



## NFL Draft 2018 Scouting Report: OLB Tremaine Edmunds, Va Tech

*\*Our LB 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.*

**Tremaine Edmunds** is a prospect everyone loves. I don't know anybody who doesn't think Edmunds is somewhere between great and awesome. He just looks like a great NFL prospect – 6'4"+/253 playing inside linebacker for Virginia Tech...looking like a 'freak'. It all makes sense...he's so versatile – the size of an EDGE rusher but moves and plays like an interior linebacker. He looks like a legit starter at either inside or outside linebacker...a lot to love.

I'm good with Edmunds as a legit 1st round NFL draft prospect. We're grading him as such. Instead of talking too much about the same things everyone does...how much they love Edmunds...I'm going to focus more on what might be an issue.

My first thing is...this feels like the football world is saying if he's a 'B' grade OLB and a 'B' grade ILB prospect – then that means he averages up to an 'A' grade NFL prospect. I don't totally follow/agree with that logic.

I get that versatility is a great attribute, but you're going to have to play him at one or the other position primarily...the question is can he be great at either OLB or ILB (or both)? I'm not 100% sure he can be an 'A' in the NFL at either spot. If he's just a 'B' on the outside or a 'B' on the inside...there are other guys I might rather take with my top 30 draft pick -- especially top 10-15.

We graded him much better as an OLB than as an ILB...despite the fact he played more as an ILB for Va Tech, though he did flare out as an OLB/EDGE as well. Edmunds doesn't have a classic ILB mindset. He isn't a tackle machine constantly snuffing out all carriers on the interior. He was more a good athlete that could move his way near the action and get in on some, but he himself wasn't a big playmaker (not as big as you'd hope if he were a no-doubt 'A' prospect). He had almost as many assisted tackles as solo in 2017 and in his career...not a great sign for a next-level tackler at linebacker. He was athletic enough to make plays...especially against weaker opponents. Against the 'big boy' opponents he didn't really take over games or standout or 'shock & awe' me.

He's more comfortable floating around in coverage or picking lanes to blitz into...and with his height he could be quite a menace as a 3-4 OLB – speedy enough to hang with RBs out of the backfield, tough enough to work TEs in pass coverage, tall/quick enough to just EDGE rush from the outside and give any right tackle problems. That's where Edmunds' brilliance really comes in – his size, speed, quickness on the outside with a dual purpose covering and pass rushing and playing the run out in space. Edmunds



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works better chasing ball carriers in space than working the interior...but he's solid inside, not saying he's bad there.

Considering his 6'4"/253 size with 4.5+ speed...he is a perfect profile for a 3-4 OLB, but can also work as a 4-3 OLB. You could make him a **Leonard Floyd** 'pick your spot' pass rusher...but unlike Floyd, Edmunds can play the run and really can work in coverage. It's a dilemma with Edmunds...the heart of a linebacker but with EDGE rush physical design.

Edmunds may not be as adept at pure EDGE rushing as a team might hope. As a multi-functional OLB playing all facets of the game – that's what you want. I never saw him as 'great' in any one aspect of the game, but the fact that he's 'good'/solid as a tackler, 'good' as a 'pick a lane' blitzer, and 'good' in coverage with good feet/movement – that makes him a great prospect for the NFL. In that instance the B+B+B does = A, in a football sense.

Edmunds is worthy of a 1st round grade and draft pick, but I'm not sure he'll ever be a 'superstar' in the classic sense – just really good. Like an **Anthony Barr**/Minnesota maybe. In the right defensive coordinator's hands, he might be made into a weapon. Mostly, he's an instant starter you never have to take off the field.

He seems to be of solid enough character and work ethic. He comes from a family of football players, has a former all-pro father. As an added benefit, he'll be just 20 years old starting the 2018 season. He's a very good, and very young prospect...which increases his NFL Draft investment value.

### Tremaine Edmunds, Through the Lens of Our OLB Scouting Algorithm:

Edmunds had a career game against FCS Delaware early in the 2017 season – 14 tackles, 4.0 TFLs, 1.5 sacks. Minus that game, Edmunds averaged the following in 2017: 7.8 tackles, 4.3 solo tackles, 0.8 TFLs, 0.33 sacks per game. Those are good/OK numbers for a top NFL Draft prospect...they're not 'wow'.

Against his toughest opponents the past two seasons (Notre Dame, Clemson 2x, two bowl games), Edmunds averaged 7.6 tackles, 3.8 solo tackles, 0.4 TFLs, and no sacks. Again, I never saw Edmunds as dominant in bigger games...just really good, nice to have for your defense.

I feel like he's more 'good to have' than 'showstopper' for the NFL. Nothing wrong with that but you have to consider that when trying to put him in context for draft valuations. He didn't rack up big numbers in solo tackles, tackles, or sacks and was solid but not a leader in TFLs (#8 in the ACC in TFLs in 2016 and 2017).

He's more good than 'wow'.



2018 NFL Combine measurables...

6'44"/253, 9.38" hands, 34.5" arms

4.54 40-time, 2.64 20-yard, 1.60 10-yard, DNP agility

19 bench reps, 9'9" broad jump, DNP vertical

### The Historical OLB Prospects to Whom Tremaine Edmunds Most Compares Within Our System:

I'm not in love with this comparison list. But if it has some accuracy...Edmunds may be a bit of a letdown – a great athlete who doesn't translate fully to stardom in the NFL. **Martez Wilson** was a similarly great athlete expected to translate that to the NFL, but he struggled and fell off the radar.

Many of these guys have 'injuries' as a big part of their issues at the next level...whether that bodes ill for Edmunds or not is unknown...

FYI, **Shawn Crable** was a #78 pick of **Bill Belichick** back in 2008.

DT Grade	Last	First	Draft Yr	College	H	H	W	Tackle Strgth Metric	Spd Agil Metric	Pass Rush Metric
8.716	Edmunds	Tremaine	2018	Va Tech	6	4.4	253	7.75	9.38	8.99
6.051	Wilson	Martez	2011	Illinois	6	3.6	250	8.72	9.58	8.41
7.766	Jeffcoat	Jackson	2014	Texas	6	3.0	247	6.90	10.88	9.51
6.974	Anthony	Stephone	2015	Clemson	6	2.5	243	7.56	7.95	6.81
9.214	Crable	Shawn	2008	Michigan	6	4.7	245	9.14	9.22	5.81
4.228	Rivers	Keith	2008	USC	6	2.2	241	7.07	5.58	5.35

*\*A score of 8.00+ is where we see a stronger correlation of LBs 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 LB.*

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



*Tackle-Strength Metrics = A combination of several physical and performance measurements. An attempt to classify the LB prospect's ability to stop the run, as well as a gauge of how physical the player is and the likelihood of higher tackle counts in the NFL. All based on profiles of LBs historically.*

*Speed-Agility Metrics = A combination of several speed, agility, and size measurements...as well as game performance data to profile a LB for speed/agility based on LBs historically. A unique measuring system to look for LBs that profile for quickness, pass-coverage ability, and general ability to cover more ground.*

*Pass Rush Metrics = A combination of the physical measurements, but also proven on-field ability to get to the QB/backfield in college.*

### **2018 NFL Draft Outlook:**

Most mock drafts show him going top 10-20 overall, and I suspect that's where he goes. He has the look, the upside, the multi-faceted skillset, the age, and most importantly – the draft momentum. He'll go top 20 overall.

If I were an NFL GM, I'm not sure I could pick him top 20. I mean, I get he's a good-looking prospect...but I'd want a shot at a definite star at one position. I don't value 'flexibility' that much making a top 10-20 pick. I'm looking for 'star' and I'm not sure Edmunds is a star...just pretty good.

### **NFL Outlook:**

He's not likely going to bust in the NFL...so, that's a positive. He has upside as he gains age and experience. He could have a really nice career. I'm just not sure he has 'star' in him...but it's not off the table either. At worst, he's 'good'. At best, you have a developing, young pro bowler as an OLB here.



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