



NFL Draft 2016 Scouting Report: CB Jalen Ramsey, Florida 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.*

Let's get this part out of the way first...I am mostly on the same vibe with everyone else. **Jalen Ramsey** is a legit first-round NFL draft prospect. He's one of the best cornerbacks, and/or he's one of the best free safeties in this draft. My anti-establishment statement to make would be twofold:

1) I'm not sure if he's a top 5 overall player in this draft. I don't believe that anyone with that thought process otherwise is silly (which is all of America), or that a top 5 status is out of the question with Ramsey. However, if he's a top 5 overall prospect, it's another sign that this draft is pretty flimsy on high-end or 'elite' prospects overall.

2) I don't necessarily think he's the best cornerback prospect in the draft. In addition, I don't think he's the best free safety prospect in this draft either. Early on in our studies we have him top three in both those categories (and **Vernon Hargreaves** is not in the top 3/over Ramsey in either of those positional rankings...if you were wondering). You'll find out soon enough who our current #1 DB prospect is.

Let's explore Ramsey's prospects in this draft as cornerback or free safety...

As a cornerback, it's easy to fall in love with him because he has the perfect body and movement for a cornerback. He's 6'1"+/209 with really long arms and 4.41 speed along with nice agility. At a glance, he's near perfect.

When I watch him on tape playing cornerback, I get a little rattled...rattled from the sense of wondering if he really is this all-world, never-seen-before type of CB prospect. There's a lot of *Jekyll and Hyde* with Ramsey. On one play you'll think you've seen the next coming of a top shutdown corner in the NFL. The next play he missed his assignment, or chose to charge the backfield, and his receiver escapes downfield for a big play. I truly do not know how dedicated he is to becoming a shutdown corner. His instincts seem more as a free safety...an improviser who likes to move around playing centerfield, sometimes rushing the quarterback. As a true shutdown corner, he has all the physical tools needed, but I'm not sure how much he's really into it mentally.

If he continues on as a freelancer in the NFL, as a cornerback, he's going to frustrate coaches. If he gets his head screwed on straight to just focusing on becoming the best cornerback in the NFL, with his physical tools—he might have a chance to be a top cover corner.

Greatness at cornerback is possible with the Ramsey...that's what's exciting. However, I see another corner in this draft that is more/as physically gifted, but more importantly has coverage instincts that



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blow me away. Sorry, if you're reading this particular report the day it was produced, I'm seriously teasing you on who I think is better than Ramsey as a corner and as a free safety prospect. You'll know soon enough!

As a free safety, Ramsey may be an even better NFL prospect than he is at corner. He has all the tools to be that great centerfielder type safety who can chase down the fastest wide receivers, but has enough size to hang with tight ends, and will put a shoulder into someone in the running game.

A big 'however' here... earlier in Ramsey's career, I saw him as much more aggressive, on tape. A free safety, possibly a strong safety all the way. He would put his shoulder into anyone. He was kind of a headhunter to a degree, a guy trying to deliver jarring hits. Suddenly, as his career and accolades grew, he started taking on more of a diva mindset, suddenly an arm-tackler more than a hitter. Watching Ramsey's tape over time, it's like there's two different **Jalen Ramseys**...one aggressive, and the other more laid-back—and that scares me a little, for the price it's going to take to draft him.

It's his 2015 tape that scares me--I see a guy arm-tackling/reaching for bypassing ballcarriers. I see a guy more interested in making interceptions, and getting into the backfield, than I see a steady, heady player sticking with coverage. I see Ramsey in his interviews and on various video profiles, and he's a joker. He's not very serious. When I see him as silly off the field, nothing terrible, but just kinda goofy...and then watch him play on the field with the same carefree, improvising manner—it worries me that he's a guy that could get burned as often as he makes brilliant plays, but people mostly remember him getting burned.

You watch Ramsey in his 2015 game against Clemson...and you'd be nervous. I watched every play, and took notes on him...FSU's toughest matchup of 2015. All I saw was about every throw in Ramsey's direction was completed. One time it wasn't...an overthrow of an open receiver who beat him streaking deep. On top of catches around him, there was a silly late hit call on Ramsey that hurt his team stopping a drive. There were at least four times Ramsey left his man to blitz...and every one of them led to a big play in his vacated area. On three occasions, Ramsey got blocked out of a screen pass play...he never learned from the first time they did it. He didn't put up much of a fight getting blocked either.

In the Clemson game, the game-winning draw play late for a TD run from about 20 yards out, I saw Ramsey floating as a safety/linebacker on the left, as the run went middle-right...Ramsey with no receiver to cover on his side just stood and watched, and then realized the runner broke the line and chased him late at the goal line to deliver a hit...too late. If he were pursuing a little before the play—he might have halted the score. In general, I did not see Clemson really fear **Jalen Ramsey**...nor did he give them reason to.

It may be conjecture...but I got the feeling Ramsey was mailing it in a bunch in 2015. His head had gotten too big. Strictly my opinion watching his play and listening to his interviews.

I'm not predicting Ramsey as a bust, not at all. I would more make my bet that Ramsey grows up, and becomes a quality pro ballplayer. For that reason, he's likely worth the lofty draft status. However, I'm



just noting it's not all rainbows and unicorns from a scouting perspective—and I think there's another DB in this draft who is as good or superior and a much better bargain.

In the end, I will scout/consider Ramsey as a cornerback prospect over considering him as a free safety (we will grade him statistically as a safety as well). There's no doubt he could be a good or great free safety. However, the cornerback position is much more important in the NFL, and Ramsey is a talent, so I would scout him for that value...even though Ramsey does not have very good hands, and will not create many turnovers via amazing interception skills.

Jalen Ramsey, Through the Lens of Our CB Scouting Algorithm:

In 2014, with Ramsey playing more safety, he averaged a career high 5.7 tackles per game...and also posted 10.0 TFLs in the season. Ramsey loves to rush the backfield...maybe a little too much.

In 2014, back when Ramsey played more physically—he posted three forced fumbles. As an arm-tackling, diva cornerback in 2015, he forced no fumbles. I can't tell you how many times I thought I saw Ramsey, in 2015, slow up his pursuit...almost appearing to not want to be in the fray. It's odd to type that, because in 2014 I thought his issue was being too aggressive...trying to make too many highlight reel big hits, and not just playing sound football.

In 2015, as a cornerback who was thrown at a decent amount...no interceptions. The couple times he was within range, he couldn't follow through with the catch.

There were six other DB prospects that ran faster than Ramsey's 4.41 40-time at the NFL Combine, but none of them over 200+ pounds like Ramsey (209). Ramsey posted the best vertical (41.5") and Broad Jump (11'3") of any DB prospect at the NFL Combine. Arguably, for his size, Ramsey was the most athletic defensive back of the group...by far. Athleticism and size is not the issue—his head is.

The Historical CB Prospects to Whom Jalen Ramsey Most Compares Within Our System:

I wasn't really sure who I would compare Ramsey to as I went about watching him. Nothing I thought really made sense. However, when I saw the list our computer scouting model spit out, I nodded my head in agreement. I like this comparison list. It's a list of cornerbacks who were/are really solid, Pro Bowl players in the NFL, but never superstars...or it's guys with a lot of promise who were perpetually hurt about whom we don't know what would've been (Milliner, Dowling). That's how I kind of see Ramsey in the NFL—very good, but never great...as a cornerback. Maybe he would be a great free safety. Greatness at corner is on the table...but I'm not sure he has the mental makeup to be great.



<u>CB Grade</u>	<u>Last</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Draft Yr</u>	<u>College</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>Cover Rating</u>	<u>Speed Metrics</u>	<u>Agility Metric</u>	<u>Tackle Metric</u>
8.197	Ramsey	Jalen	2016	Florida St	6	1.2	209	8.68	6.55	6.21	9.24
7.269	Amukamara	Prince	2011	Nebraska	6	0.0	206	7.69	8.20	6.09	8.19
7.752	Cook	Chris	2010	Virginia	6	2.0	212	9.29	6.78	5.47	7.71
7.354	Milliner	Dee	2013	Alabama	5	11.7	201	9.84	7.34	3.96	7.83
8.435	Dowling	Ras-l	2011	Virginia	6	1.3	198	9.30	9.23	6.53	8.81
8.483	Davis	Vontae	2009	Illinois	5	11.1	203	8.28	9.23	8.45	11.19

**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.

2016 NFL Draft Outlook:

