NFL Draft 2020 Scouting Report: TE Cole Kmet, Notre Dame

*Our TE 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.

**Our TE formulas had some slight changes in the offseason—an adjustment to better identify and value TE prospects that are smaller physically and are primed for the era ahead...the era of Jordan Reed and Delanie Walker-type TEs. Our historical grades will have changed some on various prospects as well, to show their grades by comparison.

I've seen TE prospects like **Cole Kmet** a million times. They're NFL bodies, potential starters, but they are not valuable or irreplaceable. They aren't 'best tight end prospect in their class' either, although Kmet has risen to just that.

The media typically gloms on to one holy tight end and you can't shake them from it all draft season…because the general analysts don't know much of anything about prospects as it is, but tight ends they don't care about at all – they just attach to whatever the top guy is supposed to be to sound smart…because they have no clue.

The media's favorite TE prospect the past five drafts…

2019: **T.J. Hockenson**…oh, and then his college teammate ends up better (**Noah Fant**)

*CFM top TE grade = Noah Fant

2018: **Hayden Hurst** and **Mike Geisicki** were the beloved ones…**Dallas Goedert** and **Mark Andrews** would be drafted after them, 3rd-round and beyond.

*CFM top TE grade = Dallas Goedert

2017: They loved **O.J. Howard** and **David Njoku**! Four rounds later a team would draft **George Kittle**.

*CFM top TE grade = O.J. Howard

2016: Slam dunk for **Hunter Henry** for the analysts, but **Austin Hooper** or **Tyler Higbee** may end up best looking back on it.

*CFM top TE grade = Seth DeValve

2015: They adored **Maxx Williams**.

*CFM top TE grade = **Darren Waller** (ahead of the curve again, as he was drafted as a WR)*

So, let's trust CFM over THEM…once again. I say **Cole Kmet** is a very average TE prospect and is not worthy of the top TE prospect ranking (but he is 95-100% with all the analysts I've seen). I don't think Kmet is going to be in our top three when it is all said and done. Maybe not top five.

Kmet is every average NFL TE prospect – has the NFL size the coaches and scouts adore, and average to slightly above average athleticism with OK hands, but is a stiff, non-athletic piece overall. Hey, it works…**Hunter Henry, Kyle Rudolph, Austin Hooper, Zach Ertz** (among others) all were not amazing athletes but they were good enough and developed into OK or good+ tight ends. The problem with Kmet is…I don't think he has the athleticism of those guys nor is he a very good blocker.

Kmet has enough size-athleticism to make it as an NFL starter and be OK. He was a good college baseball player. He was a solid tight end for Notre Dame. He's talented. He's not nothing, but he has that average 4.7+ tight end speed with pretty rough three-cone (7.44)…he looks very stiff running routes. Sometimes the three-cone is not the truth – I think it is here.

I also see Kmet as a poor blocker. All hands and arms. He doesn't try to drive into better defenders, he tries to put his hands/arms out to stop them *in the name of love*. I see him do this a lot and get driven off his feet backwards a lot in blocking situations. He's very beatable as a blocker. He could learn and get better, but if you want to list a guy as a top tight end and he's not a great athlete…shouldn't he be an ace blocker then, at least?

I just see a lot of average here with Kmet. He's a for sure NFL prospect…but the top guy, universally the top guy? I don't get it. I don't see it. I see a very average tight end, who might develop into decent someday but he's not ready out-the-box. At best maybe he could be an **Austin Hooper, Hunter Henry, Ryan Griffin** type tight end?

Cole Kmet, Through the Lens of Our TE Scouting Algorithm:

The tape on Kmet is OK. He got decent targeting and caught passes pretty well. He wasn't terrible. Just not special. He was a nobody for his first two college seasons (13 games, 17 catches, no TDs) and then broke out in 2019 with 4.3 rec., 51.5 yards, 0.60 TDs per game – which is a nice season for a tight end in college. Not amazing, but nice.

Had a big game Week 1 at Georgia (9-108-1) and then settled in as a 3-4 catches a game, 30-60+ yards a game guy with a TD in most games the rest of 2019. Not dominant, but not a ghost. Just typical…solid…good.

2020 NFL Combine Data:

6'5.6"/262, 10.5" hands, 33" arms

4.70 40-time (*4th fastest among TEs this year*), 4.41 shuttle (*9th*), 7.44 three-cone (*2nd worst among TEs here, 12th*)

37" vertical (*#1 among TEs here*), 10'3" broad jump

The Historical TE Prospects to Whom Cole Kmet Most Compares Within Our System:

LaCosse, Uzomah, Ballard…they all logged several years in the NFL. Sometimes starting. Useful. Solid. Not #1 in class 'special'.

TE Grade	TE-Reed	Last	First	Yr	College	H	H	W	Spd-Agil Metric	Strgth Blxing Metric	Hands Metric
6.361	4.06	Kmet	Cole	2020	Notre Dame	6	5.6	262	1.58	5.87	7.03
6.731	1.80	Blanchflower	Rob	2014	U Mass	6	4.1	256	1.77	6.97	7.66
6.311	-2.24	Franklin	Collin	2011	Iowa State	6	5.5	256	1.87	8.44	7.28
2.200	-6.73	LaCosse	Matt	2015	Illinois	6	5.7	257	0.00	7.06	3.23
2.236	-6.72	Uzomah	C.J.	2015	Auburn	6	5.6	262	4.11	8.94	3.28
2.853	-6.88	Ballard	Jake	2010	Ohio State	6	6.1	265	2.46	8.83	2.94
1.782	4.29	Dillon	Kano	2019	Oregon	6	5.0	265	0.70	7.77	4.75

*A score of **7.0**+ is where we start to take a TE prospect more seriously. A score of **8.50**+ is where we see a stronger correlation of TEs 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 TE.*

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

**The 'TE-Reed' score is in honor of Jordan Reed's 2015 season…looking at TEs in a different manner—the smaller, speedy receiving threats.

"Speed-Agility Metric" = 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.

"Power-Strength Metric" = 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.

"Hands Metric" = 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 project the combination of data for receiving success at the next level.

2020 NFL Draft Outlook:

Kmet is running #1 in the class for most scouts and analysts, but they have him going in the 2nd-round. Middle second. I'm going to assume he'll go 2nd-round, but 3rd-round wouldn't shock me.

If I were an NFL GM, I am absolutely not paying a top 100 draft pick to take someone like Kmet. Not a top 150-200 either. There are better prospects at TE or other spots to use my picks on over an average/OK tight end.

NFL Outlook:

If Kmet is drafted to start somewhere they need a tight end, and **Dallas Goedert** spends another year wasting away as a backup/duo TE – I'm going to freak out. I suspect Kmet will be more **Jace Sternberger**…not starting/playing much at all season one, and then we'll see after that.

There's some upside here, I don't mean to be so gloomy…it's just not a lot of upside or worth 'the best in class'.

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