



# Sam Darnold

## USC

**HEIGHT:** 6'3"

**WEIGHT:** 221

**ARMS:** 32.5"

**COMBINE:**

**40 YD DASH:** 4.85

**3 CONE:** 6.96

**20 YD SHUTTLE:** 4.40

**VERT:** 26.5"

### PROS

- Mobile in the pocket, great scrambler, agile
- Can throw with touch and power
- Accurate from any platform
- Quick release and decisive most of the time
- Jaw-dropping passes under pressure
- Nearly always keeps his eyes downfield
- Shows ability to throw with anticipation
- Reads defense well and gets to 2<sup>nd</sup> option

### CONS

- Windup has wasted motion
- Turnover prone when trying to do too much
- Tries to make every play
- Throws off back foot and ball sails high at times
- Can get caught in no mans land with balance
- Footwork can be downright ugly at times
- Over-strides into most throws

## SUMMARY

Sam Darnold is not the quarterback that scouts wanted him to be after his redshirt freshman year. There are warts to his game that are masked by unbelievable throws, but there is still an undeniable amount of talent with the California native. Darnold was elected as a team captain in his second year starting for the Trojans and finished his short stint as the starter with 64 combined touchdowns and 7,500 yards from scrimmage. While he's a good scrambler, Darnold is an average athlete without a lot of lower body power or explosion. He's an average height and doesn't wow you with his physical appearance. As a passer, Darnold is one of the most gifted quarterbacks in recent memory. He has an uncanny ability to throw from any platform with accuracy, touch and power, which is his calling card. He makes great throws under pressure and shows an ability to get through his progressions to a second option and throw with anticipation. Darnold has a beautiful deep ball that he can throw with power or touch as well. Despite having a street ball style mentality, Darnold shows the mental ability to and decisiveness to make plays in the confines of the offense, which is key in the NFL. Despite being under pressure frequently, Darnold has an ability to keep his eyes downfield and find the open receiver whether he's rolling out, or adjusting in the pocket. All of these things are franchise quarterback level traits that make him appealing. There are some obvious flaws though. Darnold tries to do too much when pressed at times. This leads to interceptions and fumbles which increased this past season when his supporting cast wasn't as talented. He also has downright ugly footwork. Darnold over strides a lot of throws and doesn't have a natural hip snap into his delivery. He will throw off any platform, which is fine, until he throws high and late, which leads to interceptions. Darnold's throwing motion is also a bit big, but he compensates with a fast delivery of the football. As he is still young and only a two year starter, Darnold has yet to learn the nuances of the position. He doesn't consistently throw receivers open, nor does he always play with great poise. His feet panic in the pocket under pressure, which leads to errant throws. The former Trojan also does not use his eyes very well to fool the defense, and still stares down his primary target. Despite all of this he's still very accurate. His talents far outweigh his shortcomings and while he's not the next Andrew Luck, which many expected after his freshman year, he's still a quarterback with an incredibly high ceiling and should be the first taken in this year's draft.