

I understand that this looks very different from what will happen tonight. I have always believed strongly in positional-value principles and as a probabilistic-thinker would draft as such.

MY 1ST ROUND MOCK DRAFT

PFF

1			Abdul Carter ED Penn State
2			Travis Hunter CB Colorado
3			Cam Ward QB Miami (FL)
4			Armand Membou T Missouri
5			Mason Graham DI Michigan
6			Jaxson Dart QB Mississippi
7			Will Campbell T LSU
8			Tetairoa McMillan WR Arizona
9			Josh Simmons T Ohio State
10			Mykel Williams ED Georgia
11			Walter Nolen DI Mississippi
12			Jalon Walker LB Georgia
13			Kelvin Banks Jr. T Texas
14			Derrick Harmon DI Oregon
15			Mike Green ED Marshall
16			Shemar Stewart ED Texas A&M
17			Will Johnson CB Michigan
18			Grey Zabel T North Dakota State
19			Tyler Warren TE Penn State
20			Ashton Jeanty HB Boise State
21			Jalen Milroe QB Alabama
22			Kenneth Grant DI Michigan
23			Jahdae Barron CB Texas
24			Shedeur Sanders QB Colorado
25			Tyler Booker G Alabama
26			Colston Loveland TE Michigan
27			Donovan Ezeiruaku ED Boston College
28			James Pearce Jr. ED Tennessee
29			Josh Conerly Jr. T Oregon
30			Matthew Golden WR Texas
31			Omarion Hampton HB North Carolina
32			Maxwell Hairston CB Kentucky

Jaxson Dart at 6: When comparing Dart to past first-round QBs, he's above-average at protecting the ball and has a high rate of big-time throws. He is also fairly young. His concern will be against pressure. Still, he's not in the "danger zone" of Justin Fields, Will Levis, and Caleb Williams. Rather, he sits right around Jayden Daniels, Drake Maye, Joe Burrow, and Justin Herbert. These are all guys who have had success despite the slightly worrying college P2S rate. Many will point to his success being a factor of the Ole Miss offense, but truthfully most college offenses are pro-style at this point.

Notable QB Draft Prospect Advanced Analytics					
Name	TWP%	BTT%	P2S	ADJ%	Age
Bo Nix	0.9	4.1	9.5	85.9	24.2
Zach Wilson	1.1	8.3	14.1	80.2	21.7
Shadeur Sanders	1.1	4.9	19.6	82.5	23.2
Michael Penix	1.5	6.8	8.3	74.4	23.9
Jayden Daniels	1.6	8.4	20.2	79.6	23.4
Drake Maye	1.7	7.7	19.5	75.3	21.7
Tyler Shough	1.8	5.1	9.3	75.1	25.6
Joe Burrow	1.9	6.5	20.0	83.5	23.4
Bryce Young	2.1	5.2	12.1	77.3	21.8
Tua Tagovailoa	2.1	5.6	16.7	79.0	22.1
Jaxson Dart	2.2	6.7	19.4	77.0	21.9
Kyler Murray	2.2	6.8	16.4	79.8	21.7
Jalen Milroe	2.5	5.4	16.8	74.7	22.4
Kenny Pickett	2.6	5.3	18.0	79.6	23.9
Justin Fields	2.6	7.3	28.3	89.1	22.1
Mac Jones	2.8	9.2	10.9	83.2	22.6
Dwayne Haskins	2.8	3.3	15.0	76.3	21.9
Baker Mayfield	2.9	7.7	18.1	82.0	23.0
Justin Herbert	3.0	5.0	20.2	76.1	22.1
Jalen Hurts	3.0	4.4	14.2	77.9	21.8
Deshaun Watson	3.1	5.5	10.3	77.6	21.6
Cam Ward	3.2	5.9	16.7	76.6	22.9
Anthony Richardson	3.3	5.5	9.2	64.3	20.9
Lamar Jackson	3.4	4.3	16.6	72.7	21.3
Trevor Lawrence	3.5	7.5	16.7	77.9	21.5
Will Levis	3.6	2.3	26.8	75.6	23.8
Caleb Williams	3.6	6.2	23.2	77.5	22.4
Daniel Jones	3.7	4.4	18.1	72.8	21.9
CJ Stroud	3.7	6.6	12.5	71.8	21.6
Mitchell Trubisky	3.7	4.9	15.2	75.5	22.7
Patrick Mahomes	3.9	6.6	10.2	75.5	21.6
Josh Rosen	4.3	5.7	18.2	74.8	21.2
Josh Allen	5.0	5.7	16.5	65.9	21.9
Jordan Love	5.2	7.0	14.5	70.0	21.5
Sam Darnold	5.3	5.9	14.8	70.5	20.9

Josh Simmons at 9: This is a strong OT class, so I won't blame teams for going with safer options. Still, every report I read on Simmons is "could have been OT1 if not for the injury." NFL teams largely ignored injury history this Free Agency, so it'd be fairly inconsistent to heavily discount Simmons here. How often can you find an elite OT prospect who isn't being considered a possible OG? Simmons will likely be a cornerstone OT for 15 years; I'm not passing on that due to an injury with the medical care we have now.

Tyler Warren at 19: On one hand, Warren will likely be a fantastic NFL player. On the other hand, Trey McBride just became the highest-paid TE in NFL history at \$19M AAV. I refuse to use a top-10 pick on a position with such a low ceiling. It's also important to note how low the success rate has been on first-round TEs (picture is from before Bowers, who has been a success).

##	Year	Tight_End	Still_Starter	Multiple_Pro_Bowls	All_Pro
##	<dbl>	<chr>	<chr>	<chr>	<chr>
## 1	2013	Tyler Eifert	No	No	No
## 2	2014	Eric Ebron	No	No	No
## 3	2017	O.J. Howard	No	No	No
## 4	2017	Evan Engram	Yes	No	No
## 5	2017	David Njoku	Yes	No	No
## 6	2018	Hayden Hurst	Yes	No	No
## 7	2019	T.J. Hockenson	Yes	Yes	No
## 8	2019	Noah Fant	No	No	No

Ashton Jeanty at 20: RB is a position that you invest in when you are ready to push for a Super Bowl. This is due to both the player being a depreciating asset and the low-salary maximum at the position. It is difficult to both be picking high and be in that position. Looking at the 19 teams before Denver, the only other spots I considered drafting Jeanty were Chicago at 10 and Dallas at 12. In the end, I don't believe either team has close enough to a complete roster to take a RB in the first-round. Jeanty is a special player, but we've seen (Saquon in New York comes to mind) special RBs be completely wasted on rosters that aren't ready for them.

Jalen Milroe at 21: This is a very team-specific choice. Milroe and the Steelers are a perfect match to me. The Steelers want to play a physical brand of football, matching Milroe's elite running. They acquired Metcalf, while Milroe throws a beautiful deep ball. Milroe is a severely flawed prospect and he may crash and burn, but the ceiling here and the scheme fit is enough for me to take the risk.