



# Derwin James

## Florida State

**HEIGHT:** 6'2"

**WEIGHT:** 215

**ARMS:** 33"

**COMBINE:**

**40 YD DASH:** 4.47

**3 CONE:** DNP

**20 YD SHUTTLE:** DNP

**VERT:** 40"

### PROS

- Nearly complete package physically
- Great size, speed, height, weight
- Hard hitter, intimidator
- Good open field tackler, strong box presence
- Strong blitzzer, gets hands in passing lanes too
- Flashes ability to take ball away in coverage
- Fills lane in running game consistently

### CONS

- Some hip stiffness that limits man coverage skill
- Overall flexibility is average, muscle-bound
- Reaction in coverage can be slow
- Doesn't always burst out of break downhill
- Zone instincts are developing
- Pursuit angles are inconsistent, catch tackler

## SUMMARY

There has been a lot of hype around Florida State safety Derwin James in this three years at Tallahassee. After a stellar freshman season, James tore a ligament in his knee and redshirted his true sophomore year. This past season, James returned, heavier and bulkier than he was when he last played in 2015. While he was stronger and more intimidating, he also had less ease of movement in his body. He still finished with 84 tackles, five and a half for a loss, two interceptions, 11 passes defensed and a defensive touchdown. James presents as the total package, big strong, fast and with the ability to play around the line of scrimmage. He has explosive leaping ability and before his injury, had a freedom of movement in deep coverage. James also adds blitzing capabilities and a knack for getting his hands into passing lanes if he doesn't get to the quarterback. The Haines City, FL native is a good tackler in the open field, and pursues from deep to fill the lane in the running game. The biggest red flag though is his lack of flexibility. James looked very stiff this past season and muscle-bound to the point of inhibiting his coverage skills. He doesn't have the hip flexibility to cover the slot receiver in man coverage, and has hip stiffness that doesn't allow him to explode out of his transitions when changing directions. The hope is that James is still returning to his form from 2015 and that he will regain the athleticism he showed as a freshman. If not, he's an in-the-box safety who struggles to get low enough to lay the lumber on running backs when attacking in the flat. Still, his size, speed and overall athleticism will have him selected at some point in the first round.