NFL Draft 2018 Scouting Report: WR DaeSean Hamilton, Penn 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 typically less 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.

So what side of the **DaeSean Hamilton** argument is true…which side wins?

Is it the amazing feet he possesses…the high-end ability to get open off the snap – a trait EVERYONE mentions when discussing him?

OR

Is it the "*Yeah, that's great that he gets open…but then why was his output in college so…meh/average-good?*"

In 16 of his final 23 college games, **DaeSean Hamilton** had 3 or fewer catches …playing with a Big Ten school, working with an OK quarterback, and with the luxury playing with a running back the other team's defense had to pay extra attention to?

If Hamilton is so good, why was he such an underwhelming WR on the stat sheets, outside of 2-3 games? I know he didn't generate any excitement over his career because post-season, he was tapped for the East-West Shrine bowl…not good enough for the Senior Bowl. Scouts talked about him as a great person but likely to go undrafted in January. Hamilton generated enough excitement showing off his feet at the East-West to warrant an invite to the Senior Bowl after all…which forced an invite to the NFL Combine.

But if the feet are so good…why all the average/mediocre production in college?

I don't believe it's a **DaeSean Hamilton** problem…in fact, the more I study it…the more I'm sure it's not. I think two things converged to depress Hamilton's output in recent seasons.

1) First, Penn State QB **Trace McSorley** was a step down from **Christian Hackenberg** for Penn State (and Hackenberg was no treat either) – McSorley came in to start in 2016. Hamilton's highest catch count and

yardage in a season/per game tally came as a freshman playing with Hackenberg back in 2014 – 82 catches for 899 yards and 2 TDs.

In Hamilton's college debut game in 2014, as a freshman – 11 catches for 165 yards against a pretty good Central Florida team. Later that season, Hamilton had 14 catches against Ohio State… against that **Eli Apple, Darron Lee, Vonn Bell** DB group.

Hamilton came out of the gates on fire in his college career/2014, and then just kinda tailed off with random great games here and there the next three seasons. I think the freshman sensation-version of Hamilton is closer to the true story.

2) The **Saquon Barkley** factor.

In 2016-2017, Penn State built everything around emphasizing Barkley and minimizing McSorley… as they should. As McSorley improved in 2017…Hamilton had his best TD season and 2nd-best yardage output of his career.

Hamilton looked the same in 2014 as he did in 2017…a professional receiver with good feet off the snap, almost always getting open – just limited QB play to find him. Hamilton was not a preferred bubble screen guy in 2016-17 or big/tall target-deep play option…he ran short and medium-range pro routes with precision but played with QBs who were not built for fostering that gift. Hamilton's gifts, to some degree, went to waste at Penn State…he was minimized by the running game and the QB play.

Had Hamilton played with Baker Mayfield, he might be considered the #1 WR prospect in the 2018 NFL Draft right now. Optics.

I feel pretty confident that Hamilton will be a better pro than college WR…he's built for success, instant success in the pros if he lands with a precision passer. He has NFL speed…the nice NFL agility…the good+ hands…and an amazing change of direction in his routes. He's undervalued because he's been overshadowed/underutilized.

Hamilton is also a great person off the field. A four-time all-Big Ten academic performer. Team captain for his high school team and at Penn State. Dad in the Army, born in Japan…a disciplined football player and leader was raised. High floor, high ceiling…he belongs ahead of **Calvin Ridley** in every way for the NFL (but 'Alabama' rules everything for NFL scouts).

DaeSean Hamilton, Through the Lens of Our WR Scouting Algorithm:

Five TDs in his final 6 college games.

Final nine games, as McSorley started to improve: 4.2 rec., 64.8 yards, 0.8 TDs per game.

In four bowl games in his career: 6.3 rec., 87.5 yards, 1.0 TDs per game.

14 catches in his debut game versus Ohio State/2014…and then 2-1-1 for catches in games vs. OSU the following three years. Again, I think this is more QB/offense than Hamilton…but it's not to be ignored. It makes you wonder a little bit what happened his final three seasons.

2018 NFL Combine:

6'0'5"/203, 9.38" hands, 31.0" arms

4.52 40-time, 1.57 10-yard (Pro Day times) – 4.15 shuttle and 6.84 three-cone (at Combine)

16 bench reps, 34.5" vertical, 9'10" broad

The Historical WR Prospects to Whom DaeSean Hamilton Most Compares Within Our System:

Most all of the comps for Hamilton are WRs who are/were sneaky good in the NFL…or are going to be. This group is more the 'professional' WRs…the reliable hands with ability to produce if given a higher amount of targets.

WR Score	Draft Yr	Last	First	College	H	H	W	Power Strngth Metric	Speed Agility Metric	Hands Metric
7.550	2018	Hamilton	DaeSean	Penn State	6	0.6	203	8.02	8.04	8.23
8.234	2015	Hardy	Justin	East Carolina	5	10.2	192	7.03	7.76	9.85
8.963	2017	Taylor	Taywan	W. Kentucky	5	11.0	203	8.98	11.17	8.86
8.944	2012	Matthews	Rishard	Nevada	6	0.1	217	14.16	7.63	10.64
6.538	2012	Kearse	Jermaine	Washington	6	1.1	209	9.73	7.10	8.37
6.325	2017	Carr	Austin	Northwestern	6	0.2	202	9.18	7.23	9.03
6.164	2012	Jones	Marvin	California	6	1.6	199	9.72	9.30	7.94
7.862	2010	Williams	Damian	USC	6	0.6	197	7.92	7.44	8.36

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.

2018 NFL Draft Outlook:

Hamilton is tracking as a top 75-100 prospect, and I think that's where he'll land. He feels like he should be a #90-110 type of pick, but his East-West Shrine and Senior Bowl work will get him pushed closer to #60-80, I'd project.

If I were an NFL GM, I have no problem with Hamilton around pick #100. He's not a must-have prospect, but a nice-to-have and better than his draft status going into the draft.

NFL Outlook:

Hamilton might surprise with how fast he produces in the NFL. He's ready to go day one potentially, so if he lands with a nice QB/offense…he's going to have a fine rookie season and likely a very stable, solid career. He'll be great with the quick passers – **Derek Carr, Dak Prescott**, etc., because he can get open so quickly, easily.