



## NFL Draft 2018 Scouting Report: DT Vita Vea, Washington

*\*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.*

I could do this scouting report in one sentence – ‘He’s supposed to be good, right?’

The guy is 347 pounds and runs a very nimble, impressive-for-his-size 5.05+ 40-yard dash time and is 41 bench press reps strong...everyone says he’s a great prospect, he’s highly ranked everywhere (usually #1 among DTs) – so, we just roll with the obvious/the consensus, right?

Wrong.

He’s not bad...he’s just not, at this time, all that good ...and may never be. I mean, the potential is there...the size and strength and movement but there’s nothing happening on tape or in on-field output. **Danny Shelton** was a very similar situation – big DT, nimble, from Washington. Shelton was discussed as a top 5 pick at one point for the same reasons (big, nimble) and he ended up going #12 overall in 2016. Two years, later...no one cares about Shelton, and his original draft team just handed him over to the Patriots for almost nothing.

**Vita Vea** isn’t close to as good as **Danny Shelton** was as a prospect/performer.

You would think that a guy (Vea) who’s 6’4”/347 and can bench 41 reps and moves so well for his size – you’d think he’d be unblockable in college. You think he’d be a force of statistical output. Pure domination at the college level. In 12 games this past season, Ve a had just 5.5 TFLs and no forced fumbles. I have no idea how he was named Defensive Player of the Year in the PAC-12...except for “*He’s supposed to be good, right?*”

Don’t give me that *he was double teamed a lot* noise...most decent DTs are doubled at times by virtue of where they play -- rushing up between the center and guard. Ve a got double teamed some randomly, not with great purpose more just him trying to get between two guys (and couldn’t)...but when I watched him get solo blocking, he couldn’t overcome that all that well either.

My synopsis from watching Ve a on tape is that about 40% of the time he gives a good surge off the line...but gets easily blocked away by the lineman, and he loses sight of where the play is. About 60% of the time he slowly rises from the snap and gets blocked into insignificance. I don’t recall one play where I watched Ve a’s college tape and went ‘wow’ on any play. You’d think a guy his size and movement would have a lot of ‘wow’...but he gives you none.

His tape didn’t have ‘wow’ and you’ll see his statistical output wasn’t ‘wow’ either (see it in the next section).



Vea is a good egg – honor roll student. Good community work. He’s an affable, good guy. He won’t hurt an NFL team at all, but he’s just not likely to live up to his lofty draft status (pre-draft).

### Vita Vea, Through the Lens of Our DT Scouting Algorithm:

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I can best explain my problem with Vea by comparing him to another PAC-12 DT prospect...Stanford’s **Harrison Phillips**. Let’s look at the best season from either, playing at the same time in the same conference against very similar schedules...

1.6 solo tackles, 2.8 total tackles, 0.46 TFLs, 0.36 sacks, 0.07 FF = Vea 2016 (14gms)

2.6 solo tackles, 4.4 total tackles, 1.21 TFLs, 0.53 sacks, 0.15 FF = Phillips 2017 (14gms)

Basically, Phillips about doubled+ most of Vea’s best output and last season Phillips compared to Vea was about triple better...and yet, Vea won the PAC-12 Defensive Player of the Year because people have convinced themselves that *“He’s supposed to be good, right?”*

I’ve studied both Vea and Phillips...Vea has all the measurables...Phillips has all the reality/production and better tape.

Teams are going to take Vea because *“He’s supposed to be good,”* and it will be a mistake/overpayment.

#### **2018 NFL Combine...**

6’4”/347, 10” hands, 32.6” arms

5.06 40-time, 2.95 20-yard, 1.77 10-yard, DNP agility drills

41 bench press

### The Historical DT Prospects to Whom Vita Vea Most Compares Within Our System:

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All these comparison names from our system analysis make a lot of sense – our system says the same thing about the comparisons – Vea is like them but just not as good.

He’s like other good/mediocre ‘big guy’ DT prospects...just not as good as any of them. Worse in output and equal/worse on tape.



DT Grade	Last	First	Draft Yr	College	H	W	Power Strgth	Speed Agility	Pass Rusher	Tackle rating	NT Profile
6.270	Vea	Vita	2018	Washington	76.0	347	12.60	5.60	7.64	6.73	13.89
5.231	Poe	Dontari	2012	Memphis	76.1	346	12.71	4.31	5.30	5.48	13.75
9.049	Ngata	Haloti	2006	Oregon	76.1	338	11.58	4.90	6.78	8.44	12.56
8.469	Shelton	Danny	2015	Washington	74.1	339	12.30	4.32	9.41	9.09	11.08
10.040	Raji	B.J.	2009	BC	73.4	337	11.77	6.16	10.25	7.10	9.79
7.845	Taylor	Phil	2011	Baylor	75.2	334	9.29	4.50	4.72	6.76	8.73
4.544	Allen	Beau	2014	Wisconsin	74.4	333	9.08	6.45	5.71	4.70	7.88

*\*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).

