



NFL Draft 2016 Scouting Report: WR Robby Anderson, Temple

**WR grades can and will change as more information comes in from Pro Day workouts, Wonderlic test results leaked, etc. We will update ratings as new info becomes available.*

**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.*

It is possible that the best pure wide receiver in the 2016 NFL Draft is **Robby Anderson**.

I'm not saying that lightly.

I'm not throwing out one of those cute blanket statements you see on every NFL Draft website where 31 to 58 different, interesting prospects are proclaimed 'sleepers' or 'keep an eye on this guy'...because they ran a fast 40-time. I mean, I could see three wide receivers as candidates for the best wide receiver to come out of this draft, when we look back in five years – **Corey Coleman, Josh Doctson...and Robby Anderson**. However, Anderson will not achieve a grade for us that will place him among our top three highest-graded WR prospects in this class...despite that, I still say he's possibly the best. Why the scouting conflict?

Robby Anderson is an intriguing, confusing prospect study. There are so many conflicting data points to deal with, so many that no one in their right mind could place a top three WR grade on him. But that should not undermine the fact that there are indicators showing Anderson could be an NFL elite. So let's get into it...

No one using analytics alone could find **Robby Anderson** to be a top three wide receiver prospect in this class. It's not a data thing as much as it is a talent thing – something you have to see on tape to go along with some of the pure analytics. I would not endorse Anderson so highly based solely on our computer scouting models, not even close. However, once you watch his tape, things change. When the tape gets your attention, it forces you to go back and look through the raw data harder – which forces you to consider that his numbers might need to be looked at a little differently because of his college journey. We'll get into all of that.

Let's start with the tape. **Robby Anderson** is this year's **Stefon Diggs**, which means he falls in that '*could be the next Antonio Brown*' discussion...which means we need to take this seriously. Some guys transcend the given measurables all the 'analytics guys' follow and study. There are just some wide



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receivers who have such incredible route running instincts and possess an in-game, in-play awareness on the level most receivers do not have. To go along with their meticulous, almost sixth-sense type of play, they also have incredible hands that grab any pass anywhere near their catching radius. Before we start to analyze Anderson's physical translation to the NFL, or off-field issues, we begin with the foundational argument/assumption that he is the most technically sound WR prospect in this class, and possesses the best hands among this WR group as well.

What turned me on to **Robby Anderson** was watching game tape in which I wasn't even looking for him. Previous to this particular game tape, I really didn't even know that he existed. I was studying Houston cornerback prospect **Will Jackson**, the potential first-round pick cornerback...some would say the best cornerback in the draft. Once I hit the Houston vs. Temple 2015 video, I started having my doubts on **Will Jackson**. It took me a little while to realize it wasn't Jackson's fault, totally. It was some guy named **Robby Anderson** who was kicking Jackson's ass all over the field...despite having to work with a very erratic quarterback.

Against top CB prospect **Will Jackson**, **Robby Anderson** caught 12 passes for 150 yards and one TD last season. However, to be fair, not every catch by Anderson was against Jackson...and there were plenty of plays where Jackson got the best of Anderson – Jackson was credited with an amazing seven passes defended in that game. Jackson and Anderson had a war, a war where there were two winners...in my book. What was even more amazing about Anderson's game against Jackson, besides how technically brilliant he played, was the fact that Anderson probably left 2–3 more catches for 50+ yards and at least one TD on the table (some versus Jackson, some not). The missed opportunities were not because of Anderson, but because his quarterback missed or overthrew the opportunity. Anderson was getting open all over the place, but his quarterback couldn't always deliver...a theme all season.

I walked away from the **Will Jackson** study, making a note to myself that I needed to study this **Robby Anderson** guy from Temple...and the note read: *because he might be the best wide receiver I've seen in the 2016 WR group.*

When Anderson ran a 4.36 40-time at his Pro Day, I was even more excited. However, it's not all 'sugar and spice'...there are issues with Anderson to consider.

Robby Anderson went to Temple as a cornerback into 2012. In 2013, he quit the team for unknown family reasons, and then came back onto the team as a non-scholarship athlete. He moved to wide receiver in 2013, and it took a few games to get his bearings straight, and then he took off at a position (WR) he wasn't intended to play. The numbers will blow you away from that 2013 transition...

2.0 catches, 26.8 yards, 0.0 TDs = Anderson's first five games as a converted college WR in 2013

6.8 catches, 131.4 yards, 1.8 TDs = Anderson's second five games as a converted college WR in 2013

Extrapolating those final five games in 2013, where he finally got his chance to play, into a 13-game season, Anderson's pace would have produced a projected season of 88 catches for 1,708 yards and 23



TDs...that's the **Robby Anderson** to get excited about. Again, not really working with a meticulous QB, either...

As fast as Anderson hit the scene as an emerging star wide receiver in late 2013, he was gone completely in 2014. Academic issues. As disappointing as that was, Anderson regrouped himself and went to junior college to get the necessary credits to be able to come back to Temple in 2015...and that he did. He had another solid showing in 2015, after a year away from the team – he just waltzed back onto the team, after converting to WR in 2013...and then barely playing at first in 2013, then missing all 2014, and jumped back in last year with some individual performances like the one against Houston/**Will Jackson**, that made people's heads spin.

Because of his nontraditional, bizarre path during college and now to the 2016 NFL Draft – Anderson is labeled 'an enigma'. A guy who gets the cheap 'sleeper' label thrown around on him. A player that people are discovering because of their **Will Jackson** studies, like I did, and are just now moving Anderson from a prospect no one cared about, to a top 20 WR prospect for some.

It's logical that no one is pushing Anderson into their top 3–5–10. You have the academic issues. You also have the fact that he's very thin-framed... 6'2.7"/187 – he's rail thin. He benched only eight reps at his Pro Day. He definitely needs to put in the work in the weight room. Fortunately, that's one of the only things a prospect can truly change, easily – his frame/strength...shocking physical strength transformations happen all the time in the NFL.

This is a little more me being an advocate, but...with Anderson, you have a kid who experienced some academic issues, but doesn't seem like a dummy when interviewed...and has the full, rousing endorsement from his head coach about his work ethic and personality. You have a kid who is tall and lanky but can fix some of that in the NFL. You also have the most technically gifted wide receiver in his class. I'm not sure what grade or ranking you can assign to him pre-draft, I just know that I want in on working with **Robby Anderson** as a late-round potential steal in this draft.

Robby Anderson, Through the Lens of Our WR Scouting Algorithm:

In his 2013 transition to wide receiver, he slowly got playing time as the season kicked off. When he finally broke out as a purposed target, Anderson splashed onto the scene with a 9 catch for 239 yards and 2 TDs jaw-dropper versus SMU.

Consider that Temple's quarterback in both seasons Anderson played WR was **P.J. Walker**, a big-armed, pocket QB, who is decent, but very inaccurate – a 56% career passer. The style of play Anderson brings would thrive with a tactician. I can't tell you how many plays were left on the field with Anderson – he's open a lot. **Jared Goff + Robby Anderson** together in college would have set receiving records...



Anderson measured almost 6'3" at his Pro Day, but only 187 pounds. He is very thin in his legs, arms, and upper body. He displays the speed needed (4.36) but is average in agility (7.07 three cone). At a glance, on paper, people wouldn't be overly impressed...but some guys are just so gifted in other areas it doesn't matter as much on the measurables. Anderson's numbers for speed-agility are in the range of **Antonio Brown** or **Stefon Diggs**. He has enough NFL athleticism to mix with his superior ability to play the position and catch the ball...he'll be fine in the NFL athletically. The thin, potentially injury-prone part is what scares me, but he can address that.

The Historical WR Prospects to Whom Robby Anderson Most Compares Within Our System:

Note...I purposefully ignored height-weight as a serious criterion to compare Anderson in our data base. His height is 'big', but his weight and style are 'small' in style. I wanted to see if two certain names popped up if height/size wasn't a huge factor for comparison...so when I saw **Stefon Diggs** and **Antonio Brown** pop up on the list as comps, I was pleased. We mostly missed on Brown-Diggs in their draft years, but we are trying to develop system theory to help find these 'anti-measurables' WRs better. Anderson running in circles with a Stefon Diggs, on paper, makes some sense.

When **Paul Richardson** was a high-probability match it made me disappointed at first, but then I went back and reviewed our Richardson data – I almost forgot what a fantastic college WR he was. He could catch anything. He had similar issues as Anderson – thin, fast, mediocre agility...but Richardson was already coming off a serious knee injury entering the NFL...and he's battled the issue in the pros. If Anderson never lives up to his potential, it will be injuries at the center of the problem.

<u>WR Score</u>	<u>Draft Yr</u>	<u>Last</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>College</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>Power Strngth Metric</u>	<u>Speed Agility Metric</u>	<u>Hands' Metric</u>
6.518	2016	Anderson	Robby	Temple	6	2.7	187	-3.74	5.61	10.99
5.932	2014	Richardson	Paul	Colorado	6	0.3	175	2.93	9.17	10.08
5.975	2010	Brown	Antonio	C. Michigan	5	10.1	186	5.75	6.93	9.71
5.16	2015	Diggs	Stefon	Maryland	6	0.0	195	7.50	7.12	8.36
3.656	2010	Williams	Kyle	Arizona State	5	10	188	5.49	9.65	8.87
1.926	2013	Bonner	Alan	Jacksonv. St	5	10.2	193	7.40	4.91	8.38
0.967	2012	Brazill	LaVon	Ohio	5	10.6	192	6.53	5.42	8.97



**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 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/to 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.

2016 NFL Draft Outlook:

Robby Anderson is a late breaker in the draft process. People are just now starting to chirp about him a little. For some draft websites, they are still stuck in the rankings from a month ago where Anderson basically didn't exist (ESPN says he's #53 among WRs). The draft websites that are keeping up with such things, are seeing one another move Anderson up their rankings (CBS says he's #19 among WRs, and #140 overall) so there is a parroting/echo chamber effect starting to push Anderson higher. I think Anderson's tape is so strong, that some NFL team will make a move on him in the 5th–6th round. He won't go undrafted.

If I were an NFL GM, in this era of favorable treatment to the passing game, and the world in which guys like **Antonio Brown**, **Allen Hurns**, **Stefon Diggs** can eschew traditional measurable red flags and just outsmart their way to becoming NFL assets/stars... I want in on **Robby Anderson** as my cheap gamble for the next **Brown-Hurns-Diggs-Keenan Allen** hybrid. I would acquire a later fourth-round pick just to use it on him, to get in ahead of anyone else. The upside is worth the price. Unless there is an off-field issue I found out in a private investigation, then I am all-in on Anderson as a developmental star WR.

