



NFL Draft 2018 Scouting Report: TE Jordan Akins, Central Florida

**Our TE 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.*

***Our TE formulas had some slight changes in the offseason—an adjustment to better identify and value TE prospects that are smaller physically and are primed for the era ahead...the era of Jordan Reed and Delanie Walker-type TEs. Our historical grades will have changed some on various prospects as well, to show their grades by comparison.*

After watching a preview tape of **Jordan Akins** pre-Senior Bowl and Combine, I thought he was a nice sleeper TE prospect for the NFL Draft. I waited to study him deeper because he didn't work out at the NFL Combine, but then he didn't do much at his Pro Day either (as far as timing drills go)...so, we're flying a little blind here with our computer models. Having to estimate 40-times, agility drills, etc.

I had some hopeful expectations but once I started digging into Akins deeper, I realized there was no great gold to be found here. He's a decent enough player...but he's got a lot of red flags that are going to get him pushed into the last two rounds of the draft...or maybe even undrafted.

On the positive side...Akins has some NFL receiving skills. Good hands+, and likely a better-than-average 40-time/straight-line speed. He moves pretty well for a tight end. He's useful, potentially in the NFL.

There are too many negatives to overcome from a 'draft' standpoint or making any real investment...

-- Akins was a top 100 draft pick out of high school for major league baseball. He played four minor league seasons with the Texas Rangers before going to UCF to pursue football.

He was a UCF signee originally, spurning LSU and Georgia among others, but then chose to go play pro baseball first.

On opening day of the 2018 NFL season, Akins will be about 26.5 years old. Not good for draft value. He's 3-4-5 years older than most TE prospects.

-- He's only 6'3". That's not terrible but it's not a big 'wow factor' for getting the NFL to chase after him.

-- He looks pretty quick running straight but appears to lose steam going east-west. Has a burst but not a lot of wiggle.

-- Is a sloppy blocker. Now, when he gets on a defender he can blow them away. He's very strong (29 bench reps at his Pro Day). He can wipe out people but too often he misses the block or only makes a half-hearted attempt.



-- He lost his 2015 college football season to a torn ACL.

Akins isn't bad, but he's got a lot of miles on him and just is not enough of a talent to move NFL teams to action. He'll probably get drafted because he does move well and the 29 bench reps is something to work with but I don't see a high impact TE prospect for the NFL here...and I thought I might, going into it.

Jordan Akins, Through the Lens of Our TE Scouting Algorithm:

Akins was a WR before converting to TE. He began his career at UCF as a lightly used WR and kickoff returner in 2014 as a freshman. In 2015, his opening game as a sophomore – 9 catches for 104 yards and 2 TDs. He caught 5 passes for 48 yards the next week against Stanford while returning five kicks as well. He then hurt his ACL the following week and was gone for the season. He used the rehab to bulk up to a tight end size and moved to TE in 2016.

Akins has caught just 8 TD passes in his career, 50% of them in three games against Florida International (2 in one game as a WR in 2015)...just 4 TDs in 21 games the past three seasons otherwise.

Akins had 2 or 3 catches in a game in eight of 11 games in 2017. In 2016-2017, as a TE, Akins had three or fewer catches in a game 16 times in 21 games. He's a pretty good athlete and nice hands...but he's not ringing the register on the stat sheets.

2018 Measurables...

6'3.0"/249, 33.5" arms, 9.25" hands (Combine)

29 bench reps, 35.0" vertical, 10'4" broad jump (Pro Day)

The Historical TE Prospects to Whom Jordan Akins Most Compares Within Our System:

Not a lot to get excited about here. A few guys who had a cup of coffee in the NFL; they saw some playing time but never made any long-term impact. I fear that's where Akins might be headed...but he does have a bit more upside than the names on this list.



<u>TE Grade</u>	<u>TE-Reed</u>	<u>Last</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Yr</u>	<u>College</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>Spd-Agil Metric</u>	<u>Strgth Blixing Metric</u>	<u>Hands Metric</u>
4.830	6.28	Akins	Jordan	2018	C.Florida	6	3.0	249	5.82	7.54	6.23
6.216	5.65	Williams	DJ	2011	Arkansas	6	2.1	245	6.37	7.02	7.27
4.850	3.46	Jones	Nathan	2013	Marion	6	3.1	247	3.38	6.90	7.59
4.600	7.56	Anderson	Stephen	2016	Cal	6	2.1	230	6.54	2.12	6.40
3.118	0.75	Saxton	Wes	2015	So. Alabama	6	3.3	248	5.68	6.55	3.39
3.366	0.62	Maxwell	Jacob	2014	La-Lafayette	6	3.6	249	3.69	7.06	3.55
2.121	-0.29	Epps	Dedrick	2010	Miami, Fla	6	3.5	246	2.77	5.65	5.61
1.825	0.57	Stevens	Craig	2008	California	6	3.2	254	7.69	10.04	5.42

**A score of 7.0+ is where we start to take a TE prospect more seriously. A score of 8.50+ is where we see a stronger correlation of TEs 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 TE.*

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

***The ‘TE-Reed’ score is in honor of Jordan Reed’s 2015 season...looking at TEs in a different manner—the smaller, speedy receiving threats.*

“Speed-Agility Metric” = 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/create separation.

“Power-Strength Metric” = 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.

“Hands Metric” = 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 project the combination of data for receiving success at the next level.

2018 NFL Draft Outlook:

Projects to be drafted late, and that makes sense – like a 6th round pick. He got Senior Bowl and Combine invites, so he’ll likely be drafted off that.

If I were an NFL GM, I have some interest if he goes undrafted but I’m not using a pick here.

