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DRAFT DETAILS



On the clock: [Texans](#)



On deck: [Saints](#)

Best available players still on the board

Quarterbacks

1. [M. Leinart, USC](#)
2. [V. Young*, Texas](#)
3. [J. Cutler, Vandy](#)
4. [B. Croyle, Alabama](#)
5. [C. Whitehurst, Clemson](#)

Running backs

1. [R. Bush*, USC](#)
2. [L. Maroney*, Minnesota](#)
3. [D. Williams, Memphis](#)
4. [L. White*, USC](#)
5. [J. Addai, LSU](#)

Fullbacks

1. [G. Mills, Tulsa](#)
2. [M. Bernstein, Wis.](#)
3. [G. Harris, Arizona](#)
4. [L. Vickers, Colorado](#)
5. [N. Tahi, BYU](#)

Wide receivers

1. [C. Jackson*, Florida](#)
2. [S. Holmes*, Ohio St.](#)
3. [S. Moss, Miami \(FL\)](#)
4. [D. Hagan, Arizona St.](#)
5. [M. Stovall, Notre Dame](#)

Tight ends

1. [V. Davis*, Maryland](#)
2. [M. Lewis, UCLA](#)
3. [J. Klopfenstein, Colorado](#)
4. [T. Scheffler, W. Michigan](#)
5. [L. Pope*, Georgia](#)

Centers

1. [N. Mangold, Ohio St.](#)
2. [G. Eslinger, Minnesota](#)
3. [R. Cook, New Mex.](#)
4. [P. Ross, Boston Coll.](#)
5. [J. Spitz, Louisville](#)

Guards

1. [D. Joseph, Oklahoma](#)
2. [M. Jean-Gilles, Georgia](#)
3. [T. Lutui, USC](#)
4. [C. Spencer, Pitt](#)
5. [F. Matua*, USC](#)

Offensive tackles

1. [D. Ferguson, Va.](#)
2. [W. Justice*, USC](#)
3. [E. Winston, Miami \(FL\)](#)
4. [A. Whitworth, LSU](#)
5. [M. McNeill, Auburn](#)

Darryl Blackstock

[OLB, Virginia](#)

War Room analysis

His third-round drop to the Cardinals was one of Day 1's great mysteries. What kept him from being drafted earlier, medical or character issues? Blackstock has first-round tools and produced that way in college. With his great hustle and versatility, he will develop into an impact defender over time.

PRE-DRAFT ANALYSISVs. inside run:

Must add bulk and lower-body strength. Is at his best when on the move. Lacks recognition skills. Must do a better job using his hands to keep separation and to disengage. **Grade:** 6.3.

Vs. outside run: Can be very disruptive. Is athletic with good change-of-direction skills. Finds the ball quickly and will chase. Is intense but doesn't take himself out of plays. Will contain and won't get exposed on cutback or reverse plays. **Grade:** 6.8.

Blitz/coverage: Greatest strength is rushing the passer. Has very good initial quickness. Explodes out of his stance and beats most offensive tackles off the snap. Has good speed to turn the corner and excellent closing burst when rushing the passer. **Grade:** 7.9.

Run/pass recognition: Has excellent recognition skills. Rarely takes poor angles or getting out of position. Plays with discipline. Will do a great job of sealing off the backside and rarely will get caught over-pursuing. **Grade:** 8.0.

Pursuit/tackling: Is explosive in pursuit. Is at his best when turned loose to rush the quarterback or pursue the run in space. Plays with intensity and never gives up on a play. Will make plays from behind. **Grade:** 8.5.

Bottom line: Blackstock has limitations in terms of his experience and fluidity in coverage, but he finished his college career with decent statistics. He must continue to improve his overall technique against the run. He is slightly outside the elite outside linebackers but very capable of starting from Day 1 in his NFL career. He is one of few linebacker candidates you can evaluate in a 3-4 defense. Expect him to be off the board in the first round.

DRAFTED! [Arizona Cardinals](#)

Round [3](#), Pick 31



Albert Dickson/TSN

Overall grade: 7.5
[Position rank:](#) 2
[Blitz/coverage:](#) 6
[Pursuit/tackling:](#) 5
[Run/pass recognition:](#) 3
[Versus inside run:](#) 2
[Versus outside run:](#) 2
 NFL comparison:
 Rosevelt Colvin, Patriots

SUPER 99
20

DARRYL BLACKSTOCK MEASURABLES

Height: 6-2 1/2	Weight: 238
40-yard dash: 4.60	10-yard dash: 1.64
20-yard shuttle: 4.29	60-yard shuttle: 11.50
Broad jump: 10-6	225-lb. bench: 25
3-cone drill: 7.05	Vertical jump: 39
Wonderlic: 16	20-yard dash: 2.71



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Defensive tackles

1. [H. Ngata*](#), [Oregon](#)
2. [B. Bunkley](#), [Florida St.](#)
3. [G. Watson](#), [Michigan](#)
4. [J. McCargo*](#), [NC State](#)
5. [D. Dvoracek](#), [Oklahoma](#)

Defensive ends

1. [M. Williams*](#), [NC State](#)
2. [M. Kiwanuka](#), [Boston Coll.](#)
3. [T. Halij](#), [Penn State](#)
4. [D. Tapp](#), [Va. Tech](#)
5. [M. Anderson](#), [Alabama](#)

Inside linebackers

1. [D. Jackson](#), [Maryland](#)
2. [A. Hodge](#), [Iowa](#)
3. [D. Robinson](#), [Arizona St.](#)
4. [T. Dobbins](#), [Iowa St.](#)
5. [K. Parham*](#), [Va.](#)

Outside linebackers

1. [A. Hawk](#), [Ohio St.](#)
2. [M. Lawson](#), [NC State](#)
3. [K. Wimbley](#), [Florida St.](#)
4. [C. Greenway](#), [Iowa](#)
5. [E. Sims*](#), [Florida St.](#)

Cornerbacks

1. [T. Hill](#), [Clemson](#)
2. [A. Cromartie*](#), [Florida St.](#)
3. [J. Williams](#), [Va. Tech](#)
4. [J. Joseph*](#), [S. Carolina](#)
5. [A. Youboty*](#), [Ohio St.](#)

Safeties

1. [M. Huff](#), [Texas](#)
2. [J. Allen](#), [Tennessee](#)
3. [D. Whitner*](#), [Ohio St.](#)
4. [K. Simpson*](#), [S. Carolina](#)
5. [D. Bing*](#), [USC](#)

Kickers

1. [J. Scifres](#), [SMS](#)
2. [J. Huston](#), [Ohio St.](#)
3. [S. Gostkowski](#), [Memphis](#)
4. [D. Yaussi](#), [Wyo.](#)
5. [C. Hughes](#), [Va.](#)

Punters

1. [S. Weatherford](#), [Illinois](#)
2. [S. Paulescu](#), [Oregon St.](#)
3. [J. Torp](#), [Colorado](#)
4. [D. Lonie](#), [Cal](#)
5. [R. Plackemeier](#), [Wake For.](#)

* - underclassman

Dan Pompei analysis

Probably would be best as a 3-4 outside linebacker. Also could be a strongside defen on a 4-3 on first and second down and then a designated pass ru er on nickel downs. Has speed off the edge and good pass-rush ability. Can run and cover to a degree. Lacks ideal short-area quickness. Needs to improve at shedding blocks. Could play harder. **[No. 7 on Pompei's OLB rankings](#)**

Correspondent Analysis

The Cardinals used their best-available-player theory to take Blackstock. He was expected to be taken higher. He left school a year early, and the rap on him in college was that he didn't improve that much in his final two years. Still, he has good athletic ability, and the Cardinals needed an outside linebacker after cutting Raynoch Thompson and LeVar Woods earlier this month.

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