

MARCH 31, 2017



NFL DRAFT 2017 SCOUTING REPORT: CB GAREON CONLEY, OHIO STATE

BY: R.C. FISCHER

TOTAL FOOTBALL ADVISORS, LLC

CONTENTS

NFL Draft 2017 Scouting Report: CB Gareon Conley, Ohio State.....	2
Gareon Conley, through the lens of our CB Scouting Algorithm	3
NFL Combine data... ..	3
The NFL CB that Gareon Conley most compares with statistically in college, within our system: .	3
Table 419.....	4
2017 NFL Draft outlook... ..	5
NFL Outlook:	5
Copyright Statement	6

Visit www.fantasyfootballmetrics.com

NFL DRAFT 2017 SCOUTING REPORT: CB GAREON CONLEY, OHIO STATE

**CB grades can and will change as more information comes in from Pro Day workouts, Wonderlic test results leaked, etc. We will update info as it becomes available.*

When I first watched basic tape of OSU teammates **Gareon Conley** and **Marshon Lattimore** ahead of the NFL Combine, I thought Conley was the better corner prospect of the two. After more research, I'm starting to walk that back a little. They are both legit NFL prospects, but I'd have to say Lattimore is the better cover corner...and is equal to or the better athlete than Conley – and they are both athletically gifted to be starters in the NFL.

Conley is rising up some draft boards after his NFL Combine – nice size (6'0"/195) and excellent speed-agility. Conley is a prototypical NFL starting corner. It helps that he has the 'Ohio State' label. I like Conley too, but less than I did at first glance.

Watching Conley specifically against Penn State and Clemson in 2016 started to change my mind a bit. Conley definitely has the speed-agility to keep up with those two teams' #1 WRs, and top draft prospects, **Chris Godwin** and **Mike Williams**. But it was glaring to see how these physical WRs had no issue bumping off Conley and getting open or fighting him off for jump ball passes. Lattimore seemed to be more in control against top receivers whereas Conley showed some weakness.

There's a place for Conley in the NFL...whether as a #2 corner or a nickel defender. Conley can cover/mirror receivers with his superior foot speed and elite agility numbers. He's not a corner that will take on **Mike Evans** or **Dez Bryant**, etc. Not only is Conley a little weaker covering physical receivers, he's not much of a tackler either. He makes an effort, but he's more of a lunging/diving trying to trip up a receiver kind of corner than a corner who can make clean tackles. Conley is a typical, good-to-very-good coverage DB, but he's not great at getting physical nor does he seem like a fit to move to free safety.

Conley is a very solid player with no red flags for medical or off-field issues. He's just not a first-round corner in this deep draft. You want him on your NFL team, but he's not a priority given how many great corner prospects are out there that won't get 'reached' for due to their big-name college push.

GAREON CONLEY, THROUGH THE LENS OF OUR CB SCOUTING ALGORITHM

Conley made just 26 tackles in 13 games last season, and it wasn't like he was on an island where he never saw action. He had a dominant corner on the other side of him. Conley had nearly double the tackles back in 2015, but fell off in 2016 – I think Conley believes he's a touch above tackling/hitting in some senses.

I'm surprised Conley only had 8 PDs in 2016, his career high. He was picked on a decent amount. Conley lost some head-to-head battles and also floated around in a zone-like coverage a lot as well. It doesn't seem in his purview to be in scrums with receivers or ball-carriers. He likes running with receivers, not so much scrapping with them – my opinion. There's a value to that with his foot speed. But a #1 corner he is not, at this stage.

NFL COMBINE DATA...

6'0.0"/195, 33" arms, 9.5" hands

4.44 40-time, 1.58 10-yard, 4.18 shuttle, 6.68 three-cone (4th best at the Combine)

11 reps bench press, 37.0" vertical, 10'9" broad jump

Conley stats on CFB Reference: <http://www.sports-reference.com/cfb/players/gareon-conley-1.html>

THE NFL CB THAT GAREON CONLEY MOST COMPARES WITH STATISTICALLY IN COLLEGE, WITHIN OUR SYSTEM:

The comparison list is mostly made of good-to-very-good NFL corners. The computer sees Conley as useful, not as a likely superstar.

TABLE 419

CB score	Last	First	Draft Yr	College	H	H	Weight	Cover Rating	Speed Metrics	Agility Metric	Tackle Metrics
6.733	Conley	Gareon	2017	Ohio State	6	0.0	195	8.13	11.70	7.48	5.20
7.758	Rogers	Carlos	2005	Auburn	6	0.3	196	8.77	3.61	14.88	6.43
4.972	Allen	Cortez	2011	Citadel	6	1.2	197	6.07	6.08	8.14	6.33
5.117	Rolle	Antrel	2005	Miami, FI	6	0.1	198	6.32	4.14	9.41	7.55

**The ratings are based on a 1–10 rating scale, but a prospect can score over 10.0+ and less than 0.0.*

OVERALL RATING — *We merge the data from physical measurables, skill times/counts from the NFL Combine/Pro Days, with college performance data available on pass coverage/tackles, etc. and grade it compared to our database history of all college CBs, with a focus on which CBs went on to be good-great-elite in the NFL. We found characteristics/data points that the successful NFL CBs had in common in college, that most other CB prospects could not match/achieve.*

*Scoring with a rating over a **7.00+** in our system is where we start to take a CB prospect more seriously. Most of the future NFL successful college CBs scored **8.00+**, and most of the NFL superior CBs pushed scores more in the **9.00+** levels...and future NFL busts will sneak in there from time to time. **10.00+** is where most of the elite NFL CBs tend to score in our system analysis.*

COVERAGE -- *A combination of on-field data/performance and physical profile data.*

SPEED — *Measurables from a perspective of straight-line speed, burst, etc.*

AGILITY — *Measurables for lateral movements, quick cuts, body type, speed, etc.*

POWER — *A look at physical size, tackling productivity in college, other physical measurables. One of the side benefits/intentions here is to see which CBs may be more of a model for a conversion to playing safety successfully in the NFL. Also, denotes CBs who are more physical/will have higher tackle totals...over pure speed/coverage CBs.*

2017 NFL DRAFT OUTLOOK...

Conley is trying to sneak into the first-round projections in late March. He may just do it on draft day, but I'd bet he'll be one of the first 10 picks in the second round.

NFL OUTLOOK: A very solid cover corner/nickel DB for the NFL.

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT

Copyright at date and time signed below by R.C. Fischer

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law. For permission requests, email the publisher at rcfischer@fantasyfootballmetrics.com.

Signature  Date 3/31/2017