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**NFL DRAFT 2017 SCOUTING REPORT:  
OLB TYUS BOWSER, HOUSTON**

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**NFL DRAFT 2017 SCOUTING REPORT: OLB TYUS BOWSER, HOUSTON**

*\*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.*

When I do a side-by-side comparison of **Tyus Bowser** and the outside linebacker prospect I studied right before him, **T.J. Watt**, I walk away thinking two things...

(1) They are both very similar with their physical measurables.

6'4"/252, 4.69 40-time, 6.79 three-cone, 21 reps, 37.0" vertical = **T.J. Watt**

6'3"/247, 4.65 40-time, 6.75 three-cone, 21 reps, 37.5" vertical = **Tyus Bowser**

(2) I'm even more impressed with **T.J. Watt** after watching Bowser's tape...and left scratching my head with Bowser's performance.

I'm not saying Bowser isn't a legitimate top 50 NFL Draft prospect, because he is, on physical measurables alone. These two guys are available right in the same area of the draft for a team looking for an outside linebacker who can rush the passer, play the run, and drop back into coverage some as needed. However, Watt is the better overall prospect compared to Bowser and, to me, it isn't even close.

For me, the difference between the two is not anything you could grab from simple analytics. Their measurables are similar. Their output numbers are reasonably similar, although Watt's are better while doing so in a tougher conference. To me, a big difference is in the plays on tape that didn't register anything statistically. Time after time of watching game tape on Bowser – he's just not making any real impact. He's on the field, and he's athletic, so he's making some tackles and getting his share of TFLs and sacks, but on most plays, he's easily blocked out and not causing any frustration for his blocker nor creating any chaos on the defensive line. He's just a good player roaming around playing 'OK'. More athletic than most on the field, but not anyone who grabs your attention.

Whereas when I watch **T.J. Watt**, there are several plays where he has disrupted a play in the backfield or nearly got to a quarterback, flushing him out of his comfort zone. In the little details of football play that can only be found on tape, **T.J. Watt** makes more of a difference in more plays than Bowser does.

I mean, it's jarring how little excitement you get watching Bowser play. I see his athleticism. I see he gives a decent effort. It's like he's lacking football instincts or something. I can't fully put my finger on it, but I can see the activity on tape. I can track the plays. Bowser is just not a major playmaker. In fact, I was watching one particular game tape of Bowser's, and I'm half asleep watching him do a little each snap (it seemed) but I kept seeing this #44 teammate of his making plays all over the place. Houston was wearing black jerseys with weird colors for their numbers on the jersey and it was hard for me to catch the numbers of the players at a glance. I'm focusing on #81 (Bowser), but I just keep seeing this #44 on the other end of every tackle/play. I kept thinking, "I should study #44 instead of wasting time on **Tyus Bowser**." That's when I realized I wasn't watching a 2016 tape, I was watching 2015 – that #44 was a prospect I absolutely loved last year... The Patriots' draft pick linebacker **Elandon Roberts**. I said it last year – Roberts is going to be a very nice NFL middle linebacker...a Pro Bowl level player eventually. Bowser, I don't see Pro Bowls in his future.

It's totally legitimate to draft an athletic talent such as Bowser and then hope you can coach him up or plug in the gap of what's missing with his football instincts. His issue may be fixable, and then you have a great player on your hands. For that reason, Bowser is a top 50 prospect for sure. The measurables are great. I just don't think he's 'ready to go' out of the box, plus you have the risk that maybe he's just a sluggish player to some degree. In addition, you could draft **T.J. Watt** right around the same time of the draft.

I see the upside with **Tyus Bowser**, but for the price — I like **T.J. Watt** a whole lot better.

### **TYUS BOWSER, THROUGH THE LENS OF OUR "OLB" SCOUTING ALGORITHM**

9.5 sacks in his last 14 games...4.5 of them against Tulane and Lamar. 5.0 sacks in the other 12 games.

14.0 TFLs in his last 14 games...6.0 of them against Tulane and Lamar. 8.0 TFLs in the 12 other games.

Registered at least one pass defended (PD) in just two of his last 12 games.

NFL COMBINE DATA...

6'2.5"/247, 33.3 arms, 10.1" hands

4.65 40-time, 1.59 10-yard, 6.75 three-cone

21 bench reps, 37.5" vertical, 10'7" broad jump

Bowser's college stats on CFB Reference: <http://www.sports-reference.com/cfb/players/tyus-bowser-1.html>

**THE NFL "OLB" THAT TYUS BOWSER MOST COMPARES WITH STATISTICALLY IN COLLEGE, WITHIN OUR SYSTEM:**

Perhaps Bowser can play a similar role to **Clay Matthews** – a designated pass rusher who can play inside if forced to. **Nick Vigil** is a better-tackling version of Bowser. I expected **Connor Barwin** to show up on this list but he didn't make it.

TABLE 448

<b>OLB ratings</b>	<b>Last</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Tackle Strength Metric</b>	<b>Speed Agility Metric</b>	<b>Pass Rush Metric</b>
8.422	Bowser	Tyus	2017	Houston	6	2.5	247	6.97	12.16	10.96
7.211	Keglar	Stanford	2008	Purdue	6	1.5	239	6.96	10.35	10.20
7.209	Matthews	Clay	2009	USC	6	3.1	240	5.28	9.88	9.15
7.845	Vigil	Nick	2016	Utah State	6	2.3	239	8.30	9.99	7.62
6.838	Kehl	Bryan	2008	BYU	6	2.2	242	7.78	9.20	8.29
7.461	Hicks	Jordan	2015	Texas	6	1.3	236	7.97	10.36	9.35
2.967	Carter	Chris	2011	Fresno St	6	1.1	248	5.59	10.76	9.45
2.733	Rush	Marcus	2015	Michigan St	6	2.2	247	4.62	8.99	8.44

*\*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, 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 an 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.*

## 2017 NFL DRAFT OUTLOOK...

You see Bowser being projected between picks #25 and #50 overall, and that's right on the money as far as I see. I'd guess he falls to just after the first round.

**NFL OUTLOOK:** My argument against Bowser is that he feels like a player who is going to be more good/useful/spot-starter/special teams guy than a breakout star. He has the physical tools to be a starter and succeed in the NFL. I'm not sure he has the instincts and passion to go with it.

