



## NFL Draft 2016 Scouting Report: DT Kenny Clark, UCLA

*\*DL 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.*

When studying the top defensive tackle prospects in this draft, I conducted the **Kenny Clark** studies near the back end of the top 10 names (top 10 media consensus names). The reason he was towards the back end was...that's where he's normally listed among the top DT prospects for this draft – after the first tier. I've not seen a national draft website with Clark among the top five DT prospects in 2016 – he's always in that next tier after the same five names at the top...usually with early second-round grades/projections. On rare occasion he's a late first projection on Drafter sites, but mostly a second-round guy universally in the mainstream.

I have no idea why Clark is not mentioned among the top DT prospect names. Anyone doing this for a living who rates **Kenny Clark** behind the two Alabama guys should be criminally prosecuted. **Kenny Clark** is a really good defensive tackle prospect. He's not the best defensive tackle in this draft, in part because this draft is loaded with defensive tackle talent...but he's one of the top DTs, and overall prospects for this draft. No matter what, Clark should be a first-round draft pick all day long in 2016.

Louisville's **Sheldon Rankin** is a better pass-rushing, more agile, do-it-all type of 4-3 scheme defensive tackle. Oregon's **DeForest Buckner** is a DE/DT freak of human nature physically. Baylor's **Andrew Billings** is the strongest 'brick wall' among the defensive tackle prospects. You could argue anyone of those three ahead of **Kenny Clark**. However, as far as a 3-4 scheme DT/NT...you could argue Clark is the best DT prospect in this draft for that role.

**Kenny Clark** is 6'2"/314, he's already a decent size to play in the middle of a 3-4 scheme. He's a very fluid-moving defensive tackle for his size, arguably the best run-stopping/run-sniffing-out defensive tackle in this draft. Clark is fantastic at pushing the interior blockers backwards, while he reads what's happening in the backfield, and then adjusts to make run-game tackles anywhere in his range. He does a terrific job of tracking a ballcarrier, and getting to him. Clark has some of the best tackle output numbers of any DT prospect in this draft. Clark has the size, speed/agility, and instincts to be a very good, possibly great NFL defensive tackle.

When I watched Clark in his game tape, about every game I observed was the same – Clark making great surges off the snap, moving blockers backwards, keeping his head up to read the play, and making his move accordingly. Clark doesn't often sell out to get to the quarterback/backfield on passing plays – he does better reading the situation and reacting. He controls the middle. He has the build and the athleticism to get his share of sacks, but where he really excels is reading plays up the middle, reacting, and making tackles. One of the most fundamentally sound defensive lineman in this draft for sure.



Clark is physically built to be a star from his size to his measurables. His output numbers dictate that he is a proven college performer. His tape shows he has NFL skills. He's also a quality kid off the field. If **Kenny Clark** does not go in the first round there should be a revolt in NFL scouting. If Clark goes in the second round, some NFL team has pulled off a massive draft day steal.

### Kenny Clark, Through the Lens of Our DT Scouting Algorithm:

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Most of the recognizable, bigger named DT prospects in this draft struggled to get more than 3-4-5 tackles in any one game last season. Clark had five or more tackles in a game in 8 of 13 contests in 2015 (62% of his games). He also had seven or more tackles in five of his games last year – most top defensive tackles in this draft didn't have a game with seven or more tackles at all in 2015 (some not doing it in their entire college career), and when they did, it was mostly because of favorable statistician scoring with a bunch of assisted tackles. In almost every big tackle game **Kenny Clark** had, it was way more solo tackles than assists. No defensive tackle prospect at the NFL Combine had more total solo tackles in 2015 than Clark did.

Two years ago, in 2014, **Kenny Clark** never registered a single sack. In fact, there was a stretch from 2013, through 2014, and into 2015 where Clark went 20 straight games without a sack. I would normally be repulsed by that from a supposed top DT prospect, but watching Clark on tape I understand his game was more controlled at the line of scrimmage looking to snuff out running plays, more than selling out to get to the quarterback. Guys like the Alabama hype-twins (Reed and Robinson) didn't have sacks either, but they also barely made any tackles – Clark wasn't a 'sack master', but is arguably the best run-identifying/run-stopper in this draft.

In 2015, **Kenny Clark** improved another aspect of his overall game – he had five passes defended last season, whereas he only had one PD in the two seasons prior. Clark is a very savvy player – he holds up the middle of the line, and not only reads for running plays, but is doing a better job getting his hands up to bat down passes over the middle as well.

At the NFL Combine, **Kenny Clark** was not the top 305+ pound DT prospect in any particular measurement or drill, but he was in the upper tier on most of them. Clark did not have any measurements that hurt his NFL prospects. However, nothing he did was radically off the charts wonderful...that may be why people are not as enthusiastic about him. Because he didn't play at Alabama or Ohio State, he already started out in the prospect hole, of sorts, and didn't do one individual thing at the NFL Combine for football analysts to really notice him on... But they should notice that the collective things he did in Indy were all above average. They should also have figured out by now just watching the tape and looking at his numbers how fantastic player he is.



### The Historical DT Prospects to Whom Kenny Clark Most Compares Within Our System:

There could not be a more perfect comparison for **Kenny Clark** than last year's first-round draft pick of the New England Patriots, Texas DT **Malcom Brown**. Brown had a very nice rookie season, and I'm sure he's going to be a quality starter for years to come – as will Clark.

DT Grade	Last	First	Draft Yr	College	H	W	Power Strgth	Speed Agility	Pass Rusher	Tackle rating	NT Profile
9.816	Rankins	Sheldon	2016	Louisville	73.1	299	7.80	8.21	9.42	8.74	5.64
7.841	Richardson	Sheldon	2013	Missouri	74.4	294	6.58	7.06	6.48	9.06	5.94
7.841	Warmesley	Julius	2014	Tulane	73.6	296	7.96	8.55	7.02	7.06	4.44
6.247	Atkins	Geno	2010	Georgia	73.3	293	6.77	8.26	5.49	6.12	5.00
8.100	Nevis	Drake	2011	LSU	72.5	294	7.76	6.46	7.79	8.44	4.78
6.863	Jarrett	Grady	2015	Clemson	72.6	304	8.20	6.92	5.22	7.70	5.96
5.287	Brown	Austin	2014	Miami, OH	73.4	295	6.38	6.78	5.56	6.80	4.07

*\*A score of 8.00+ is where we see a stronger correlation of DTs 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 NFL elite DT.*

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

**Power-Strength Metrics** = A combination of several measurements. An attempt to classify the DT prospect as more of a battle-in-the-trenches type of DT, and/or a DT prospect who has nose tackle capabilities.

**Speed-Agility Metrics** = A combination of several speed, agility, size measurements. A unique measuring system to look for DTs who profile for quickness, and/or a DT prospect who might have some DE capabilities.

**Pass-Rusher Rating** = A combination of physical measurables, and college performance, graded historically for future NFL profiling. In the simplest of terms, this is an attempt to classify whether a particular DT is likely to achieve high sack totals in the NFL. We know the 'system'/scheme the DT goes on to play in has a part in future success...but so do the player's skills and performance history.



**Tackling Rating** = A combination of physical measurables, and college performance, graded historically for future NFL profiling. In the simplest of terms, this is an attempt to classify the DT as one more likely to be involved in a heavy amount of tackles, tackles for a loss, and forced fumbles. Lower scoring DTs in this sub-category tend to be more pure 'pluggers', and not as active on the stat sheet. It also gives some insight of the 'toughness' of a player, if it is possible to quantify that (this is our attempt to).

**NT Profile** = This is an attempt to show which of these DT prospects has a profile to become a pure nose tackle/'space-eater' in the middle. It is not a 1–10 scale rating of a prospect's skill/profile, it's an attempt to point us in a direction of what this DT can be useful as (or not). Some DT prospects will grade off the charts on the NT profile, essentially a worst-case scenario of "put him in the middle and just let him be a wall." There is NFL value in that 'ability'.

### 2016 NFL Draft Outlook:

It's rare that you see **Kenny Clark** in the first round of any mock draft, but occasionally you'll see him at the tail end of one – from #25 on. I suspect that's probably where he'll be drafted – that he will make it into the first round somehow. I can't believe he would fall to the second round, but I don't know that he can go any higher than #25 because of the depth of DT in this draft. Wherever he goes, an NFL team is getting a very, very good player.

If I were an NFL GM, and I was looking for a 3-4 scheme DT/NT Prospect, **Kenny Clark** has to be under consideration as the best option. **Vernon Butler** is also an option. **Andrew Billings** would possibly be a choice. **Javon Hargrave** is on that list. However, **Kenny Clark** may be the most 'sure thing' of any of those talented options.

### NFL Outlook:

I think **Kenny Clark** is going to have a very long, solid, Successful career in the NFL. He could be a Pro Bowl 3-4 scheme DT, or just be a very solid/good 4-3 scheme DT. **Kenny Clark** may not be a future Hall of Famer, but he should have a very solid NFL career.



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