



NFL Draft 2017 Scouting Report: CB Marshon Lattimore, Ohio State

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

I've only deeply studied five top cornerback prospects (as of this writing) and done short studies on another 20+ before the East-West Shrine, Senior Bowl, and NFL Combine – and at this point in my analysis, I would say that **Marshon Lattimore** is the most talented corner in coverage that I've seen so far. Now, hold up... I didn't say he was the BEST prospect at cornerback, just the most talented in coverage today.

Lattimore has many athletic gifts, but I am wowed by his instincts and movements as a cover corner. The subtle ways Lattimore drops into coverage moving/mirroring his receiver while also watching/reading the rest of the field – it's the most advanced of any CB prospect I've watched in detail, so far (Iowa's **Desmond King** may steal this title when I study him). Most college corners stare/concentrate on their receiver and try to keep their eyes glued to the receiver's chest/face. Wherever the receiver goes – they go. Like man-to-man coverage in basketball. The downside to that type of coverage is that talented WRs can operate fine with a CB in their radius – when only the WR knows the ball is coming and thus the receiver can adjust for the catch while the CB had no idea the ball was even in flight or the WR can trick/stop short on the CB and force a bump/interference call. It's the struggle of many former top college corners playing in the pros – they play with their back to the ball/action.

Lattimore is extremely gifted at falling back into coverage sensing his receiver and watching the offensive backfield. It's almost like Lattimore knows whether the receiver is going deep or short before the snap. If Lattimore gives a step in coverage, he has 4.36 speed to make it up. He also has nice length/cover radius at 6'0" tall with a 38.5" vertical. There's just something sixth-sense about Lattimore's movements off the snap to go with an impressive athleticism.

Lattimore is such a natural coverage guy that the probability of having a total bust drafting him is low. We know he has NFL speed and athleticism from the NFL Combine. There's a lot to like here.

However, there's also a downside with Lattimore. You could ply the label of 'injury prone' on him and it would be hard to refute. He missed all of 2014 with a hamstring injury. He missed time in 2015 with a hamstring. He was clean in 2016 and then had an All-American season...his only real season of college play. At the NFL Combine, he came up lame again. He says hip flexor; some worried it was the hamstring again.

If his medical checks come up fine, if the hamstring is not a perpetual issue...a team will get a very solid+ cornerback here. If there are any medical doubts, you could see Lattimore fall in the draft...and rightfully



so with so many other talented CBs in this draft. Lattimore is a low-probability bust, and very probable to be 'good'/an NFL starter with the upside of being a great/elite corner.

Marcus Lattimore, Through the Lens of Our CB Scouting Algorithm:

2016 was Lattimore's only real season of play, and he passed the test of opponents who threw at him – 4 picks and 9 PDs. By the end of the season, opposing teams were working away from him. He had 8 PDs in his first 7 games, and then just 1 PD his final 6 games as he became a 'no fly zone'.

He had 4 INTs in 13 games in 2016, but I must note – most every one of them was thrown directly to or tipped to him. It wasn't anything special he did besides 'being there', really.

Lattimore is not a great tackler, but he is willing, and because he plays with such great positioning and awareness – he reacts to running plays quickly and moves to them while other CBs have their backs turned away from the action.

NFL Combine data...

6'0.0"/193, 31.3" arms, 8.9" hands

4.36 40-time, DNP shuttle and three-cone (injured at the Combine)

38.5" vertical, 11'0" broad jump, DNP bench press

Lattimore's college stats at CFB Reference: <http://www.sports-reference.com/cfb/players/marshon-lattimore-1.html>

The Historical CB Prospects to Whom Marcus Lattimore Most Compares Within Our System:

I like the **Darius Slay** and **William Jackson** comps – guys who are just technicians at their craft. Not flashy, just really good. I hope **William Jackson** comes back fine from his 2016 injury for Cincy.



2017 NFL DRAFT SCOUTING REPORT

MARCH 30, 2017

<u>CB Grade</u>	<u>Last</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Draft Yr</u>	<u>College</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>Cover Rating</u>	<u>Speed Metrics</u>	<u>Agility Metric</u>	<u>Tackle Metric</u>
8.15	Lattimore	Marshon	2017	Ohio State	6	0.0	193	9.29	8.62	7.14	5.81
7.64	Slay	Darius	2013	Miss State	6	0.0	192	8.17	10.21	4.75	5.96
7.42	Jackson	William	2016	Houston	6	0.3	189	9.19	7.80	2.88	5.39
8.01	Butler	Darius	2009	U Conn	5	10.3	183	6.95	9.41	6.96	6.10
8.89	Foxworth	Dom.	2005	Maryland	5	11.1	184	8.80	8.03	11.73	6.11
7.35	Wright	Eric	2007	UNLV	5	10.5	192	7.86	9.67	5.09	6.38
6.74	Sansabaugh	Coty	2012	Clemson	5	11.2	189	7.55	5.81	9.95	5.89
5.94	Florence	Drayton	2003	Tenn-Chatt	6	0.2	198	7.86	5.89	5.16	6.58
5.46	Jackson	Kareem	2010	Alabama	5	10.4	196	7.07	5.87	6.19	6.82

*The ratings are based on a 1–10 rating scale, but a prospect can score over 10.0+ and less than 0.0

OVERALL RATING -- We merge the data from physical measurables, skill times/counts from the NFL Combine/Pro Days, with college performance data available on pass coverage/tackles, etc. and grade it compared to our database history of all college CBs, with a focus on which CBs went on to be good-great-elite in the NFL. We found characteristics/data points that the successful NFL CBs had in common in college, that most other CB prospects could not match/achieve.

Scoring with a rating over a **7.00+** in our system is where we start to take a CB prospect more seriously. Most of the future NFL successful college CBs scored **8.00+**, and most of the NFL superior CBs pushed scores more in the **9.00+** levels...and future NFL busts will sneak in there from time to time. **10.00+** is where most of the elite NFL CBs tend to score in our system analysis.

COVERAGE -- A combination of on-field data/performance and physical profile data

SPEED -- Measurables from a perspective of straight-line speed, burst, etc.

AGILITY -- Measurables for lateral movements, quick cuts, body type, speed, etc.

POWER -- A look at physical size, tackling productivity in college, other physical measurables. One of the side benefits/intentions here, is to see which CBs may be more of a model for a conversion to playing safety successfully in the NFL. Also denotes CBs who are more physical/will have higher tackle totals...over pure speed/coverage CBs.

2017 NFL Draft Outlook:



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Everyone seems to agree in Lattimore – a top 10 overall pick. I don't think I would make that pick...just from an economic standpoint. So many great corner prospects in this class, I'm not sure I'd force into Lattimore top 5–10...but I understand it.

He's going top 15, if not top 5. I think more top 15 because I think his injury history + the deep CB class might hurt his draft stock economics in the end.

NFL Outlook:

If he has a **Darius Slay** career, then he'll be great and no one will really know about it on a national stage. Fans of his team will know, but not general fans. Lattimore as 'quietly good' is probably a good label to roll with.

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Signature _____

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R.C." It is written in a cursive style with a large, flowing "R" and a smaller, more compact "C".

Date _____

3/30/2017