



NFL Draft 2018 Scouting Report: WR Equanimeous St. Brown, Notre Dame

**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.*

Scouting **Equanimeous St. Brown** (and I am already tired of typing his full name so ESB it is from here on in) is a faith-based venture.

Why?

Because you cannot really gauge his potential from his college tape, his production numbers, any market share output percentages, or measurables (half of them skipped). Scouting ESB is a pure roulette wheel bet. Some will see the best in him, and others will focus on other things they don't like 'the looks' of...the glass is half-full or half-empty. Depends upon your perspective. No commentary is wrong at this stage...and no one can be sure who's right until the results come in.

Here's some of the debate...

PRO: You love his size/athleticism package – 6'5"/214 and runs a 4.48 40-time.

CON: Thin frame, looks too fragile, wiry to be a big-time 'body', a physical WR in the NFL

PRO: He benched 20 reps at the Combine, he's very strong core-wise.

CON: 33-515-4 in 12 games last season, not eye-catching numbers.

PRO: But the Notre Dame QB/passing game was awful, so in terms of market share, ESB wasn't bad at all despite the low output

CON: Shut down by North Carolina (1-9-0), LSU (2-47-0), USC (3-29-1), Wake Forest (2-36-0)...teams with NFL prospects covering him.

After watching several game tapes from 2016 and 2017, and looking at the data and his measurables...I'm just saying – make the gamble or don't...because it's a gamble. I'm not sure how good



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he is, because Notre Dame has had such awful QBs. They had an unnatural passing game and ESB basically went to waste. We don't know how good he is, but I'm going to take a shot at what I think I see...

But first, after watching some of his 2016 games...good Lord, **DeShone Kizer is a horrific quarterback. No one could watch him last year and not see a disaster...but THEY ALL thought he was great and many had him as the clear #1 QB prospect most of the draft season and then faded him a bit in April 2017. He's a joke...and not one NFL analyst or scout that I know seriously pushed the 'he sucks' narrative...except me. These are the same people now evaluating the current group of QB prospects.*

I think ESB might be a lot better than we realize. The Notre Dame passing game was so dysfunctional that it reduced St. Brown to a deep ball guy and blocker. There was no sense in him running crisp routes over the middle because there was no QB who could make those throws confidently. He has pretty good footwork – and I see he takes his craft seriously. His dad, a former weightlifting champ, has basically made ESB and his two brothers 'Robo-WRs'. The LaVar Ball of creating WR offspring. ESB is meticulous on preparation...great physical training, high GPA in school, and a student of route-running and deceiving DBs. The problem is – he didn't get to show it off with this awful passing game. I think he's a pretty sound technician of a WR for the NFL day one.

ESB also has pretty good hands. Obvious NFL size and speed. Seems like decent agility, but he skipped all those timed drills this offseason (which makes me worry a twinge). Plus, he's stronger than he looks and is a pretty good+ blocker. There are a ton of positives...and many of them get wiped away with 'he looks a little thin'. I think that's a bad way to scout him.

The concern I have for ESB is...because I don't know to answer...how bad does he really want it? That's a loaded question. I want to celebrate him for his deliberate, cerebral ways...but I also see some signs, maybe, that he's a little too 'above it all'...that he walks a fine line between studious and measured versus arrogant and finesse.

If he has the internal drive and toughness, which I see more of than softness...considering his size, speed, tape, hands – he should be a pretty nice WR prospect and ranked higher than a few other 'bet on the measurables' guys (like **D.J. Moore** or **D.J. Chark**) or guys we've all been trained to love (**Calvin Ridley** or **James Washington**).

Chark is an interesting comparison...Chark is big and fast(er) but we've seen him light it up at the Senior Bowl and run really fast at the Combine. ESB has not been in an all-star game and he ran really fast, but not 'wow' fast...so, it just feels like ESB doesn't have the emotional draft momentum Chark does because he's been hidden from us, to a degree. You could argue ESB is a better NFL prospect than Chark...and, if so, he should be a top 3–5 WR prospect in this draft class, not #6–10.



Eq. St. Brown, Through the Lens of Our WR Scouting Algorithm:

I could try to point out some statistical nuggets on ESB trending, pro and con, but really...I fall back on the fact that the QB play makes interpreting his output somewhat useless.

We can use his two games against USC as an example of ESB's whole output trend...

In 2016, with awful, but decent-ish for college DeShone Kizer vs. USC – ESB grabbed 7 passes for 94 yards and a TD. In 2017, with awful **Brandon Wimbush** at QB – 3 catches for 29 yards and a TD. Are the 2017 results dipping because of ESB or the surrounding circumstances...I think it was the QB play, so it's hard reading much into his performance trends.

I think ESB is more the 2016 guy...58-961-9, than he is the 2017 guy 33-515-4. With better QB play in 2017, as ESB grew as a receiver, he might have posted 70-1,200-12 and been a top 1–2 WR prospect in this draft at his size.

2018 NFL Combine...

6'4.6"/214, 9.75" hands, 33.0" arms

4.48 40-time, 2.59 20-yard, 1.54 10-yard, DNP agility

20 bench reps, 34.5" vertical (Pro Day)

The Historical WR Prospects to Whom Eq. St. Brown Most Compares Within Our System:

Kenny Golladay draws more comparisons because he is a great medium/deep worker, and ESB likely mimics that, versus **Jordan Matthews** who did more slot and dirty work in college and the pros...however, I think the computer models are trying to point out that ESB could be a threat as a 'worker' on the interior – and then he becomes a much more radical WR prospect...not a one-trick pony like Golladay leans towards becoming.

I think there is upside to ESB's grade below...but it's hard to computer model him for lost opportunity with the passing game he worked in.



<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 Strngt h Metric</u>	<u>Speed Agility Metric</u>	<u>Hands Metric</u>
7.378	2018	St. Brown	Equanimeous	Notre Dame	6	4.6	214	7.15	6.51	8.51
6.907	2017	Golladay	Kenny	No. Illinois	6	4.0	218	6.94	4.52	8.81
11.160	2014	Matthews	Jordan	Vanderbilt	6	3.1	212	6.89	7.65	11.56
9.162	2011	Green	A.J.	Georgia	6	3.6	211	5.74	7.20	9.34
6.184	2012	Quick	Brian	Appalachn St	6	3.6	220	8.06	3.67	9.82
6.520	2008	Hardy	James	Indiana	6	5.0	220	8.04	8.58	9.42

**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.

2018 NFL Draft Outlook:

His size and tape – it is likely to get ESB drafted top 50.

If I were an NFL GM, I like ESB but I wouldn’t take a non-sure thing WR top 50. I’m growing to become a fan, and he may be worth it in the end, but I don’t think he warrants a top 50 pick...more a top 100 for my valuations. Top 50 for the NFL, though.

