



NFL Draft 2020 Scouting Report: DT Ross Blacklock, TCU (QH)

**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 Quick Hit (QH) scouting reports are a modified/shorter version of our full-scale reports. On these Quick Hits, I look at a lesser amount of tape and write a shorter amount of flowy words – these are usually designed more for sleeper prospects that I want to get more acquainted with and if something really jumps out, I'll go deeper. It's just me trying to get in and get out and deliver the pertinent notes to you for your consideration and for review later if they start to make waves in a year or two.

I'll do a chunk of these pre-Draft and then more after the Draft, going through the players that caught my attention in the draft (because of how high they were taken) or that I stumble across in training camp or the preseason that catch my eye.

Most of my notes on these Quick Hits will be short and sweet bullet points versions of our full-scale reports. Enjoy...

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When I first saw 30-60 seconds of tape on **Ross Blacklock** pre-Senior Bowl, I wondered if he might be the best DT prospect in the 2020 NFL Draft...he looks NICE on tape. A few weeks later, our computer models spit back a below average grade on him. What's the schism here?

Let's take a deeper look to find out to see if my eyes or the computer is right here...

BACKGROUND...

- 6'3"/290 4-3 DT prospect. Played some defensive end but mostly defensive tackle on the games I watched. I see him as more of a 4-3 DT, but 3-4 DE is not out of the question at the next level.
- His father played for and coached the Harlem Globetrotters.
- He played two seasons at TCU (2017 and 2019). He missed 2018 season with an Achilles injury.
- He left school early for the draft (as a junior).



-- You'll see his name in some mocks as a 1st-round draft pick.

GAME TAPE AND RANDOM NOTES...

-- His tape is terrific to a point...

He gets off the snap so quickly, effortlessly and has slippery moves to get past opposing blockers for a moment. His fluidity of movement at 290 pounds is as good as there is in the DT class. Better looking, quicker, more difficult to block off the snap than **Derrick Brown** or **Javon Kinlaw**, in my opinion.

But all his greatness is contained to 1-2 seconds...

He has these great movement skills but rarely ever made plays in college. 24 career games, and just 5.5 sacks and no PDs or forced fumbles. He's like a tree falling in the forest...when it fell, how do you know it made a sound? Blacklock looks amazing, athletically, on tape in a brief flash -- and then you never see him make any plays or put any pressure on the backfield, but he looks damn good the first 2-3 seconds off the snap. Does it all matter if he doesn't really make any plays?

-- Honestly, I have no idea what's wrong. He looks great, movement-wise...but then nothing. He wasn't overly double teamed or 'just missed' on plays. He doesn't look lazy. I can't tell what the issue is...all I can say is -- all that he's doing seems to have had very little impact on the field. It's the weirdest thing.

-- I watched several game tapes...it was the same thing every time -- *'Wow, this guy is so active and quick!'* followed by *'I think I just fell asleep halfway into the tape because nothing is happening with him'*. He's all twitchy looking for 290-pounds and then nothing.

Maybe he should be a 3-4 DE prospect more than a 4-3 DT, but man it looks like he could cause trouble as a quick 4-3 DT.

Ross Blacklock, Through the Lens of Our DT Scouting Algorithm:

-- Scary (bad) numbers...

Against the best blockers he faced in his career (West Va. 2x, Texas 2x, Baylor 2x, Oklahoma 2x, Stanford/bowl), 9 games total and averaged per game:

2.6 total tackles

1.3 solo tackles

0.67 TFLs



0.11 sacks

Not good at all by comparison to top DT prospects...or even lower caliber DT prospects.

-- Was not top 10 in any category in any season in the Big 12 in his career.

NFL Combine Data:

6'3.1"/290, 9 3/4" hands, 32 3/8" arms

4.90 40-time, 1.70 10-yard

4.67 shuttle, 7.77 three-cone (five DL prospects ran the three-cone at the Combine, between 275-300 pounds and Blacklock had the 2nd-worst three-cone time of them).

29" vertical, 8'11" broad jump

The Historical DT Prospects to Whom Ross Blacklock Most Compares Within Our System:

I feel some **L.J. Collier** here...last year everyone kept saying how great Collier was, and he also played for TCU and was about the same size and measurables as Blacklock, but I thought the Collier hype was bigger than his on-field reality.

And Collier had a better resume, all-around, for the NFL than Blacklock on measurables and output.

DT Grade	Last	First	Draft Yr	College	H	W	Power Strgth	Speed Agility	Pass Rusher	Tackle rating	NT Profile
5.020	Blacklock	Ross	2020	TCU	75.1	290	6.26	6.23	5.73	6.36	2.63
5.280	Prate	Bradon	2015	Illinois St	75.0	288	5.43	7.41	6.27	6.21	2.21
6.032	Collier	L.J.	2019	TCU	74.2	283	5.94	7.61	8.62	6.70	2.06
3.625	Rouse	James	2015	Marshall	76.5	277	5.83	6.20	5.42	6.71	3.60
4.323	Cummings	Euclid	2014	Ga Tech	75.0	291	5.41	6.58	5.18	6.08	0.38
4.675	Ramsey	Kaleb	2014	Boston Coll	75.0	293	6.73	5.39	5.27	6.07	3.96
6.893	Long	Jerome	2012	SD State	76.1	290	5.90	6.23	6.31	8.95	1.35



**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 Blacklock with mostly top 40 overall draft rankings. I suspect he will go top 40 in the end. **L.J. Collier** went #29 last year (and did little his rookie season).

If I were an NFL GM, I couldn't pay the price for Blacklock that's going to be asked for in 2020. I might be wrong...his tape, his quickness may win the day at the next level. The talent seems like it should be there, but I'm not paying a top 25 or 40 pick to find out.

