



NFL Draft 2019 Scouting Report: CB Byron Murphy, Washington

**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.*

Put Byron Murphy among the pile of 1st-round prospects I don't get...top guys at their position for people that I don't get how it's possible. I don't see a top cornerback prospect here at all. He's a decent college corner. Possibly an NFL body, but top 20 pick? Top CB in the class...or even top 3? Insta-starter as a rookie? You're kidding me.

I just studied Michigan State CB prospect **Justin Layne** deeper prior to Murphy, and he's a weaker cover corner prospect in my book...but has the size, athleticism, etc., worth taking a chance on at some point to work with and develop. Murphy doesn't give me that much 'upside' or 'developmental' hope. He was middle of the pack athletes from the DBs at the NFL Combine, he's under 5'11" (which isn't damning but you'd rather have 6'1"+), but it runs deeper than that...

It's not just the athleticism/metrics here that leave me wanting...it's more the tape. It's bad. I have no idea what anyone sees in him...and when you have lacking tape + mediocre athleticism + average size...why are we jamming this guy to #1 among CB prospects?

When I turned on the tape, I expected to be dazzled...as people have been moving Murphy to the top of their CB prospect board of late. My computer grades off the bat on him were middle of the road, so I wanted to see what we might be missing. It seems I'm missing a guy who plays 10+ yards off the receiver way too much and then almost always turns sideways shuffling backwards as receivers just carve him up to the inside. When you watch Murphy play corner it's almost like he has the opposing WR on his fantasy team and is trying to allow him opportunities for as many catches to the interior as possible.

Houston's **Isaiah Johnson**, who I really like, plays way off the ball too...but has high-end speed and is one of the longest corners in this draft to try to make up for it. Murphy has mediocre 4.55 speed, mediocre 1.59 10-yard burst, and a quite small (CB prospect wise) 30.1" arm length. **Isaiah Johnson** is 3+ inches taller with about three inches more arm length...and runs a way faster 40-time and three-cone. Why is Johnson ignored...and Murphy a top guy?

A lot has to do with 'school'. For some reason, Michigan State and Washington have this reputation for their DBs and yet they almost always disappoint in the pros (compared to their hype over the past 5+ years). I'm not sure why weak prospect profiles like **Sidney Jones** (Wash) and **Trae Waynes** (MSU) got such heat but they did and so far...not so great in the bigs.



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I think Murphy gets credit for having two interceptions in a game, one returned for a TD, in the PAC-12 title game in 2018...but did anyone watch that game? His two picks...

#1 = Receiver bursts off the snaps, stops and turns for an easy comeback toss, because Murphy gives them up all day long. The QB hits the receiver but the receiver is slipping down – the ball hits the dropping WR in the chest/hands, it ricochets up and over him right to Murphy standing 2-3 yards behind him. Murphy takes the 'look what I found' gift INT for an easy untouched score.

#2 = Receiver slips/falls down again as a scrambling (bad) Utah QB panics and throws to him...and the pass goes right to Murphy who makes the catch.

This is something we're supposed reward to Murphy as some great coverage?

Murphy faced three good QBs in 2018...**Jarrett Stidham**, **Dwayne Haskins**, and **Gardner Minshew**.

Stidham had no fear throwing towards Murphy. His guy was open a bunch. Mostly Auburn just let Murphy take himself out of every play backpedaling into oblivion and then throwing to his abandoned area.

Gardner Minshew was not afraid of Murphy, but a torrential downpour changed the passing efforts there. Murphy wasn't exposed as much as he might have been.

Haskins worked like Murphy wasn't there. Murphy wanted nothing to do with **Parris Campbell**, he drew a lesser WR and didn't really halt anyone. He did his typical play too far off routine and allow receivers a red carpet to turn inside. **Terry McLaurin** had beat Murphy for an easy 50+ yard TD, in this game, but Haskins overthrew him by 5+ yards.

Murphy did have two good statistical games against Utah in 2018...and their 'barely a real passer' quarterback. Congrats.

Murphy is not devoid of talent, I just think he's a 'B-/C+' athlete who plays about as lazy as you could play...way off receivers, turned sideways, and almost standing flatfooted and watching a lot of the time, assuming no one is throwing his way. Any team that would have attacked him would have had a field day.

To me, Murphy is a media created top NFL prospect. He's got some NFL talents to groom, but top CB prospect or top 100 prospect overall? What a joke.



Byron Murphy, Through the Lens of Our CB Scouting Algorithm:

20 passes defended in Murphy's career...6 of them against FCS Montana and North Dakota. Five of them against Utah in 2018.

Six picks in his career...two against Rutgers, two gifts against Utah, one against Washington State in a downpour.

Playing out of conference powers Penn State, Ohio State, and Auburn the past two seasons – Washington lost all three games giving up 24.7 points per game, allowing 70%+ completion rate, 288.5 yards per game with 6 TDs/2 INTs. This is the vaunted Washington defense with their so-great corner **Byron Murphy**? What frauds. Congrats for beating up North Dakota, UCLA, Oregon, Cal, Colorado, and Utah twice.

Murphy played 1.5 seasons of college ball. Broken foot in 2017 cost him half a season. Played all of 2018.

2019 NFL Combine/Pro Day Measurables...

5'10.6"/190, 8.8" hands, 30.1" arms

4.55 40-time, 2.67 20-yard, 1.59 10-yard

4.18 shuttle, 6.93 three-cone (Pro Day times)

14 bench press, 36.5" vertical, 10'0" broad jump

The Historical CB Prospects to Whom Byron Murphy Most Compares Within Our System:

Well, well...hello, **Morris Claiborne**. Speaking of incredibly overrated cornerback prospects in their draft. Claiborne did become useful/OK about 3-4 years into his NFL time. Maybe the same happens with Murphy.

Murphy is not nothing...but there are so many other talented corners with better measurables, better tape, but they didn't happen to attend the defensive notorious (why, I don't know) University of Washington.



<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>
4.897	Murphy	Byron	2019	Washington	5	10.6	190	6.78	1.36	3.92	6.68
5.302	Claiborne	Morris	2012	LSU	5	11.1	188	6.67	-0.09	4.35	6.59
2.950	Russell	Keivarae	2016	Notre Dame	5	11.1	192	4.45	-4.27	6.25	8.42
3.647	Crawford	Xavier	2019	C. Michigan	5	10.7	187	5.28	-1.50	3.59	7.08
5.514	Coleman	Amari	2018	C. Michigan	5	10.5	183	8.01	-1.93	4.55	7.30
2.399	Peterson	Kevin	2016	Oklahoma St.	5	10.3	181	3.99	-5.22	2.89	6.35

**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.

