



NFL Draft 2018 Scouting Report: DT Taven Bryan, Florida

**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.*

What's everyone's main interest in **Taven Bryan**...what is it really? "He's like J.J. Watt!!!" is what someone says or thinks when the words 'Taven Bryan' are mentioned -- within two sentences, verbally or written, he's compared to **J.J. Watt**. 'He's like **J.J. Watt**' should be Bryan's nickname.

But is he really like **J.J. Watt**? Why is it EVERYONE says this?

His teammates called him 'J.J. Watt' for fun...and then scouts and analysts in the media all just started writing it and saying it. The primary **Taven Bryan** scouting vibe for the masses has been done by teenagers and young adults on the Florida Gator football team...which probably isn't all that much worse than when it's done by the scouts or analysts anyways.

But...is it true? Is Bryan like **J.J. Watt**? Let's compare their measurables and their final (best) college seasons:

6'5-0"/291, 4.98 40-time, 1.68 10-yard, 7.12 three-cone, 30 bench press, 35" vertical = **Bryan/2018**

6'5-3"/290, 4.91 40-time, 1.71 10-yard, 6.88 three-cone, 34 bench press, 37" vertical = **Watt/2011**

Pretty similar athletes, with Watt a bit more impressive overall, and with the exception of their agility times – Bryan's 7.12 is very good for a 290+ pound DT, Watt's 6.88 is exceptional/radical.

If I search our system for 290-300 pound guys who run a sub-5.0 40-time with sub-7.25 three-cone, I find...**Fletcher Cox, Tyson Alualu, Chris Wormley, Henry Anderson, Xavier Cooper, Nick Fairley, Cameron Heyward, Adam Carriker, and Mario Williams**. Those markers show past prospects who have become stars or guys still developing their career...or injury stole their burgeoning career. Not a lot of busts, but for sure some big names (including Watt and Bryan). A player hitting all these markers, as a foundation, has a pretty good chance to be a good-great NFL player...or, so it appears. Making this cut is a feather in the cap for the scouting of **Taven Bryan**.

You know what's scary about this list for Bryan? He has the worst on-field output metrics in our system analysis in tackles, TFLs, sacks among all the players I just named. For the physical freak that Bryan is...he didn't put up a lot of output to show for it. You'd think he'd be a dominant force in college...he was just 'OK'.

Just comparing Bryan to Watt in their best seasons...



1.7 solo tackles, 3.7 total tackles, 0.60 TFLs, 0.40 sacks per game = Bryan/2017

3.0 solo tackles, 4.8 total tackles, 1.61 TFLs, 0.53 sacks per game = Watt/2010

Watt was a much more active, productive college player, at their best, than Bryan was.

So, what's the deal with Bryan? Top measurables...measurables up there with the game's great DL prospects – but with the worst output metrics of them all. What gives?

I think some of it can be attributed to the fact that he played 4-3 DT...and that lends itself to lesser output compared to a guy like this playing 4-3 DE or 3-4 DE. Still, others were 4-3 DTs and dominated the field of play more, statistically ...so, it's reasonable to question Bryan's lower output.

So, what was the on-field issue?

I think some of it is that Bryan doesn't strike me as a very serious or swift (mentally) football player. All the physical tools but I'm not sure how focused or passionate about this he is. Someone with his physical tools should have been a lot more productive than he was. Watch him in an interview and you don't get a serious/knowing vibe.

I watched several game tapes...he looks good – athletic, powerful, a disruptor. Not a lot of plays made but a lot of penetrations and pressures. I kinda get the feeling that he likes making his surge/pop off the line and doesn't mind if he's just held up or misses out/runs by things. I don't sense a ton of urgency. I wouldn't swear to it...but something is slightly off. He's not lazy as much as 'not passionate'...possibly. That's a big generalization by me.

The physical tools and the quality tape/flashes makes him worthy of a 1st round draft pick status...no doubt, but I'd have some reservations, some concerns that you're getting 'all measurables' and not a lot of meat on the bone. He's too physically gifted to ignore but there are enough questions that I could see not taking him with a very high draft pick. His star potential upside is too strong to ignore.

Taven Bryan, Through the Lens of Our DT Scouting Algorithm:

Here's this highly lauded DT prospect (Bryan)...some would call him a 'freak' (some would even call him **J.J. Watt**) and, yet, he never placed in the top 10 in the SEC in TFLs or sacks for a season...not even top 10! It seems very odd. His first two seasons, Bryan accumulated just 1.5 sacks in 20 games. He registered 5.5 sacks over his career – there are high-end DT prospects getting 5.5 sacks in the span of 3-4-5 games and Bryan did so in a 30-game college career.

It's fun to call him '**J.J. Watt**' but let's compare him to 2015 #96 draft pick DT **Xavier Cooper**...



6'5-0"/291, 4.98 40-time, 1.68 10-yard, 7.12 three-cone, 30 bench press, 35" vertical = **Bryan/2018**

6'2-7"/293, 4.86 40-time, 1.67 10-yard, 7.23 three-cone, 29 bench press, 29" vertical = **Cooper/2015**

Best seasons...

1.7 solo tackles, 3.7 total tackles, 0.60 TFLs, 0.40 sacks per game = Bryan/2017

2.7 solo tackles, 3.9 total tackles, 1.11 TFLs, 0.38 sacks per game = Cooper/2015

Not every prospect with a 'near-Watt' profile means 'future star'.

Tim Wormley, 2017 draft pick out of Michigan, has similar size with as good/better measurables...and I watched him this past preseason – very tentative and unimpressive but his measurables and college career garnered great scouting grades. It's hard to measure passion with Combine numbers...

The Historical DT Prospects to Whom Taven Bryan Most Compares Within Our System:

Tyson Alualu was a top 10 pick back in 2010, in part, because of his measurables. He always struck me all measurables and little heart/passion. I wonder if Bryan's NFL journey is headed down the same path.

DT Grade	Last	First	Draft Yr	College	H	W	Power Strgth	Speed Agility	Pass Rusher	Tackle rating	NT Profile
7.755	Bryan	Taven	2018	Florida	77.0	291	6.96	8.38	8.42	5.76	4.98
7.699	Cooper	Xavier	2015	Wash St	74.7	293	7.67	9.49	8.21	8.71	3.73
9.902	Alualu	Tyson	2010	Cal	74.3	295	6.30	8.73	9.58	8.08	3.16
8.931	Wormley	Chris	2017	Michigan	77.0	298	7.95	9.80	10.00	7.89	2.95
8.212	Cox	Fletcher	2012	Miss State	75.5	298	7.76	9.11	7.86	7.17	4.11
8.047	Anderson	Henry	2015	Stanford	78.2	294	6.77	9.67	10.12	7.68	2.87
11.715	Fairley	Nick	2011	Auburn	75.7	291	8.49	10.71	11.41	7.77	3.26

**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).

NT Profile = This is an attempt to show which of these DT prospects has a profile to become a pure nose tackle/‘space-eater’ in the middle. It is not a 1–10 scale rating of a prospect’s skill/profile, it’s an attempt to point us in a direction of what this DT can be useful as (or not). Some DT prospects will grade off the charts on the NT profile, essentially a worst-case scenario of “put him in the middle and just let him be a wall.” There is NFL value in that ‘ability’.

2018 NFL Draft Outlook:

Bryan is tracking as a 1st round pick, but more of a back-end one...ranging in projection from pick #16-32. I think some in the NFL have similar questions and that will keep him in the #16-25 pick range.

If I were an NFL GM, at some point I’d pull the trigger on Bryan banking on the athletic talent alone. I see other DT prospects as interesting and pretty athletic...and much more inexpensive draft-wise. I’d likely ‘pass’ on 1st round Bryan, in part, because there would be other things at other positions I felt more sure about. I don’t feel as settled with Bryan as others do.

