that it looks good...that pads crack...that they are a handful. It’s pleasing to the eye. It’s why they all liked **Tim Jernigan** over **Aaron Donald** back in 2014...*big guys from SEC rule!*

I am crazy, I guess...because I like defensive tackles that have a real gift for movement to get by their blocker. I don’t need them to try to run through a blocker (try and fail 99% of the time but it looks so cool the 1% they do get through) and flatten them and tackle the QB. I want guys who have size but who can use speed, agility, technique to get past a blocker in a blink and then create havoc...and who can move quickly enough to chase plays around as well, not just battering rams who surge for a second and then watch the play go away from them.

**Derrick Brown** and **Javon Kinlaw** constantly ram straight ahead off the snap, move a blocker back a step, and then the blocker gets control (97%+ of the time) and the play goes where it goes as the DT is left dancing with the blocker or standing watching the play well past/away from them. I don’t know how this helps my defense, *but big guys cracking pads is super cool?*



**Khalil Davis** is very fast, but very blockable. He doesn't even create a surge. He runs straight into his blocker and gets locked up and is mostly left chasing plays too late.

**James Lynch**...he's different. He has all kinds of moves and jukes and abilities to fake a blocker, to put blockers at a disadvantage and get their alignments altered. Lynch will run through a small crack opening by sliding off the initial contact, and use speed to get around off the edge or pop through the middle with the OL's feet tangled because they don't know where Lynch is coming from next. Lynch is like a DE/EDGE weapon who can play 4-3 DT at 289 pounds. You could use him as a 3-4 DE, but he's a dangerous 4-3 speed DT.

Watching Lynch on tape warmed my heart, after watching dull Brown-Kinlaw-Davis deeper tape study prior. Lynch actually makes stuff happen. He's unpredictable and going 100 MPH 100% of the time. He's a quality character off the field and an Academic all-Big 12. He's versatile, aggressive, quick, smart, and talented. He is the best DT prospect I've watched this year.

He doesn't look totally typical as a DT prospect...so, he will be undervalued – I also like that, as an NFL GM mindset.

### James Lynch, Through the Lens of Our DT Scouting Algorithm:

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#### *Best Seasons:*

41 tackles, **19.5 TFLs**, **13.5 sacks**, **5 PDs**, **3 forced fumbles** (14g) = **James Lynch** (2019)

30 tackles, 9.0 TFLs, 4.0 sacks, **5 PDs**, 2 forced fumbles (10g) = Javon Kinlaw (2018)

**54 tackles**, 11.5 TFLs, 4.0 sacks, 4 PDs, 2 forced fumbles (12g) = Derrick Brown (2019)

44 tackles, 11.0 TFLs, 8.0 sacks, 1 PD, 0 forced fumbles (11g) = Khalil Davis (2019)

29 tackles, 6.5 TFLs, 4.0 sacks, 1 PD, 2 forced fumbles (13g) = Neville Gallimore (2019)

-- Lynch was the 2019 Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year.



- Final 5 games, (Okl 2x, Texas, Kansas, Ga./bowl): 2.8 tackles, 1.4 TFLs, 1.0 sacks per game
- 6th-best short shuttle time among all DL (DE or DT) prospects at the NFL Combine (4.39) and 6th best in 10-yard (1.73) among DL prospects 270+ pounds.

**The Historical DT Prospects to Whom James Lynch Most Compares Within Our System:**

Lynch has strong match DNA with **Gerald McCoy, Jonathan Allen, and Nick Fairley**...all higher pick, pretty productive overall pro players.

| DT Grade      | Last    | First    | Draft Yr | College  | H    | W   | Power Strgth | Speed Agility | Pass Rusher | Tackle rating | NT Profile |
|---------------|---------|----------|----------|----------|------|-----|--------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|------------|
| <b>8.562</b>  | Lynch   | James    | 2020     | Baylor   | 75.5 | 289 | 6.70         | 9.86          | 12.42       | 8.28          | 1.21       |
| <b>9.694</b>  | McCoy   | Gerald   | 2010     | Oklahoma | 76.1 | 295 | 7.39         | 9.52          | 9.03        | 7.58          | 2.31       |
| <b>7.626</b>  | Allen   | Jonathan | 2017     | Alabama  | 74.5 | 286 | 5.95         | 8.42          | 9.88        | 7.69          | 0.64       |
| <b>11.715</b> | Fairley | Nick     | 2011     | Auburn   | 75.7 | 291 | 8.49         | 10.71         | 11.41       | 7.77          | 3.26       |
| <b>7.671</b>  | Monroe  | Andre    | 2015     | Maryland | 70.4 | 294 | 8.10         | 8.79          | 10.29       | 8.99          | 4.68       |
| <b>7.699</b>  | Cooper  | Xavier   | 2015     | Wash St  | 74.7 | 293 | 7.67         | 9.49          | 8.21        | 8.71          | 3.73       |
| <b>7.502</b>  | Bullard | Jonathan | 2016     | Florida  | 75.0 | 285 | 6.66         | 8.56          | 7.86        | 8.05          | 2.08       |

*\*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've seen Lynch in the 2nd-round of draft mocks/rankings...and all the way to 5th-round. He's all over the place. I'd project him to go in the 3rd-round in the end...he's the kind of guy that the NFL tends to sleep on. He should go high as 2nd or 1st round, but he will probably go late 2nd or 3rd.

If I were an NFL GM, and I wanted a disruptive 4-3 DT, I'd be focused on Lynch and probably willing to pay the price, even a bit more, because there are not many DTs like him in this draft.

### **NFL Outlook:**

He should be a starter within his first two seasons, but we'll see...he's like the kind of guys who get overlooked in the NFL – but eventually they have their day/become very productive starters and rich men with their second contract.

