

ZACH CUNNINGHAM

VANDERBILT

Height: 6'3" Weight: 234 Arms: 34.5"

Combine:

40 yd Dash: 4.67

3 Cone: 7.03

20 yd Shuttle: 4.29

Vert: 35"

<u>Pros:</u>	<u>Cons:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good frame with long arms and room to grow - Agile defender who moves very well in space - Good pop to his game, quick twitch - Very adept at shedding blocks, good balance - Great at working through trash - Strong hands and a secure tackler - Traits of a very good coverage linebacker - Aggressive player with great instincts - Great makeup speed, plays faster than time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very thin lower body - Attacks the wrong shoulder on occasion - Doesn't have a lot of power behind hit - Most likely a WILL linebacker - Can get on the wrong side of play in a hurry - False steps forward in play read, too aggressive - Can take bad angles to the ball carrier - Tackles too high

Summary: Vanderbilt redshirt junior linebacker Zach Cunningham is the modern linebacker. Built like a safety, he runs around the field with explosion and tenacity. His play last season made him the first ever unanimous 1st team All-American in Vanderbilt history, was a Butkus award finalist, and finished with 125 tackles. He also tallied 16.5 tackles for loss and four fumble recoveries. Cunningham really only lacks adequate bulk and strength in his lower body to be a complete linebacker. At 6'3" 234 he's lithe looking for a linebacker and doesn't have a thick lower body, but he plays with better strength than his size indicates. He's hyper-aggressive and attacks downhills to make stops in the backfield and will probably play WILL (outside away from the tight end) in the NFL. Cunningham is incredibly explosive and tested very well at the combine. What he doesn't have in strength, he makes up for with long arms that he uses to shed blockers to get to the ball. He's hard to his and slides off blocks of slower blockers without losing too much speed. That aggressiveness can get him in trouble at times though. His first step is almost always forward instead of reading the play and then attacking. This can pull him out of position and makes him susceptible to play action fakes. Cunningham has the speed to make up for it though and his recovery ability is impressive. With all of his skills added up, Cunningham will be one of the top linebackers in the 2017 NFL Draft. He doesn't have the size, but he's got nearly everything else. Cunningham could even slide into the top 10 if teams shy away from Reuben Foster for character concerns.