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**NFL DRAFT 2017 SCOUTING REPORT:
WR NOAH BROWN, OHIO STATE**

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NFL DRAFT 2017 SCOUTING REPORT: WR NOAH BROWN, OHIO STATE

**WR-B stands for "Big-WR," a classification we use to separate the more physical, downfield/over-the-top, heavy-red-zone-threat type WRs. Our WR-S/"Small-WRs" are profiled by our computer more as slot and/or possession type WRs who are less typically physical, and rely more on speed/agility to operate underneath the defense and/or use big speed to get open deep...they are not used as weapons in the red zone as much.*

I missed part of the opportunity with **Noah Brown** because I was only looking at him as a wide receiver. The interesting opportunity with Brown might be as a TE/WR hybrid option. Honestly, the more I watch him at WR...the more I get what Dallas saw – he's a 'pro' WR talent. He is not **Calvin Johnson** or **Odell Beckham**, but what Brown is – might be extremely valuable towards building an NFL title team.

Brown does not have a bad profile as a pure NFL WR prospect, but he doesn't jump off the page either. He is big, but not massive (6'2"/222). He's athletic enough for the NFL but not off the charts. There's nothing, as a wide receiver, that really jumps out at you as a college prospect...especially for those into analytics-based scouting.

Brown was at Ohio State for three seasons, but really only played in 2016 (broken tibia and fibula cost him his starting role in 2015). He caught just 32 passes in his one season as a starter at Ohio State/2016, but did catch seven TD passes...however, four of them came in one game. The tallies are not earth shattering him, but if you consider Ohio State is not passing game factory...maybe his output should be given a little extra credit.

It's the tape that wins the day here. 'Analytics only' people are going to miss him by a mile – I did, initially.

There are three things that leap off the tape when you watch Brown at work...

(1) Brown is one hell of a blocker. Arguably (to me not even arguable) the best blocking wide receiver from college football entering the NFL in 2017.

(2) He has very good hands when he's under duress. His 4 TD game came against Oklahoma, and he put on a clinic of battling in the end zone with defenders – one of the TD catches was a top highlight catch of college football 2016.

(3) He has a very quick first step for his size. His first move combined with his physicality is going to allow him to get open quickly. He doesn't have to stretch the field speed, but in a flash Brown gets open quickly, adeptly. He may be a different

version of **Anquan Boldin** – size, power, not blazing speed but a quick step off the punch. Add to it a stunning skill as a blocker and you have one of the more unique NFL weapons from this draft at wide receiver. If you're looking for blazers and leapers at WR...you're gonna miss it.

I think Brown can work as a starting #2 NFL wide receiver...or as a TE/WR hybrid a la **Jordan Reed**. Brown might never lead the league in receptions or yards, but he'll be a solid hand who gives you the bonus X-factor of being like an extra lineman as a blocker. As if the Dallas Cowboys offensive line wasn't already good enough, wait until they put in an all-world blocking wide receiver into the mix. **Ezekiel Elliott** might have 2,000+ yard seasons ahead if he can keep himself out of jail.

Brown can make it as an NFL wide receiver because of his blocking and good/reliable hands. But what where he may really thrive in is in that **Jordan Reed** tight end role. Brown has average speed for a wide receiver (4.56), but more high-end speed when you consider him as a tight end. Give him the extra advantage of speed at tight end versus linebackers plus a great first step off the snap and really good hands – he could be a quarterback's best friend, especially if that quarterback is great finding options in the quick, short passing game...which is exactly what **Dak Prescott** brings to the table.

Noah Brown appears to be a quality person off the field, a no-nonsense worker. You're getting a lynchpin piece of a football puzzle on and off the field here, and likely to fly under all the radars because he does the little things and doesn't demand the spotlight on himself.

NOAH BROWN, THROUGH THE LENS OF OUR "BIG WR" SCOUTING

ALGORITHM

What Brown brings to the table is hard to recognize through his production numbers. He had just 1-3 catches in most games and less than 50 yards. His 5 catch, 72 yards, 4 TD game versus Oklahoma was a huge outlier. Used more for his blocking skills, and the fact that **J.T. Barrett** is not a real passing game QB – Brown's output is muted for good reason.

NFL COMBINE DATA...

6'2"/222, 9.1" hands, 31.8" arms

4.56 (Pro Day), 1.61 10-yard, 7.07 three-cone, 4.33 shuttle

19 bench reps, 29.0" vertical, 9'10" broad jump

College stats on CFB Reference: <https://www.sports-reference.com/cfb/players/noah-brown-2.html>

THE NFL "BIG WR" NOAH BROWN MOST COMPARES WITH STATISTICALLY IN COLLEGE, WITHIN OUR SYSTEM:

A couple interesting takeaways from this system comparison list – Some here are bigger WR prospects, who struggled to make it in the NFL and eventually tried to work as TEs, but got lost in the shuffle – before NFL teams were more looking for these WR-to-TE converts. **Kasen Williams** is killing it in Seattle camp – overlooked as 'too slow' initially. Then there is **Jordy Nelson** — an odd comparison compared to the others but interesting nonetheless.

For me, I think of **Noah Brown** as **Quincy Enunwa** minus the speed/agility/athleticism...which I think means more **Jordan Reed**/H-back or just a tough as nail over-the-middle WR.

TABLE 534

WR Score	Draft Yr	Last	First	College	H	H	Weight	Power Strngth Metric	Speed Agility Metric	Hands' Metric
1.423	2017	Brown	Noah	Ohio State	6	2.0	222	10.27	0.03	5.25
2.825	2014	Coles	D.J.	Virginia Tech	6	3.2	225	10.68	1.63	5.54
4.666	2017	Brown	Billy	Shepherd	6	3.3	255	10.74	0.39	6.31
3.696	2012	Fuller	Jeffrey	Texas A&M	6	3.4	223	9.53	3.82	7.27
2.911	2016	Williams	Jordan	Ball State	6	2.7	227	11.98	0.43	8.74
2.573	2015	Williams	Kasen	Washington	6	1.4	218	8.83	0.28	6.31
8.675	2008	Nelson	Jordy	Kansas St	6	2.6	217	7.95	5.69	12.74
1.983	2016	Powe	Darius	Cal	6	2.7	220	8.88	3.50	3.06
0.719	2011	Burton	Stephan	W Texas A&M	6	1.4	221	10.24	4.61	4.99

**A score of 7.0+ is where we start to take a Big-WR prospect more seriously. A score of 8.50+ is where we see a stronger correlation of a Big-WR 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 elite NFL Big-WR.*

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

Overall WR score = A combination of several on-field performance measures, including refinement for the strength of opponents faced. Mixed with all the physical measurement metrics, rated historically in our database.

“Power-Strength” = A combination of unique metrics surrounding physical size profiling, bench press strength, etc. High scorers here project to be more physical, better blockers, and less injury-prone.

“Speed-Agility” = A combination of unique metrics surrounding speed, agility, physical size, mixed with some on-field performance metrics. High scorers here project to have a better YAC and show characteristics to be used as deep threats/create separation.

“Hands” = A combination of unique metrics surrounding on-field performance in college, considering the strength of opponents played. Furthermore, this data considers some physical profiling for hand size, etc. High scorers here have a better track record of college statistical performance, and overall this projects the combination of performance and physical data for the next level.

2017 NFL DRAFT OUTLOOK...

Brown was almost undrafted, going very late in the 7th-round to Dallas. I couldn't understand what Dallas saw based on measurables and output, but this is another case where 'analytics scouting' misses the mark and going deeper with the tape and seeing possibilities beyond WR (maybe) come into play. Kudos to **Will McClay**, maybe the best scout there is in football.

NFL OUTLOOK: Think about the potential for Brown to matter right away. Dallas has **Terrance Williams** as their #2 WR. They could easily slide Brown in as the #2 and give them what they lack – a guy who can work between the hashes...and block. Williams could go to a #4 WR used on obvious passing downs. Brown can work as a true WR on one play, then as an H-back/TE the next. He has a chance to be on the

