Scouting Report: QB Josh Allen, Wyoming

*Our QB 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.

Josh Allen is the most comically bad scouting by the mainstream football analysts of the early 2018 NFL Draft process (and they started pushing this mid/late-2016). So bad, it makes me think other NFL teams are helping push this…just messing with the Browns to see if they could really trick them into taking Allen with the #1 overall pick. I've seen a light smattering of football analysts trying to be 'too cool for the room' and trying to push Allen. They're going so far as to not only declare him as the obvious best QB in the 2018 NFL Draft class but even trying to make the case that had he come out last year he would have been way ahead of *Mitchell Trubisky*.

Yes, the guy (Allen) who has played two seasons in the Mountain West Conference and couldn't produce anything better than a 56.3% completion rate for a season…that's the guy who's clearly the best QB in this draft. *Yeah, right.*

Stunningly, the main engine driving the Allen hype train is the old tried-and-true scouting trap door… you think THEY'd have learned by now, but nope…it's the old *'he's got a huuge arm'*! And it's absolutely true, Allen has the strongest arm in the draft. He can probably throw it over 60 MPH easy. He's got a *Colin Kaepernick, Tyler Bray, Tarvaris Jackson* cannon…there's no denying it. The problem is he's borderline awful at playing quarterback…*just a minor fly in this '#1 overall prospect' ointment*.

As much as I want to laugh at this 'big arm' stuff as antiquated scouting…it's not antiquated. It's still a staple for the establishment. There are NFL offensive coordinators who are salivating at the thought of getting hold of 'big armed' Allen and 'fixing' him, making him the robot who just throws timing passes where they tell him to. 'Big arm' quarterbacks are like socialism/communism – it's never worked over any stretch of time as a way to run a government economy or NFL offense, but damned if it's not the #1 go-to thing by dictators/presidents of countries and offensive coordinators still to this day. You think no one could be this stupid in this day and age to look at Allen's results and tape, but ignore all the warning signs and crave the big fastball with all its possibilities. Nope. They mock *Jared Goff* because he doesn't 'look' like a big strong QB and then daydream of Allen delivering bullets.

The problem is Allen can throw fast, hard but his placement, his ability to throw medium/deep with any accuracy is problematic. You can't be a future NFL great QB and yet fail to crack 55% completions in games against Hawaii, UNLV, San Diego State, etc. The concept cannot exist…a QB prospect cannot struggle with many Mountain West foes and get obliterated facing any major schools – and then suddenly arrive in the NFL, have a numb-nut offensive coordinator 'tweak' the QB prospect and create the next *Dan Marino*.

Watching tape on Allen…it's ridiculous. Most all his throws are 5-10 yards and under – nice laser beams on simple routes. When he's asked to throw more medium/deep his accuracy is way off. Sometimes he'll hit one, he's not a total buffoon, but more times than not he overthrows anything that requires a second-read of the defense and anything where the receiver is on the move. He can hit stationary targets nicely in a perfect pocket. Moving targets, and/or a muddy pocket…there's trouble. Allen is kinda like *Jake Locker*…if Locker were a worse QB and couldn't run very well.

I think Allen is a sloppy, free-spirit QB who doesn't take his craft all that seriously. Nice kid, but not ready for prime time. He's got a big arm and that's all he's got, and it got him noticed and he just sits on that laurel. He didn't improve at all from 2016 to 2017. He's the *Zoolander* of QB prospects…a fashion model gets by his whole life on his 'good looks' and doesn't develop any other social or intelligence skills -- so thus is limited when it comes to anything 'not posing for a picture'. *Josh Allen* can throw a ball faster than anyone in this draft…he doesn't have much of anything else to offer.

Josh Allen, Through the Lens of Our QB Scouting Algorithm:

I could share this one stat line and drop the mic on this whole scouting report because these types of things don't happen with legit NFL prospects at QB: Allen has faced three 'major' conference schools in his career (Nebraska, Iowa, Oregon) and his totals in those three games are – 48 of 96 passing (50.0%), 142.3 yards per game (no game over 200 yards), 1 TD pass and 8 interceptions.

Yes, 1 TD pass/8 INTs.

Allen in 25 starts has thrown for 300+ yards just twice. He's been under 200 yards passing in 12 of those 25 games. *A real 'mad bomber' of a QB*. And, again, this is with him playing in the absolutely-no-defense Mountain West Conference.

Allen's career numbers if you ignore his two games beating up FCS/D2 schools: 54.4% completion percentage, 195.1 yards passing per game (in starts), 39 TDs/21 INTs.

This is some football **peoples'** sneaky #1 QB in the 2018 draft class?

We project Allen's measurables are going to come at 6'4"/225+, a 4.85+ runner (he's a stiff runner but has enough hope to move around in the pocket a little), 60+ MPH throwing speed.

The Historical QB Prospects to Whom Josh Allen Most Compares Within Our System:

This comparison list couldn't be any more perfect, unless *Tyler Bray* and *Tarvaris Jackson* were on it. This list needs no explanation.

QB-Score	QB	Yr	College	H	W	adj Comp Pct	adj Yds per Comp	adj Pass per TD	adj Pass Per INT
1.508	Allen, Josh	2018	Wyoming	76.0	230	54.0%	10.2	26.3	26.3
0.430	Locker, Jake	2011	Washington	74.5	235	50.4%	11.7	30.4	28.8
1.634	Williams, Ryan	2015	Miami, Fla	76.8	220	56.9%	12.6	22.2	28.9
3.810	Thomas, Logan	2014	Va. Tech	77.6	256	52.9%	13.0	29.6	30.0
4.167	Hackenberg, Chr.	2016	Penn State	75.5	234	53.0%	12.4	24.9	44.5
4.942	Cook, Connor	2015	Michigan State	76.0	218	55.2%	14.2	23.6	39.1
-5.449	Bonner, Chris	2015	CSU-Pueblo	78.1	236	52.7%	11.8	37.6	26.9
-7.323	Snead, Jevan	2010	Ole Miss	75.0	219	45.7%	13.1	70.3	12.2

"Adj" = A view of adjusted college output in our system…adjusted for strength of opponent.

**A score of 8.5+ is where we see a stronger correlation of QBs going on to become NFL good-to-great. A scouting score of 9.5+ is rarefied air—higher potential for becoming great-to-elite.*

QBs scoring 6.0–8.0 are finding more success in the new passing era of the NFL (2014–on). Depending upon the system and surrounding weapons, a 6.0–8.0 rated QB can do fine in today's NFL—with the right circumstances…but they are not 'the next Tom Brady' guys, just NFL-useful guys.

2018 NFL Draft Outlook:

I want to say that Allen will be figured out for the fraud he is but whenever I predict that the NFL will **change its ways, I'm wrong 95% of the time. Allen will** look fantastic in shorts, throw ropes in workouts, and be a 1st or early 2nd-round pick that people celebrate as a steal because many NFL teams will disseminate false info about how much they love Allen to get the media to push him to the likes of the **Cleveland Browns, etc., so when he falls in the draft from the hoax levels…the media will think 'value' was created. When the football people see his arm at the NFL Combine…he will have 1st**-round momentum for sure, as they **crow a bunch of** '*just needs to clean up the accuracy*'…but, in the end, I still believe he will fall to the 2nd-round, early 2nd.

If I were an NFL GM, knowing Allen is going top 100, I wouldn't even waste time with him on my draft board. I'd just be cheering for some other team to take him ahead of me to waste one of their draft picks.

NFL Outlook:

I foresee a *Connor Cook*, *Christian Hackenberg* type of NFL journey. A lot of hoopla his draft year and then people kinda squawk here and there for two preseasons about giving him a chance (one he never gets) and then he's forgotten as we move on to the next 'shiny object' that catches NFL eyes.

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