



NFL Draft 2016 Scouting Report: WR Moritz Boehringer, Schwabisch Hall

**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.*

I can't even believe we're having this conversation. That's not a knock on **Moritz Boehringer**, it's more that this may be the first time in scouting history that the whisper pre-workout numbers/measurables for an incredibly 'way off the radar' prospect actually came in as good as advertised...actually, they were even better than advertised. When I first heard the legend of German professional football player **Moritz Boehringer**, I scoffed. I stuck my nose up, dropped some sarcastic comments, and walked away unimpressed by the noise. I then had to eat those words when Boehringer ended up producing elite NFL physical measurables. His Pro day measurables were fantastic, so here we are...an intriguing prospect we have to take seriously. The NFL is taking him seriously – I think every team has used up a private workout on him, or is planning to, by this point.

What everyone wants to know is whether Boehringer is all athlete with no translatable NFL ball skills, or is he the biggest diamond in the rough in the 2016 NFL Draft? A 'diamond' that, with a little polish, could be the best of the physically bigger WR prospects in this draft class – a draft class a little shy on superior big man receivers.

My first thought on all the data I studied on Boehringer is – I don't know how anyone can be expected to figure this/him out, properly, ahead of the NFL Draft. NFL teams are going to be flying blind for the most part, and I get the sense that they're falling in love with the backstory, and they're ignoring basic scouting history a little too much.

I can feel it already. I can feel the same mistake getting ready to happen. In talking with other scouts, reading other people's notes online, and looking at the mad dash of teams scheduling him for a private workout – Boehringer has become an alluring mystery prospect. The healthy skepticism is flying out the window, and all the favorable NFL comparisons are being drawn and focused upon.

What happens with a guy like Boehringer is...because there is no foundational comparison, because he played professionally in Germany, all you can do is salivate over his legit measurables, and then throw him some footballs at your workout facility. Defenders will be brought in to press up on him to see how



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he reacts. It's all NFL teams can do to test his next-level ability, but it's not enough to get to the bottom line answer. Nothing replaces live action comparables...nor helps figure how long it might take him to acquire American football awareness. When only the basics are done...hearts will swoon over the possibilities of a 'measurables prospect'.

I see this mistake made at the Senior Bowl every year. Most all of the week's practices in Mobile are noncontact, not live action. Quarterbacks with big arms, really tall guys, and incredibly fast guys always draw all the scouting and media attention. It's what our simplistic human brains are attracted to. In a 7-on-7 drill, a guy like Boehringer can look like a star. In a one-on-one drill, he could use his raw speed and terrific size to maneuver around any defender, especially a 5'11" practice squad DB. I've seen a million great athletes star in practices, combines, or in pre-draft All-Star showcase week practices. And then they get to the big stage, playing in a game, and they disappear. Occasionally, facing live/equal competitors, they make an eye-catching play, or have a decent stat tally with situational help (one big play or a blowout/garbage time push). However, they look nothing like the dominant player people saw at practice. Everything is different in live game day 11-on-11 with a full media and fan blitz of attention on the proceedings combined with equally talented opponents trying to intimidate and halt you.

No matter how many times it happens just as I described above, scouts fall for it again every year...and to some degree, we should fall for it – we're trying to find the elusive 'holy grail'. **Jeff Janis** comes to mind as an example. **Jeff Janis** is an athletic freak, as measured, just like **Moritz Boehringer**. Janis played at a low level D3 school...best case, Boehringer faced competition in Germany similar to what Janis faced in college at Saginaw Valley State. Janis put up decent production numbers his final season in college but was not dominant. You would think if you took **Calvin Johnson** and dropped him onto a D3 school instead of playing for Georgia Tech, he would have rewritten every D3 record that existed. Kinda like what **Randy Moss** would do to opponents when he played at Marshall...or what **Vincent Jackson** did in college at Northern Colorado. However, Janis was just 'good' at his lower level of play.

I watched a lot of **Jeff Janis** in his Senior Bowl week. He looked decent at times, but you could tell he was thrown off by any type of physical play in practice. He dropped passes in more aggressive drills...he was getting open, but occasionally looking up or running without the ball too quickly – this in drills just wearing shorts. When it got to the game, he looked even worse. He just disappeared into the backdrop, undetected. You could see the hesitation when he returned kicks in the actual Senior Bowl game. It's one thing to look really fast, when you're fast, during practices against no defenders in a noncontact alignment set up for kick returns. Janis ran like the wind... when there was only wind in his way. Janis was much slower in live action, running tentatively as scary big guys came looking to kill him. Janis was written off by scouts, to a degree, after the Senior Bowl...but then produced jaw-dropping speed-agility times at his NFL Combine. Janis's prospect status was reignited because of the NFL Combine measurables. Janis is a current poster boy for many similar NFL WR prospects – the ones with amazing measurables who never quite made it in the NFL...which is his current plight after his first couple of years in Green Bay.



The question is not whether **Moritz Boehringer** has the size-athleticism package to make it in the NFL. Beyond a shadow of a doubt, he has NFL physical traits...high-end NFL traits for a wide receiver. The question is whether he has the heart and extra gear for the NFL game. Sure, there will be questions about his route-running, etc., but he can learn those things...and he seems like the kind of hard worker that will learn things. It's probably smart to assume whatever shortcomings he has on the technical side, he will learn them. Does he have the heart and aggression, the fearlessness to execute his athleticism, and then any technical prowess at the NFL level? That is the question, and I don't know how anybody thinks they can answer it confidently at this point. Every NFL team, every scout, every fan is swinging at a piñata somewhat blindfolded here.

If I had to bet, based on what I know, and using other comparable players in history as my guide – I would assume Boehringer has more downside risk than upside on making the NFL transition. For one simple reason...

Don't we all think, hasn't conventional wisdom/reality been that European players jumping into the NBA are finesse players? 'Finesse' being a nice way of saying they are not as aggressive. Not aggressive enough to thrive in the NBA back when the league was more physical years ago. The NFL, like the NBA, has gotten less physical over the years as well, because of rule changes, but the NFL is exponentially more dangerous/physical than the NBA, in general. Why would we assume the European-raised player, who didn't start playing football until a few years ago, and then competed against D3 level talent or worse, is going to walk right into the NFL and force his way into a starting, impactful role with a dominating mix of athleticism and aggression? Doesn't everything we know about European players tell you this will be a problem in translating to U.S. football?

There have been several jaw-dropping measurables guys come and go over the past few years, and their athleticism warrants the NFL look that they get, but in the end they come up short and never make an impact in the NFL. It's not a given that these type of players will fail at the next level, but it is much more reasonable to predict that they will fail to make the transition than to predict the opposite. I absolutely believe Boehringer deserves a serious NFL look, but if you're forcing me to bet on what his future will be like, I'll play with the odds, with history, and predict he'll be a great prospect on paper that people get excited about, but then won't pan out to the hopes and dreams and is forgotten in a few years.

There is no sure thing here, but I think the surest thing is to be skeptical versus overly optimistic. On the other hand, he is absolutely draftable...he possesses elite physical traits that cannot be taught. The later rounds of the draft are made for guys like this. I may bet against him, but I'd like to possess him to find out if I was right or wrong.

Moritz Boehringer, Through the Lens of Our WR Scouting Algorithm:



There is no sense in comparing or examining his German-based numbers, because we have nothing to compare them to. I don't know what 70 catches for 1,461 yards and 17 TDs against German defenses means in the grand scheme. I can only consider them D3 or less type numbers.

It's hard to draw any conclusions from his tape, because all anyone has is a highlight reel of TD catches and nice plays...he's always open and running past people. Most things you see him do, opponents barely/never lay a finger on him.

Taking his Pro Day numbers, and comparing them to the Combine is favorable, very favorable:

4th fastest 40-time (4.42)

4th best vertical (39")

T3rd fastest three cone time (6.65)

T2nd best broad jump (10'11")

All the numbers above – Boehringer would be the best among the WRs weighing 220+ pounds at the NFL Combine, except at three-cone he would be second to **Devon Cajuste**.

The Historical WR Prospects to Whom Moritz Boehringer Most Compares Within Our System:

It's simplistic to compare him to **Jeff Janis**. Everyone is comparing him to **Jeff Janis**. There's good reason for that – he's very much like **Jeff Janis**, a shockingly gifted athlete as measured with size...especially similar considering the German league talent and that Janis's opponents at Saginaw Valley State are possibly somewhat similar.

If Boehringer becomes the next **Marques Colston**, it will be a fantastic story. **Jeremy Kelley** is cold water thrown on the possibilities – Kelley probably has the single best measurables of any WR since Calvin or **Randy Moss**...and it's meant nothing – he bounced around the league at the fringes and in the CFL for years.



<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>
6.884	2016	Boehringer	Moritz	Schwabisch Hall	6	4.4	227	7.87	7.01	6.37
7.137	2014	Janis	Jeff	Saginaw Valley	6	2.7	219	7.72	9.98	8.57
8.085	2006	Colston	Marques	Hofstra	6	4.6	224	8.69	5.90	7.15
6.640	2012	Childs	Greg	Arkansas	6	3.1	219	8.77	4.82	7.71
10.165	2006	Marshall	Brandon	C. Florida	6	4.5	229	11.17	5.91	8.48
4.558	2009	Wallace	Roberto	Fresno State	6	3.7	223	9.80	7.65	3.09
4.141	2012	Moss	Dale	So Dakota St	6	3.3	220	7.38	11.36	8.18

**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:

After Boehringer's Pro Day numbers hit, he immediately went from unknown to possibly taken in the seventh round of the 2016 NFL Draft. After people chewed on it a little more, and as they saw how many NFL teams lined up to give him a private workout, Boehringer jumped up to a clever fifth-round projection on some draft rankings...with some even whispering fourth round potentially. I've done this



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long enough to know that Boehringer has serious draft momentum – he's moving from that cheap 'sleeper' label anyone with a decent 40-time gets tagged with...and is moving towards a more serious/legit 'sleeper' label, a 'sleeper' that's talked about so much that he's no longer a 'sleeper'. Because of his draft heat, and the allure of the German unknown, I will predict him to go ahead of most people's projections...probably the fifth round.

If I were an NFL GM, I have a ton of interest in Boehringer just like everyone else does. You bet, I want to get my hands on that type of physical skill to see what I can do with it. However, this isn't my first rodeo. I could have gotten **Brice Butler** from Oakland for next to nothing last year or gotten him cheap in his actual draft year...if I wanted to fulfill my similar 'great athlete' gamble needs. Boehringer is not the only fish in the sea like this. If Boehringer were flying under the radar more, and I could snatch him in the seventh round or make a deal to get him right after the draft – that's the kind of play I would want to make. Knowing 21-31 other teams are going to be falling in love with him, I'm sure I'm not willing to pay the same price the rest of them are. As much as I would like to have Boehringer in the sixth or seventh round, I suspect he's not going to be there for me. So, in the end, I guess I'm not targeting Boehringer, as seriously, for this draft...unless he falls.

NFL Outlook:

Like everyone else, I have no clue what's going to happen with Boehringer in the NFL. At best, it's probably going to take a couple years to develop him. That's another reason why I wouldn't burn a higher-than-expected draft pick on him potentially. My nickel bet is that Boehringer climbs the ladder slowly over a couple of years, and becomes a nice fourth or fifth wide receiver, but after 3–4 years we all start to forget about him and move onto the next Boehringer-like prospect we can all get excited about.

However, because of his physical gifts, maybe he does break through and become a valuable NFL star. It's not out of the question. It's going to be interesting to see how this plays out. As a betting man, I bet against him, but I'm rooting for him.

