



NFL Draft 2022 Scouting Report: OLB Troy Andersen, Montana State

**Our LB 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.*

Troy Andersen had a little late 1st-round heat pre-NFL Draft 2022, but ultimately was taken late in the 2nd-round...a decent bargain for the Falcons. It might end up being a better bargain than we all realize. Let's take a look at **Troy Andersen** from a scouting perspective, and then discuss his Falcons journey so far.

Troy Andersen definitely took a circuitous route to the 2022 NFL Draft. Check out this career path...

-An all-state high school QB and SAF in Montana, plus a state champ in track (100-and-200 meters). But he was lightly recruited out of high school and chose to stay close to home.

-2017 (true Fr.) started at LB and RB...Big Sky Freshman of the Year

-2018 (soph.) MSU had an emergency at QB, so they shifted Andersen to QB and as a running QB, he rushed for 1,412 yards and 21 TDs (in 11 games) and threw for 1,195 yards and 3 TDs/7 INTs.

-2019 (jr.) Moved back to LB but also played some FB

-2020 (sr./redshirt) Leg injury, tried to rehab non-surgery. Decided to have surgery and then COVID hit, and their season ended up getting canceled anyway.

-2021 (sr.) Back to linebacker, where he had 150 tackles and became the Big Sky Defensive Player of the Year and runner-up for Defensive Player of the Year for all FCS.

As a human, Andersen is everything you want in a prospect – high school class valedictorian...team captain multiple times...plays multiple positions...won several student-athlete scholastic honors and awards. He's a good kid, humble (raised on a Montana ranch doing chores) and dedicated/focused.

Anderson also tested off-the-charts at the NFL Combine...a 4.42 40-time with a 6.77 three-cone (Pro Day) at 243 pounds is wonderful. He has the makings of an elite power RB...or a possible elite TE...or elite LB or SAF or even EDGE rusher.



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Andersen seems to be settling in as a linebacker from his college days and his early time with the Falcons. He has the build (taller and a little lanky) and movement skills of an OLB, but he plays with the style of an ILB...and the Falcons appear to be pushing him at ILB.

The background story is titillating BUT every time I've watched/scouted him on tape, I'm never 'wowed' like I wanna be...like his backstory is begging me to be. He definitely has the fast feet to drop into coverage or go sideline-to-sideline deftly, but he doesn't look like he's moving or hitting like an elite athlete. To my eyes, he's fast but not the 'wow' his Combine suggests. He looks more like a QB/TE build than ILB. He's thinner-framed for the NFL interior, at a glance. I see more of a great FCS, good (if) D1, a solid NFL prospect. I keep thinking, based on his wild background, that he's gonna be better (on tape watching) but I haven't seen 'it' yet with him. He was solid at the Senior Bowl, solid for Montana State...but never stood out like I expected.

The attraction here is the upside – you have the possibility here of transforming/bulking up this guy's body into a rock at ILB and maybe sacrificing his athleticism a bit doing it...but even if he lost a bit of his speed for bulk – he has speed/agility to spare. If he's a 4.50 40-time and 6.90 three-cone bulked up to 250+ of muscle – he's a 1st-round body.

All that remains is to see him upgrade his body and then making sure he keeps his speed/agility game. If Andersen can transition his body, then his athleticism, size, mindset – it all points to a legit ILB. Worst case, you leave him a bit smaller and play him as a 4-3 OLB. Andersen projects as an OLB in our system but he could definitely body transform into a pure ILB. Wherever he winds up, he's probably going to be a success... the only question is how much of one.

Troy Andersen, Through the Lens of Our OLB Scouting Algorithm:

-- Primarily a defensive player, then more a QB on offense than anything, Andersen is 2nd all-time at Montana State in rushing TDs (33) and 6th all-time in 100+ yard rushing games (11), and 9th all-time in total rushing yards (2,260).

-- Andersen's 150 tackles in 2021 season were the 5th-most for a season in school history.

-- Double-digit tackles in a game in nine of his 14 games last season.

-- Player LB, SAF, QB, RB, FB...and punted at MSU in his career.

-- One of nine OLB prospects in our database to run a sub 4.5 40-time AND a sub 7.0 three-cone. One of 2, of those 9 prospects, who did so at 240+ pounds...Andersen and...**Von Miller**.



2022 NFL Combine/Pro Day Measurables:

6'3.4/243, 9.25" hands, 32.38" arms

4.42 40-time, 2.53 20-yd, 1.49 10-yd

36" vertical, 10'8" broad, no bench

4.07 shuttle, 6.77 three-cone

The Historical OLB Prospects to Whom Troy Andersen Most Compares Within Our System:

We ran two comp groups...among OLBs and ILBs.

At OLB, Andersen comps with top edge rushers more than he does traditional linebackers/tacklers...but I see NO signs of him as some special pass rusher. Not at all.

OLB Grade	Last	First	Draft Yr	College	H	H	W	Tackle Strgth Metric	Spd Agil Metric	Pass Rush Metric
7.933	Andersen	Troy	2022	Montana St	6	3.4	243	7.72	11.17	8.03
8.000	Irvin	Bruce	2012	West Va	6	2.4	245	6.39	13.79	12.51
6.358	Oweh	Jayson	2021	Penn State	6	4.7	257	5.69	9.43	8.53
13.785	Miller	Von	2011	Texas A&M	6	2.5	246	8.03	14.48	13.90
3.129	Carter	Lorenzo	2018	Georgia	6	4.7	250	5.51	8.19	8.21

As an ILB projection, Andersen has the speed-agility of some of the elite LB prospects...but his (current) smaller size and college production numbers pull him more towards some 'good' or 'OK' LB prospects who didn't become great.

Andersen's prospects are all about upside and potential...high upside and high potential, but he may not grow into it.



OLB Grade	Last	First	Draft Yr	College	H	H	W		Tackle Strgth Metric	Spd Agil Metric
7.700	Andersen	Troy	2022	Montana St	6	3.4	243		7.11	12.18
7.484	Cashman	Blake	2019	Minnesota	6	1.1	237		7.58	12.17
7.678	Black	Quincy	2007	New Mexico	6	1.5	240		9.15	12.24
9.788	Kendricks	Mychal	2012	Cal	5	11.2	240		10.57	13.16
13.100	Shazier	Ryan	2014	Ohio State	6	1.1	237		11.19	13.62

A score of **8.00+ is where we see a stronger correlation of LBs 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 LB.*

All of the LB ratings are based on a 0–10 scale, but a player can score negative, or above a 10.0 in certain instances.

Tackle-Strength Metrics = A combination of several physical and performance measurements. An attempt to classify the LB prospect's ability to stop the run, as well as a gauge of how physical the player is and the likelihood of higher tackle counts in the NFL. All based on profiles of LBs historically.

Speed-Agility Metrics = A combination of several speed, agility, and size measurements...as well as game performance data to profile a LB for speed/agility based on LBs historically. A unique measuring system to look for LBs that profile for quickness, pass-coverage ability, and general ability to cover more ground.

Pass Rush Metrics = A combination of the physical measurements, but also proven on-field ability to get to the QB/backfield in college.

2022 NFL Draft Outlook:

Andersen was projected anywhere from #30-60 overall and wound up #58 to Atlanta. I would have projected #45-75 on the fears of an FCS bias and tape that was interesting/OK but not 'wow'.

If I were an NFL GM, I would have had my eye on Andersen in that late-2nd, early 3rd-round range but because I wasn't blown away by his tape, I'm not sure I would've pulled the trigger. His character check and his measurables could've forced me to take a shot at moving him to ILB versus the OLB he was seen as by analysts pre-Draft, mostly.

