



Denzel Ward

Ohio State

HEIGHT: 5'11"**WEIGHT:** 183**ARMS:** 31"**COMBINE:****40 YD DASH:** 4.32**3 CONE:** DNP**20 YD SHUTTLE:** DNP**VERT:** 39"

PROS

- Feet like lightning
- Super flexible athlete with sooth hips
- Fast enough to cover anyone, great agility
- Improved leaps and bounds over last season
- Great body control
- Willing tackler who will rally and hit
- Can mirror anyone in coverage

CONS

- Small even by college standards
- Short arms and short fame limit matchups
- A bit grabby at the top of routes
- Willing, but not great tackler
- Won't be able to jam very well at line
- Needs to improve driving to ball out of zone

SUMMARY

Junior corner Denzel Ward is yet another in a long line of defensive backs to declare early from Ohio State. The former buckeye started the past two seasons for the Buckeyes, but became the primary cover man this seasons and tallied 15 pass breakups and two interceptions. Ward has all the speed and athletic gifts in the world. He's fast in the short area, has great deep speed, and can turn and run anywhere without losing speed. Ward can mirror any receiver and is in the area on just about every throw that comes his way. While he's not the biggest corner, he is a willing tackler who will throw his body around to make a play if he has to. He has the right mentality in run support and does just about all you can ask for from a player who play around 180 pounds. That is the issue though. Ward is not big or long. He lacks great arm length on his small frame and doesn't carry a lot of weight. He can be dominated by size at times if the receiver knows how to use his body to box out small corners. He plays small as well, not using all of his vertical ability at times and avoiding contact when possible. He won't be able to jam receivers at the line of scrimmage and doesn't have the physical profile to cover anyone who comes his way. Despite that, he's an excellent man coverage player who is only getting better. He showed better ball instincts and did a better job turning around and locating the ball towards the end of the season, which he struggled with at the beginning of the season. Ward didn't spend a lot of time in zone coverage but has the closing burst to be a good corner as long as his route recognition continues to progress. He's not a Top 10 corner, but there isn't a truly dominant well-rounded player in this draft. He'll be the first corner off the board to a team that values speed and man coverage skills.