2022 Linebacker Camp Evaluations

Connor Payton

LB RANKINGS:

1. D. Davis
2. P. Werner
3. K. Elliss
4. Z. Baun
5. C. Hansen
6. E. Wilson
7. A. Dowell
8. **A**: N. Sewell
9. **B**: D. Jackson
10. I. Pryor

#56 DEMARIO DAVIS

HT: 6020V **WT:** 244 **SPD:** 4.48

AGE: 33.50   GRADE: **6.90**

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POSITION: MIKE

ATHLETICISM/TRAITS: Good athlete / average quickness / don't see 4.48 speed anymore, still not slow by any means. K&D is very good. Well-built / power in GOT and tackling. Leader of the defense / seems to be just average with pre-snap processing / communicating if someone is lined up wrong. Great instincts / FBI after the snap. Plays physical and confident.

RUN: Downhill thumper. Trusts his instincts and reacts fast. Average range / can struggle to be impactful downfield. Downhill speed is above average / great violence with lead blockers.

PASS: Disruptor at the TOR, FBI and instincts put him in good positions. Average range / ability to cover downfield. Below average in 1v1s / especially against speed. Average zone awareness but can close fast. Does well to play hands / cause incompletions. Below average ability to play the ball / generate turnovers. Above average as a pressure player / does well to disguise blitzes / stunts.

ONE LINER: Veteran LB who is leader of the room and the team. Above average A/A / average length / UOH, some SAQ stiffness with age. Plays with great intensity / passion. Smart player who trusts his instincts / K&D and comes downhill with power in the run game. Has lost some ability in man / downfield speed at 33, but is still a top Mike in the NFL and a very good starter for us.

RANK: #1 MIKE / #1 LB

#20 PETE WERNER

HT: 6027V **WT:** 235 **SPD:** 4.58

AGE: 24.17   GRADE: **6.70**

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POSITION: WILL

ATHLETICISM/TRAITS: Solid athlete / great active fee. Somewhat lean w/ lower body strength / long arms to GOT. High FBI and instincts / doesn't fall for eye-candy. Good range / physicality. Good motor / effort. Seems to be a quieter guy.

RUN: Solid at K&D / does well to GOT and get skinny when facing a lead blocker. Often gets to the spot before blockers can get hands on. Can sometimes be too quick to jump the gap / trust his first read too much. Solid angles in pursuit / good range. Has a good nose to find the ball / eyes in the backfield.

PASS: Does well in 1v1 / keeps his feet active. Just average at UOH / wins with athleticism / quickness. Shows some solid zone awareness but has some reps staring at the QB / drawn out of his zone. Average ball skills / average as a pressure player.

ONE LINER: A 2nd year player who is the clear #1 WILL. Above average A/A / Good frame and length. Very good instincts. Productive / finds the ball quick in the run game / physical and GOT ability. Does well to use zone awareness / SAQ / UOH and length in coverage. Upside to refine some of his bad habits regarding looking at the QB after he gets his hands on. A very good, young starter for us. Has missed some time with injuries at camp.

RANK: #1 WILL / #2 LB

#55 KADEN ELLISS

HT: 6022V **WT:** 237 **SPD:** 4.71

AGE: 27.00   GRADE: **5.90**

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POSITION: SAM, MIKE

ATHLETICISM/TRAITS: Has good flexibility, average lateral quickness. Average speed. Good frame / lower body strength. Below average communicator. Solid instincts / FBI and does well to get eyes in the backfield / K&D. Above average physicality / closing speed. Below average short area quickness / COD

RUN: Thumper downhill. Does a good job keeping eyes in the backfield. K&D's quickly in the run game. Takes on blocks well and has GOT ability. Just average mobility, but not a bad athlete by any means. Solid at setting the edge

PASS: Gets hands on early / looks at receivers rather than QB. Smart player in space. Can struggle against shiftier players in coverage. Needs to disrupt the route / get hands on to be successful in 1v1. Above average awareness in zone. Average ball skills. Average ability as a pressure player but has shown some flashes of strong / quick hands / ability to bend on the edge

ONE LINER: A physical / smart / instinctive player with average A/A / SAQ Average frame / arm length. Above average closing speed / physicality / motor / and use of angles. Above average against run / UOH / plays physical, below average in man coverage / average zone awareness. Seems to have pulled away as the clear starting SAM, while also showing some 3 down ability at MIKE with the 2s. Has emerged this camp as a low-level starter with positional flexibility.

RANK: #1 SAM / #2 MIKE / #3 LB

#53 ZACH BAUN

HT: 6023V **WT:** 256 **SPD:** 4.69

AGE: 25.58   GRADE: **5.30**

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POSITION: SAM

ATHLETICISM/TRAITS: Physical player who uses his solid strength / A/A to win at the POA and GOT. Average UOH. Average frame but above average as an athlete / power for position. Would like to see more overall intensity / violence. Seems to be in the right places, but is below average as a processor and not instinctive. Above average on SPT. Has missed the last 3 practices.

RUN: Solid at GOT, getting skinny with pullers and an overall above average player if the ball comes to him / he does not have to quickly K&D off the ball. Can close quickly in space. Physical at the POA

PASS: Does well to get hands on. Can offer some ability in pass rush as a sub rusher / blitzer. Below average zone awareness and in man coverage. Don't see much ball production.

ONE LINER: A strictly SAM / sub-rusher that is an average athlete / SAQ. Average frame / length. Physical / plays downhill. Can be hesitant / limited off the ball / when put in situations where he needs to quickly K&A / trust instincts. Average one-phase player on defense, but a strong Special Teams player that has missed some time so far throughout camp.

RANK: #2 SAM / #4 LB

#40 CHASE HANSEN

HT: 6027V **WT:** 235 **SPD:** 4.55

AGE: 29.17   GRADE: **5.20**

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POSITION: WILL, MIKE

ATHLETICISM/TRAITS: Solid long frame / moves well downfield. Below average lower body build. Has good speed / range. Solid FBI / communication. Average instincts and K&D speed. Below average physicality. Plays with an average motor.

RUN: Uses long arms / speed to shed and fill the gap. Does well to commit early, but can fall for eye-candy and run himself out of the play. Not a thumper. Below average physicality

PASS: Does well to get hands on and disrupt the route. Has the A/A to keep up downfield. Gets caught staring down the QB / has some reps where he is lost in zone coverage. Below average ball skills. Have not seen any disruptive pressure ability.

ONE LINER: A rangy / lengthy WILL with above average A/A and SAQ. Average size, bel av. arm length / lower build. Not a powerful player but can get downhill and close quickly in the run game. Needs to be better with GOT / ability to fill the right gap. Uses his mobility / instincts to K&D and length to stay engaged in coverage / average awareness in zone. Has flashed some above av. ball skills A depth backup who can fill in for WILL / MIKE if needed, don't see much effort to make an impact on SPT.

RANK: #2 WILL / #3 MIKE / #5 LB

#58 ERIC WILSON

HT: 6010V **WT:** 230 **SPD:** 4.53

AGE: 27.83   GRADE: **5.10**

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POSITION: WILL, MIKE

ATHLETICISM/TRAITS: Above Average A/A and SAQ. Above average instincts. Not a physical / downhill player. Below average overall strength / lower body mass. Has some length to him despite size.

RUN: Good K&D ability, instinctive. Below average GOT and physicality when shooting his gap. Struggles with taking the quickest / right angles in pursuit as a backside player. Below average effort in the run game

PASS: Good at keeping his eyes on receivers. Has a solid feel in zone, needs better UOH in man / 1v1. Below average as a blitzer / lacks the violence to stunt inside. Above average ball skills. Below average ability to disrupt as a rusher.

ONE LINER: A cover-first linebacker / above average A/A / below average size / arm length. Moves well downfield / has some SAQ. Below average power / strength at the POA to be an average every-down LB for us. A smart but somewhat soft LB who is a depth backup at WILL and reserve at MIKE. Will need to be more committed as a core SPT to earn a roster spot.

RANK: #3 WILL / #4 MIKE / #6 LB

#50 ANDREW DOWELL

HT: 6003V **WT:** 228 **SPD:** 4.64

AGE: 25.67   GRADE: **5.00**

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POSITION: WILL

ATHLETICISM/TRAITS: An undersized LB who plays with physicality / average instincts. Moves well in open space / SAQ. Does not waste any steps / seems to have above average FBI, might not be the quickest with K/D but is not afraid to be wrong.

RUN: Commits to his first read. Just average with play recognition / can fall for misdirections. Comes downhill with power. Average GOT ability / needs to use speed / SAQ to get to the spot first / shoot a gap to make impact plays. Somewhat soft at the POA / taking on pullers

PASS: Solid mobility / ability in 1v1. Below average in zone awareness / getting hands on and disrupting routes. Has shown some violence when coming downhill as a blitzer.

ONE LINER: <u>An overachiever / hustle player that is an average athlete, below average size / average length. Average SAQ / below average instinctive player. Has some intensity / violence to him / need to see it more consistently at POA against OL / need to see more violence when taking on blocks. Trusts his first read and does make decisions quickly / below av. zone awareness and man coverage ability. A backup WILL that is limited to just that spot, solid SPT player w/ effort.</u>

RANK: #4 WILL / #7 LB

#45 NEPHI SEWELL

HT: 5114V **WT:** 227 **SPD:** 4.64

AGE: 23.58   GRADE: **2.40**

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POSITION: WILL, MIKE

ATHLETICISM/TRAITS: An undersized WILL who has solid A/A and SAQ. Below average length / UOH and overall power. Below average instincts / often seems to hesitate before making a final decision in both R/P. Plays hard and is not afraid to get downhill / violent despite size.

RUN: A/A gives him great closing speed and ability to still be successful even when he is hesitant where the play is going. Not afraid to take on blockers / shoot the gap, but lacks the power to GOT. Needs to have better position when fitting up on blockers. Will need to see improvement on his decision making / positioning / trusting his first read. Has had some reps where he runs himself out of the play / position. Physical, but often out of control

PASS: Does well in 1v1 reps to stay with his man from his SAQ. WIll need to use hands more to be able to not just rely on A/A. Struggles to find receivers in zone / gets caught looking at the QB. Have not seen much regarding ball skills. Comes downhill hard in PR but lacks power to be an average disruptor

ONE LINER: <u>A young, undersized WILL or MIKE. Below average arm length. Above average A/A and SAQ. Below average K&D speed / instincts / GOT ability to be considered for an active roster position at this moment in camp. Physical / just lacks power / GOT. A solid Practice Squad prospect. Will need to improve his understanding of assignments / instincts / overall FBI to have a chance to compete for a backup LB position in the future. Has the physicality for MIKE / question if he has the size / power for it.</u>**RANK: #5A WILL / #5A MIKE / #8 LB**

#52 D'MARCO JACKSON

HT: 6006V **WT:** 229 **SPD:** 4.54

AGE: 24.00   GRADE: **2.40**

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POSITION: MIKE, WILL
ATHLETICISM/TRAITS: Above average athlete / SAQ. Average physicality / violence. Don't see a soft player, just a hesitant / thinking too much one. Average FBI and below average K&D. Has missed almost two weeks of camp, IR. Was showing some improvements with reaction time / assignments before injury
RUN: Rangy / athletic player who can put himself in good positions when he does not have to K&D / fall for eye-candy. Has some thumper to him, just needs to react quicker. Shown average ability to GOT / UOH, does well to close in space
PASS: Has 1v1 ability with A/A / SAQ. Below average zone awareness. Needs to get eyes off QB / get hands on receivers. Does have above UOH, but does not prioritize disrupting the route enough
ONE LINER: <u>Promising, young, athletic player who is a bit undersized but well built / good arm length for height. Was just starting to get a feel / figure it out before he went to IR. A thumper in the run game, average GOT, solid closing speed. Solid man coverage ability, below average zone awareness. A nice developmental IR stash with upside and ability at both MIKE and WILL. FBI might require to put him in one spot and keep him there.</u>
RANK: #5B MIKE / #5B WILL / #9 LB

#42 ISAIAH PRYOR

HT: 6011V **WT:** 217 **SPD:** 4.65

AGE: 24.67   GRADE: **2.30**

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POSITION: WILL, SAM
ATHLETICISM/TRAITS: Good arm length, below average lower body frame. Above average A/A / average SAQ. Plays with good intensity / but physicality is below average due to power.. Average instinctive player / below average K&D speed. Below average at GOT / POA.
RUN: Plays downhill / physical. Lacks ideal power / GOT ability. Out of position at SAM, struggles when play comes to him. Better at WILL with ability to come downhill / use A/A in space. Below average instinctively.
PASS: Does well to get hands on / use length. Not a major route disruptor. Average zone awareness. Has A/A to stay with guys downfield. Below average as a pressure player.
ONE LINER: <u>An above average athlete that has length and above average SAQ. Thin lower frame. Average instincts / Below average K&D speed to be an active roster player right now at WILL. Does well to use length / hands in man coverage. Average zone awareness Out of position at SAM / non-factor with GOT / pass rush. Has some traits that show upside ability / can improve understanding of defense / lower body strength.. Solid practice squad prospect.</u>
RANK: #6 WILL / #3 SAM / #10 LB