



NFL Draft 2014 Scouting Report: WR Davante Adams, Fresno State

**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.*

Davante Adams posted a 2013 season of 131 catches for 1,719 yards and 24 TDs...which is amazing. Adams caught nearly half of **Derek Carr's** 2013 TDs passes (50), which is also unreal. There is a lot to like with Adams, but we must put everything into perspective. These gaudy receiving numbers are coming within a Mountain West Conference offense that passed the ball 51.8 times per game. It's almost as if the Fresno State players have to be looked at as having played 1.5 to 2.0 seasons of football in 2013.

With a 'mythical' 1.5 seasons of play factored, Adams would have had 87 catches for 1,146 yards and 16 TDs. Still impressive numbers, but more in line with many really good college WRs.

Adams has to be scouted a little more on what his 2014 NFL Combine numbers told us, and how that translates into the NFL. We also have to look at the game tape to see where his catches are coming from. Is he on the business end of all the bubble screens, etc., or did Adams also work over the middle and/or deep as well? We know he had output numbers, now let's take a look at the NFL Combine and the game tape.

Let me relay what I saw on tape: A really good WR. He is an NFL-worthy, starter-level WR in the NFL. He physically dominated many DBs in a high-octane offense. He didn't dominate USC like he did Idaho or New Mexico, but he was plausible against the Trojans. I remember watching tape of Louisiana Tech WR **Quinton Patton** last year, and he just looked utterly dominant at times. Patton was a bigger "small-WR" college WR at 6'0" and 204-pounds. He was not a scat back type, nor a tall, physically imposing red-zone monster. He was just bigger than most DBs and had a great knack for playing WR. When Patton got to the NFL, he looked much smaller and less impressive. He is still a very good WR prospect, but he looked different against the backdrop of smaller WAC/MWC DBs in college. **Davante Adams** reminds me of **Quinton Patton**. The tape is awesome. The reality...the level of competition...the NFL Combine numbers show just a regular ole' 'good' WR prospect.

My concern for Adams is he might get caught in a 'tweener-land in the NFL. Adams is 6'10.7" tall and 212-pounds. We had a hard time classifying him in our simplistic split of WR types. Adams is a big



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"Small-WR" or a small "Big-WR" in our system...and we think that classification, and subsequent usage, matters in the NFL. As a small "Big-WR," like a slower **Torrey Smith**, Adams will be immersed by bigger DBs. He will not be easily found by his QB in traffic or deep. Adams is not quite built to go over the top of NFL DBs.

As a big "Small-WR," Adams is physically imposing, but not NFL 'fast'. He's solid with speed, but not a 'burner'. He's not a scary weapon like a **Percy Harvin** or even a **Victor Cruz** in that capacity. Adams' size and agility will allow him to get open consistently on short routes. He creates a nice size mismatch with smaller CBs, and is faster than most LBs. A side note to that: I noted more sideline patterns with Adams in college, and not so many over-the-middle routes...so I wonder if he is not a fan of that type of dirty work, and if he isn't...then that could be NFL trouble. This may also be more on **Derek Carr**, who is great passer working the sidelines and short routes, but struggles mightily throwing over-the-middle/in congestion (my opinion).

Davante Adams has no recorded off-field issues, and he has been noted as a high-effort/hard-worker type of character.

Davante Adams, Through the Lens of Our WR Scouting Algorithm:

There is only one argument that our computer models would make on **Davante Adams'** tremendous output in 2013, and that is an argument about "context." There is no doubt 131 catches, 1,719 yards, and 24 TDs is 'sick' output. However, looking at the performance in relationship terms of how many passes were thrown and caught from **Derek Carr** is a whole other universe.

131 catches in a season is crazy, until you consider that he caught 29% of Carr's completions this past season. Most WR prospects of any note will grab 30%+ of their QBs completions. A proper range is 25-33%. Adams is within a 'normal' range...not a chart-breaker in this metric.

Adams caught 48% of his teams TD passes this season, but several top WR prospects will catch between 40-60% of their QB's TDs. I'm not saying it's a bad thing, but I am saying it is a normal-good thing. He led the nation in receptions and TDs catches, but proportionally he was just average-good; not mind-blowing. He is gaudy output numbers are somewhat the beneficiary of a style of offense...a level of passing that most WR prospects were not afforded, and if they had they would have produced similarly.

Physically, Adams rates well in some areas within this "Small-WR" class, and at the back of the list in others...

The good: He is one of the tallest, physically biggest-framed "Small-WRs" in our system this year. He has a high-end 'frame' and a near top of the class vertical.



The bad: He is one of the slower (40-time 4.56) WRs in this class. His bench press (14 reps) was mediocre to poor for a player his size.

In all the ways we slice it up, we see Adams in the 'B to C' grade range. We do not see an 'A', but we do not see a "D or F". As with most 'B or C' grade WRs, a lot of his NFL experience will have to do with what depth chart and QB he lands with.

The Historical WR Prospects to Whom Davante Adams Most Compares Within Our System:

I see **Davante Adams** as a poor man's **Rishard Matthews**. Some of you might think that is an insult. Some of you that have been with me a bit know that it is high praise. Why I downgrade him to "poor man's" is that Matthews is timed as a faster runner, and is a physical rock a 6'0", 217-pounds with a 20 rep bench press. Adams benched 14 reps, and is five-pounds lighter. Matthews is a perfectly crafted possession WR going to absolute waste in Miami (although we all saw flashes of brilliance in 2013), and Adams (we feel) is a junior version of that.

Adams has many **DeAndre Hopkins** traits. They are very similarly sized, and alike athletically as well. I prefer Adams over Hopkins, watching the tape for whatever that is worth.

<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>
8.00	2014	Adams	Davante	Fresno St	6	0.7	212	11.76	5.71	9.05
8.25	2013	Hopkins	DeAndre	Clemson	6	1.0	214	11.57	6.97	10.86
8.94	2012	Matthews	Rishard	Nevada	6	0.1	217	14.16	7.63	10.64
6.72	2012	Kearse	Jermaine	Washington	6	1.1	209	9.73	7.10	9.38
8.24	2011	Shorts	Cecil	Mt Union	5	11.8	205	11.78	11.39	8.40
6.48	2009	Collie	Austin	BYU	6	0.7	200	8.97	6.66	8.86
5.77	2013	Patton	Quinton	La Tech	6	0.0	204	7.08	5.94	10.14

**A score of 7.0+ is where we start to take a Small-WR prospect more seriously. A score of 8.50+ is where we see a stronger correlation of a Small-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 Small-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/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.

2014 NFL Draft Outlook:

Davante Adams is tracking as a 2nd-round Mock Draft projection for most draft websites. Typically, he is coming off somewhere between the 6th to 9th WR off the board. We think that is fair value.

If were an NFL GM, and I need for a possession WR like Adams, I'd have an interest, but for my money, I'd pass just on the value and availability of later round, similar WRs. That's just me. In the real NFL Draft, Adams is the quintessential 2nd-round WR, who could slip to the early 3rd-round due to the depth of beloved WRs in this draft. I'd take a #70 pick Adams over a #20 pick **Marqise Lee** any day.

NFL Outlook:

Broken record time...it all depends on what offense and QB Adams lands with. This is even truer for a WR like Adams where he does not have blazing NFL speed, and will work much better with a QB who can pinpoint passes to him. Adams profiles to be a great safety valve over the middle with a some playmaking upside...much like **Rishard Matthews** was becoming for Miami late last year.

