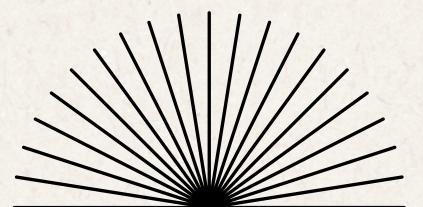




12/18/25

# **USING TRACKING-DRIVEN ARCHETYPES TO NARROW WR DRAFT POOLS**

**Xavier Njoku**



# Agenda

03	<b>Importance of Tracking vs. Production Metrics</b>
04	<b>Methods</b>
05	<b>Archetype Leaderboards</b>
06	<b>Team Needs</b>
07	<b>Draft Scenario</b>
08	<b>Limitations</b>

# Tracking vs. Production Metrics

When evaluating a pool of athletes, often outcome based production metrics can become too vague to simply rank by itself.

Introducing tracking metrics into evaluations allow teams to:

1. Address areas of a staff's specific offensive scheme that need remodeling
2. Isolate particular strengths of a receivers movements to allow role-based evaluations



# Methods

In order to analyze this set of players, metrics were standardized using z-scores and grouped into 4 skill buckets labeled as “Archetype Scores”. After computing the z-score of each player, the average was taken of the z-scores in each respective skill bucket to derive their ‘Archetype Score’.

## Vertical Stress

*Receivers that can stretch the defense vertically even without targets.*

- 'max\_speed\_99'
- '20ydplus\_route\_MEAN'
- 'flying\_20\_min'

## Separation Skill

*Receivers that create timing advantages between themselves and the defender.*

- 'average\_separation\_99'
- 'separation\_at\_throw\_VMAN',
- 'changedir\_route\_MEAN'

## YAC Creation

*Receivers that turn standard throws into explosive plays.*

- 'expected\_yac\_at\_catch\_MEAN'
- 'YACOE\_MEAN'

## Reliability

*Receivers that minimize negative plays and convert low-margin opportunities.*

- 'targeted\_tightwindow\_catch\_SUM'
- 'CPOE\_MEAN'
- 'targeted\_catch\_SUM'

# Application a. Leaderboards

To give some insight into what the buckets are producing we derived the Top 10 players from each bucket.

The results of this application show some great talent in college football, some even drafted already and emerged as potential stars in the NFL.

While this gives us some insight to individual pools. How can teams use it to address team based needs?

## Top 10 WRs — Separation Skill (min 500 plays)

Rank	Player	Plays	Separation Skill Score
1	Vinson Davis	672	1.753
2	Nick Cenacle	641	1.475
3	Hunter Wood	650	1.374
4	Abdul-Fatai Ibrahim	684	1.331
5	Montana Lemonious-Craig	647	1.330
6	Isaiah Bond	667	1.300
7	Isaiah Bond	542	1.292
8	Jaden Dottin	568	1.268
9	Jalen Royals	930	1.186
10	Sam Wiglusz	666	1.160

## Top 10 WRs — Reliable Target (min 500 plays)

Rank	Player	Plays	Reliable Target Score
1	Bryce Lance	802	2.957
2	Jeremiah Smith	748	2.934
3	Tetairoa McMillan	866	2.931
4	Daniel Sobkowicz	882	2.879
5	Troy Franklin	761	2.861
6	Denzel Boston	852	2.810
7	Xavier Legette	762	2.771
8	Malik Nabers	689	2.746
9	Rome Odunze	950	2.737
10	Tez Johnson	582	2.726

## Top 10 WRs — YAC Creation (min 500 plays)

Rank	Player	Plays	YAC Creation Score
1	Jaylan Sanchez	686	1.606
2	Taymon Cooke	643	1.555
3	Trey Goodman	500	1.547
4	Rayjuon Pringle	742	1.543
5	Joshua Manning	546	1.458
6	Jaylin Lane	574	1.430
7	Jacob De Jesus	511	1.364
8	Justus Ross-Simmons	765	1.285
9	Roderick Daniels Jr.	765	1.241
10	Michael Pettway	596	1.231

## Top 10 WRs — Vertical Stress (min 500 plays)

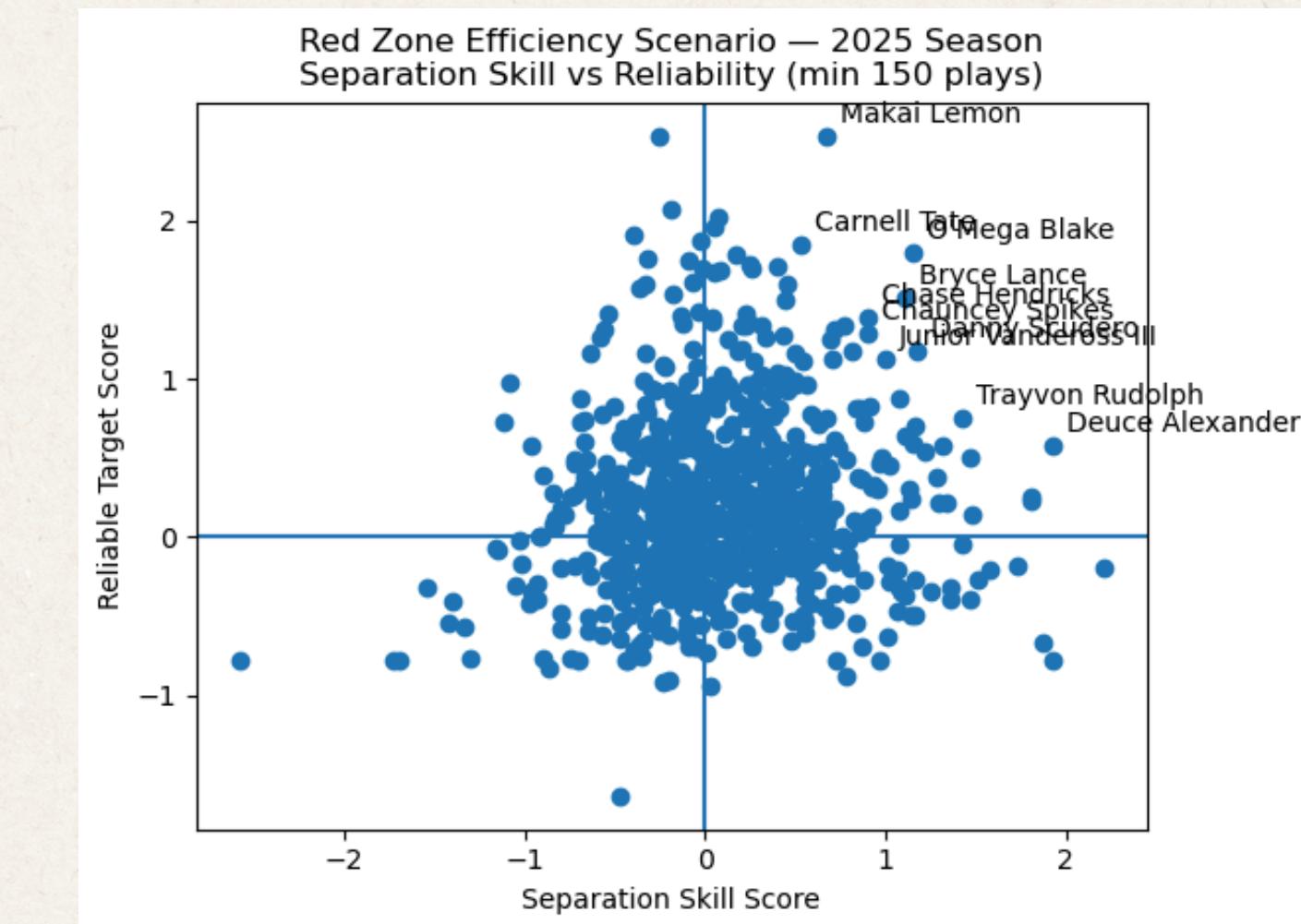
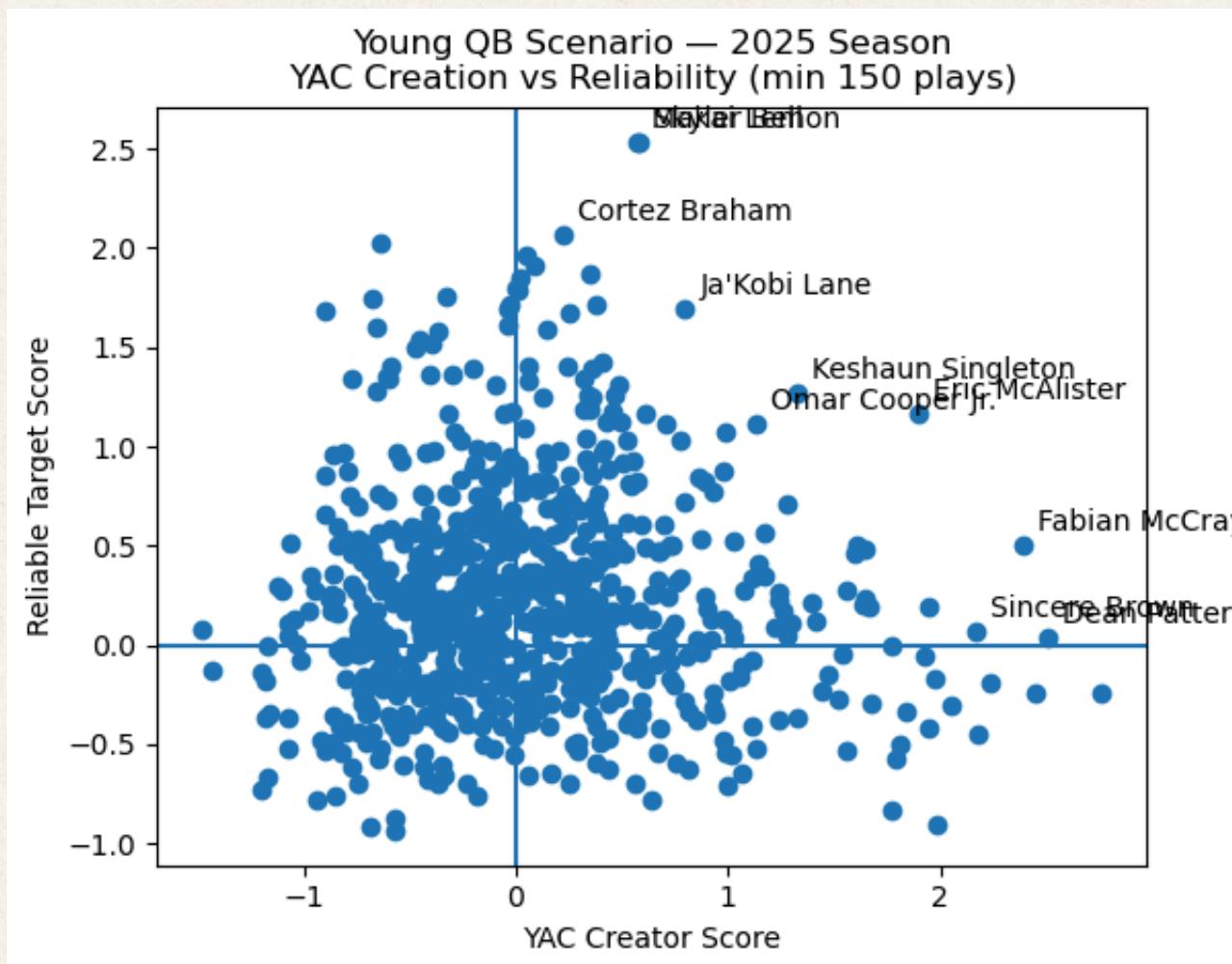
Rank	Player	Plays	Vertical Stress Score
1	Ja'Shaun Poke	556	0.751
2	O'Mega Blake	531	0.519
3	Caleb Goodie	560	0.462
4	Senika McKie	603	0.452
5	Tyrone Broden	524	0.448
6	Isaac TeSlaa	528	0.446
7	Xavier Weaver	856	0.445
8	Micah Mays Jr.	561	0.424
9	Jah'Marae Sheread	536	0.411
10	DeAndre Moore Jr.	636	0.392

# Application

## b. Team Needs

Many teams will often select players based on the need of the position, rather than just selecting “the best guy on the board.”

For example, offenses led by younger QBs can benefit more from reliable receivers and those who consistently generate YAC to take burden off the QB before and after the throw. In scenarios for teams that struggle to create opportunities in the red zone where space becomes compressed, they might benefit from receivers who are not only reliable but can use their timing and separation skills as an advantage.



# Application

## c. Draft Example

To use this framework in a real life scenario, consider a team like the Denver Broncos. With Bo Nix an emerging young QB, a top-10 defense, and receiving unit ranked 25<sup>th</sup> by PFF, the primary offensive target becomes supporting the QBs development.

In this context, we prioritize receivers as reliable targets and YAC creators to help stabilize the pass game. The following group represents a target draft pool for coaches and scouts to evaluate more closely during draft prep based on our criteria:

### Young QB Targets — 2025 Season

Receivers Who Consistently Perform Above Average in YAC and Reliability (min plays 150)

Rank	Player	Team	Plays	YAC Creator Score	Reliable Target Score
1	Skyler Bell	CTUN	559	0.579	2.535
2	Makai Lemon	CASC	501	0.570	2.537
3	Eric McAlister	TXCU	410	1.899	1.163
4	Fabian McCray	ILSO	355	2.395	0.505
5	Keshaun Singleton	FLSO	370	1.328	1.273
6	Dean Patterson	GATC	276	2.511	0.035
7	Ja'Kobi Lane	CASC	334	0.798	1.696
8	Cortez Braham	TNMS	384	0.226	2.066
9	Omar Cooper Jr.	INUN	491	1.130	1.116
10	Sincere Brown	COUN	393	2.171	0.065

## Limitations & Conclusion

This analysis is exploratory and designed to support decision making rather than predict outcomes. This framework does have varying limitations as archetype scores could be influenced by outside noise, like scheme, QB play, etc. These limitations can be addressed by incorporating things like QB throw quality and narrowing further to role specific usage.

It is important to note that tracking derived metrics complement but do not replace traditional scouting and coaching evaluation. Tracking data allows teams to narrow draft pools based on a structured lens that lets us understand how these receivers are creating their opportunities. When paired with film and contextual evaluation, this framework can help teams align receiver profiles with the most dire needs of the team.