THOMAS FRANK CARR'S SCOUTING REPORTS

Da'Ron Payne

Alabama

HEIGHT: 6'2" **WEIGHT:** 311 **ARMS:** 33"

COMBINE: **40 YD DASH:** 4.95 **3 CONE:** 7.58 **20 YD SHUTTLE:** 4.71 **VERT:** 28.5"

PROS

- Explosive prototype 3 technique DT
- Violent hands that jolt linemen
- NFL ready body, part of Bama machine
- Strong enough to take on some double teams
- Sheds blocks very well to get to QB
- Good job pass rushing and attacking up middle
- Judo hands that keep his clean through trash
- Doesn't just attack, disengages and makes play

CONS

- Looks very stiff in stance, hips rolled under
- Pops up and doesn't play with good pad level
- Long arms for frame, but still short for DT

SUMMARY

Da'Ron Payne may not be the most physically talented defensive lineman to come out of Alabama in the unprecedented run for the Crimson Tide, but Payne is no slouch. He's a bit short for a defensive tackle and he seems to have some stiffness that limits his ability to keep his pads low, but he makes up for it easily with a great get-off at the line of scrimmage and impressive strength. Payne was a one year starter for Alabama, but played consistently since his true freshman season, totaling 102 tackles, five tackles for loss and three sacks in three seasons. Payne has the lower body strength and mass to be a complete tackle in the NFL, with a great anchor and violent hands to win initial contact. He can also penetrate off the snap and knife into the backfield to blow up running lanes. Payne also does a great job of not only gaining position, but using his hands to disengage and purse the ball. Payne also shows a mature pass rushing game where he uses his quick hand and feet to shed blocks and collapse the pocket. The biggest red flag for Payne is that he seems very stiff around his waist. He pops up out of his stance and opens his chest up and gives up control of the down. Payne simply overpower linemen at this point to compensate, which he will not be able to do at the next level. Pad level and overall length are his biggest issues. Despite those shortcomings, he's highly productive and has the profile of an excellent three-technique defensive tackle in the NFL. Should be an early pick in the first round.