

# O.J. HOWARD

ALABAMA

Height: 6'6"

Weight: 251

Arms: 33.75"

Combine:

40 yd Dash: 4.51

3 Cone: 6.58

20 yd Shuttle: 4.16

Vert: 30"

| <u>Pros:</u>   | <u>Cons:</u>  |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Great frame with above-average NFL size</li> <li>- High end receiver, great speed, runs like WR</li> <li>- Hands catcher who is a reliable target</li> <li>- Adequate blocker who has been schooled well</li> <li>- Agile player who can create separation</li> <li>- Great acceleration, can open it up downfield</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not a road grader as a blocker</li> <li>- Good No. 2 option in a passing attack not no 1</li> <li>- Not a precise route runner</li> <li>- Narrow base and wide hand when blocking</li> <li>- Doesn't always play up to potential</li> <li>- Production does not match skill level</li> </ul> |

Summary: O.J. Howard is one of the most exciting and yet puzzling prospect in the first round of the NFL Draft. Howard completed his senior season at Alabama as an AP All-American Third Teamer and 2<sup>nd</sup> team All-SEC. These were actually a disappointment seeing as he was named the College Football playoff MVP after his performance in the National Championship game vs Clemson the previous year. Howard finished the season with 45 receptions and nearly 600 yards, which was almost an exact duplicate to the previous year. Howard has incredible potential at 6'6", 250 pounds to be a complete tight end in the NFL. His blocking improved in 2016, and was asked to do more of it with a freshman quarterback at the helm. However, Howard does not play with the urgency that you would like to see from a player who could dominate if he wanted to. His routes are lazy and rounded at times, despite his ability to turn and run like a receiver. The Prattville, Alabama native has big, soft hands, and a great catch radius, but doesn't consistently separate to give an open target. Howard does have a knack for showing up in the biggest games, saving some of his best plays for the past two national championship games vs Clemson. Howard has the speed, acceleration and agility to dominate underneath as a pass catcher. He needs to play with a better base when blocking but he most likely won't be asked to be the in-line tight end on a regular basis in the NFL. Howard has all-pro potential and any team in need of a dynamic pass catching tight end should take a look at Howard in the first round. Could be one of the best offensive weapons in this draft when it's said and done.