

# DEFENSIVE TACKLE RANKINGS

## DEFENSIVE TACKLES

Rk	Name	College	HT	WT	40 Time	Proj. Rd
1	<b>Ndamukong Suh (DE)</b>	<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>6'4</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>5.05</b>	<b>1</b>
2	<b>Gerald McCoy</b>	<b>Oklahoma</b>	<b>6'4</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>5.05</b>	<b>1</b>
3	<b>Jared Odrick</b>	<b>Penn State</b>	<b>6'5</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>1</b>
4	<b>Brian Price</b>	<b>UCLA</b>	<b>6'2</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>5.05</b>	<b>1-2</b>
5	<b>Cam Thomas (NT)</b>	<b>North Carolina</b>	<b>6'4</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>5.20</b>	<b>2</b>
6	<b>Dan Williams (NT)</b>	<b>Tennessee</b>	<b>6'2</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>5.20</b>	<b>2</b>
7	<b>Mike Neal (DE)</b>	<b>Purdue</b>	<b>6'3</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>2-3</b>
8	<b>Tyson Alualu (DE)</b>	<b>California</b>	<b>6'2</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>2-3</b>
9	<b>Terrance Cody (NT)</b>	<b>Alabama</b>	<b>6'4</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>5.65</b>	<b>2-3</b>
10	<b>Geno Atkins</b>	<b>Georgia</b>	<b>6'1</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>4.94</b>	<b>3</b>
11	<b>Lamarr Houston</b>	<b>Texas</b>	<b>6'3</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>4.95</b>	<b>3</b>
12	<b>Jeffrey Owens</b>	<b>Georgia</b>	<b>6'1</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>4.99</b>	<b>4-5</b>
13	<b>Linval Joseph</b>	<b>East Carolina</b>	<b>6'6</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>5.09</b>	<b>4-5</b>
14	<b>Torell Troup (NT)</b>	<b>Central Florida</b>	<b>6'2</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>5.30</b>	<b>4-5</b>
15	<b>D'Anthony Smith (NT)</b>	<b>Louisiana Tech</b>	<b>6'2</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>4.90</b>	<b>5</b>
16	<b>Earl Mitchell</b>	<b>Arizona</b>	<b>6'1</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>4.94</b>	<b>5-6</b>
17	<b>Sean Lissemore</b>	<b>William &amp; Mary</b>	<b>6'4</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>4.85</b>	<b>5-6</b>
18	<b>Nate Collins</b>	<b>Virginia</b>	<b>6'2</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>5.05</b>	<b>5-7</b>
19	<b>Al Woods</b>	<b>LSU</b>	<b>6'4</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>5.36</b>	<b>5-6</b>
20	<b>Corey Peters (NT)</b>	<b>Kentucky</b>	<b>6'3</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>4.95</b>	<b>6-7</b>

**#1** Ndamukong Suh  
**Nebraska**  
**Height: 6'4 • Weight: 305**  
**40 Time: 5.05**

### CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Tkls	Sks	Tfl	Pbu	Int
2005	1	0	0	0	0
2006	19	3.5	4.5	0	1
2007	34	1	5	2	0
2008	76	7.5	11.5	3	2
2009	85	12	12	10	1
<b>TTLS</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>

**Strengths:** Very productive against the run with good playing strength and does a good job of shedding blocks. Flashes strength to disrupt plays in the backfield. High motor. Tough to move. Good awareness in the backfield. Excellent footwork moving down the line on stretch plays. Good initial quickness off the snap.

**Weaknesses:** Comes off the ball too high at times losing his anchor. Other than consistency in his technique and continuing to develop pass rush moves there are not many negatives here.

**Overall:** Suh is one of the best tackles to come out in recent memory and it showed with his speed, quickness, and production throughout the 2009 season. His athletic ability also allows him to possibly play in the 3-4 or 4-3. Expect him to come off the board in the top 3 picks and be an instant Pro Bowler in the NFL.

# DEFENSIVE TACKLE RANKINGS

## #2

Gerald McCoy

Oklahoma

Height: 6'4 • Weight: 298

40 Time: 5.06

### CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Tkls	Sks	Tfl	Pbu	Int
2006		Redshirted			
2007	19	2	4.5	0	0
2008	30	6.5	4.5	2	1
2009	34	6	9.5	2	0
TTL	83	14.5	18.5	4	1

**Strengths:** Has great size and power. Shocks with his punch and jolts defenders. Good use of hands. Plays hard with a very good motor. Great balance and quick to shed blocks. Wears down opponents with his tenacity.

**Weaknesses:** Not much along weaknesses here except that double teams wash him down the line sometimes. Needs to be more consistent with leverage and technique.

**Overall:** McCoy's quickness, strength, and ability to blow up plays in the backfield make him a potential Pro Bowl player. He has great upside and his instincts will allow him to be a strong force while he still develops his technique. Expect him to come off the board in the top five picks.

## #3

Jared Odrick

Penn State

Height: 6'5 • Weight: 304

40 Time: 5.03

### CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Tkls	Sks	Tfl	Pbu	Int
2006	4	0	0	0	0
2007	16	2	2	1	0
2008	41	4.5	5	3	0
2009	43	7	4	1	0
TTL	104	13.5	11	5	0



**Strengths:** Great size for the position and great athlete for his size. Good hip flexibility. Strong moves. Attracts a lot of double teams. Good motor. Flattens the line and makes plays on the perimeter. Good tackler. Hard worker. Tough kid that plays through injuries. Good quickness and pop off the snap.

**Weaknesses:** Struggles to hold at the point of attack. Needs to get stronger in the lower body. Struggles to consistently break down in space due to his height. Needs to be more aware of protecting his knees when cut blocked.

**Overall:** Earned All-American honors in 2009 after totaling 43 tackles and 11 sacks in his best year of his career. Could be a three-technique in a 4-3 defense. Likely a top 50 selection.

# DEFENSIVE TACKLE RANKINGS

## #4

**Brian Price**

**UCLA**

**Height: 6'2 • Weight: 300**

**40 Time: 5.05**

### CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Tkls	Sks	Tfl	Pbu	Int
2007	14	1	6	1	0
2008	35	4.5	9.5	1	1
2009	48	7	16.5	1	0
TTLS	97	12.5	32	3	1



**Strengths:** Highly productive player with a quick initial burst and good speed. Tough to move off the line of scrimmage. Creates a pile in the middle and can make plays without making a tackle. Anchors well against double teams. Very explosive.

**Weaknesses:** Lacks ideal height for the position. Dumpy-looking physique. Needs to lose weight. Often wears down and plays down to the level of competition. Lacks the strength to hold at the point of attack.

**Overall:** Three-time All-Pac 10 selection that has first round talent but concerns over his size could see him slip to the 2nd or 3rd round. However, his ability to wreak havoc could have some suitors looking at him in the later portion of round one.

## #5

**Cam Thompson**

**North Carolina**

**Height: 6'4 • Weight: 331**

**40 Time: 5.2**

### CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Tkls	Sks	Tfl	Pbu	Int
2005					
		Redshirted			
2006	18	1.5	0	0	0
2007	8	1	0.5	0	0
2008	34	1	2.5	0	0
2009	23	0	2.5	0	0
TTLS	83	3.5	5.5	0	0

**Strengths:** Very strong kid that rarely gets knocked off the ball. Able to split double teams. Thick lower body and good use of leverage to anchor inside and create a pile. Has the strength to drive blockers into the pocket.

**Weaknesses:** Must improve his use of hands and add more moves to his repertoire. Lacks the body control or technique to wrap up in the open field. Marginal stat production.

**Overall:** Had just 23 tackles and 2.5 tfl in 2009, but his talent suggests that he could potentially be a highly productive player. Athletic player that has added to his value since the Senior Bowl. Likely a nose guard in a 3-4 defense. Should come off the board in the 2nd or 3rd round.

# DEFENSIVE TACKLE RANKINGS

## #6

**Dan Williams**

Tennessee

Height: 6'2 • Weight: 329

40 Time: 5.2



### CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Tkls	Sks	Tfl	Pbu	Int
2005		Redshirted			
2006	2	1	0	0	0
2007	40	2	4.5	0	0
2008	48	1.5	7	1	0
2009	70	2.5	6.5	0	0
<b>TTLS</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

**Strengths:** Big body that moves well and is light on his feet for his size. Very active reading screens and chasing. Locates the ball quickly. Good initial burst off the snap. Very strong. Good use of hands and upper body strength.

**Weaknesses:** Lacks the upper body strength and needs to work on using his hands to shed blocks as he sometimes stays tied up in them too long. Gets worn down late in games. Must work on conditioning. Concerns over weight fluctuation.

**Overall:** Would likely be a first round pick if not for the depth at this position but his production as a senior (70 tkl, 6.5 tfl and 3.5 sks) and his size likely won't allow him to fall past the second round.

## #7

**Mike Neal**

Purdue

Height: 6'3 • Weight: 293

40 Time: 5.0



### CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Tkls	Sks	Tfl	Pbu	Int
2005		Redshirted			
2006	9	0	1	1	0
2007	22	2	1.5	1	0
2008	33	5.5	4.5	0	0
2009	35	5.5	6	0	0
<b>TTLS</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>

**Strengths:** Great strength, well put together, and moves well. Holds his ground. Has good closing speed. Good lateral movement to sidestep into the gap after the snap. One of the strongest players in the draft shown with his 31 reps at the combine.

**Weaknesses:** Injury concerns are a major red flag. Inconsistent motor and effort. Plays lazy at times. Questionable mental toughness. Gets stood up and knocked off the ball and washed against double teams.

**Overall:** Neal had a breakout junior campaign and then followed it up with a productive All-Big Ten performance as a senior with 35 tackles, 6 tfl, and 5.5 sacks. His injury history is a concern and could see him drop on draft day but if healthy he is a top 100 selection.

# DEFENSIVE TACKLE RANKINGS

## #8

**Tyson Alualu**  
California

Height: 6'2 • Weight: 291  
40 Time: 5.00



### CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Tkls	Sks	Tfl	Pbu	Int
2005	Did Not Enroll				
2006	16	0	0	0	0
2007	52	2.5	1	1	1
2008	62	6	5	2	0
2009	65	7.5	4	3	0
<b>TTLS</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>

**Strengths:** Had an impressive combine showing adequate strength (24 reps), good change of direction (7.15 3-cone, 4.28 short shuttle), and explosion (9'8 broad jump). Shows good striking ability and plays with natural leverage. Also shows a good motor and runs to the ball.

**Weaknesses:** Lacks elite lower body explosion and quick twitch. Needs to develop more counter moves. His spin move is slow to develop. Lacks the flexibility coaches look for to break down in space.

**Overall:** Three-year starter that had a highly productive senior season with 65 tackles and 7.5 sacks. Mostly played the five technique at Cal, but is most likely going to play in a 4-3 defense as a three technique. Likely going in the top 100 selections.

## #9

**Terrance Cody**  
Alabama

Height: 6'4 • Weight: 370  
40 Time: 5.65



### CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Tkls	Sks	Tfl	Pbu	Int
2007	Juco				
2008	24	0.5	4	0	0
2009	28	0	6	1	0
<b>TTLS</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

**Strengths:** Big bodied plugger with rare size and long arms. Gets a good push into the backfield. Rarely moved off the line of scrimmage. Best in short-yardage situations. Good on special teams because he can knock the long snapper back and create havoc.

**Weaknesses:** Not as strong in the bench press (22 reps) as expected. Has weight concerns despite showing that he can lose some weight since the season. Many teams are worried he will gain back the weight before training camp. Marginal closing speed and no pass rush moves. Must develop better technique and work on shedding blocks.

**Overall:** Cody transferred from Mississippi Gulf Coast Junior College and has been a dominant force over the last two years. His girth makes him almost impossible to move and an ideal clogger in a 3-4 defense. A 3-4 team is likely to take a chance on him in the 2nd or 3rd round.

# DEFENSIVE TACKLE RANKINGS

## #10

Geno Atkins

Georgia

Height: 6'1 • Weight: 286

40 Time: 4.94

### CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Tkls	Sks	Tfl	Pbu	Int
2006	9	0.5	0	0	0
2007	41	7.5	7	1	0
2008	34	0	7.5	1	0
2009	36	3	7.5	0	0
TTLS	120	11	22	2	0



**Strengths:** Atkins is quick, agile, and plays with good initial explosion off the snap. He can split the gap and disrupt the play. Shows a good bull rush. Moves very well for his size.

**Weaknesses:** Most of his weaknesses have to do with his size as he is undersized, has short arms, and lacks ideal bulk. Can struggle to shed blocks once blockers get their hands on him. Needs to work on conditioning.

**Overall:** Had a solid senior season with 36 tackles, 7.5 tfl and 3 sacks and followed that up with an impressive week at the Senior Bowl. His quickness and agility make him an ideal 3rd round prospect to take a chance on and develop into a starter.

## #11

Lamarr Houston

Texas

Height: 6'3 • Weight: 302

40 Time: 4.95

### CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Tkls	Sks	Tfl	Pbu	Int
2006	14	1	1	0	0
2007	66	4.5	7.5	4	0
2008	22	1.5	5.5	5	0
2009	68	8	14	4	0
TTLS	170	15	28	13	0

**Strengths:** Very agile for a 300-plus pounder with a good motor. He is quick and active and makes a lot of plays on hustle and effort between the tackles. Has long arms with strong hands and good upper body strength (30 reps).

**Weaknesses:** Lacks elite first-step quickness and can be washed down by double teams. Too easily walled off and controlled if he does not win the battle with quickness. Not an explosive tackler.

**Overall:** Houston was up and down during his career but put it all together as a senior with 68 tackles, 14 tfl and 8 sacks. His performance at the Senior Bowl also helped his stock. Because the tackle class is deep he could possibly slip past the second round but would be a bargain at any point after the top 50 selections.

# DEFENSIVE TACKLE RANKINGS

## #12

Jeffrey Owens

Georgia

Height: 6'1 • Weight: 304

40 Time: 4.99

**Strengths:** Can hold the point of attack and flashes the ability to defeat double teams. Good natural upper body strength and when playing with good pad level is able to anchor vs tandem blocks.

**Weaknesses:** Needs to work on pass rush technique and has injury concerns due to a torn ACL in 2008. Marginal athlete that does not redirect well and has been characterized as lazy and an underachiever.

**Overall:** His medical history could make it hard for him to be taken in the top 100 picks like he would have been before his ACL injury. He lacks the size and athletic ability to be taken early on but should land in the mid rounds.

### CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Tkls	Sks	Tfl	Pbu	Int
2005	16	2.5	0.5	3	0
2006	26	1	0.5	3	0
2007	27	0	4	0	0
2008	1	0	0.5	0	0
2009	32	1.5	2.5	0	0
TTLS	102	5	8	6	0

## #13

Linval Joseph

East Carolina

Height: 6'6 • Weight: 322

40 Time: 5.09

**Strengths:** Has the size of a nose guard but plays like an ideal three technique. Athletic and strong with good body length. He flashes the ability to anchor against the double team. Has good character and is a player who has upside, which he showed during his career by improving each season.

**Weaknesses:** Very raw player that must play with more consistent leverage and hand use. Also needs to work on taking on cut blocks and is a player that does not deliver much pop to his opponent with his hands. Doesn't play as strong as you would expect.

**Overall:** : Joseph didn't do much his first two years but had a terrific junior season with 60 tackles, 10 tfl and three sacks. He could have really moved up the board with one more year of development but has potential to be a starter over time. Likely a mid round selection that will take a couple of years before he is ready to contribute as a starter.

### CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Tkls	Sks	Tfl	Pbu	Int
2007	40	1	7.5	0	0
2008	43	2.5	5.5	1	0
2009	60	3	10	1	0
TTLS	143	6.5	23	2	0

## #14

Torell Troup

UCF

Height: 6'2 • Weight: 310

40 Time: 5.3

**Strengths:** Very strong upper body. Tough to move off the line and can hold the point against double teams. Good bull rusher who can push a single block to collapse the pocket using leverage. Able to rip off blocks as well as punch or swim over the top. Quick and powerful off the snap. Good balance after initial contact.

**Weaknesses:** Limited burst and needs to work on disengaging from blockers. Has limited lateral agility and marginal pass-rush ability. Must be meaner and improve on avoiding and recovering from cut blocks.

**Overall:** His size, strength, and motor are something that will attract teams in the mid rounds and could potentially become a starter with time. Likely 3rd-5th round selection.

### CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Tkls	Sks	Tfl	Pbu	Int
2006	2	0	0	0	0
2007	19	2	4.5	0	0
2008	52	2	10.5	2	0
2009	35	2	3	4	0
TTLS	108	6	18	6	0

# DEFENSIVE TACKLE RANKINGS

## #15

D'Anthony Smith

Louisiana Tech

Height: 6'2 • Weight: 300

40 Time: 4.9



### CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Tkls	Sks	Tfl	Pbu	Int
2006	38	0.5	3	1	1
2007	42	3	3.5	0	0
2008	65	5	3	3	0
2009	51	3.5	2	0	0
TTLS	196	12	11.5	4	1

**Strengths:** Good athlete with good quickness to pressure the pocket and has flexible hips. He stays on his feet through traffic and is a versatile athlete that has lined up at every position. Been very durable as he has not missed any time to injury. Has active feet and good lateral agility.

**Weaknesses:** Needs to add more pass rush moves and some question the level of competition he has faced in the WAC. Lacks functional strength to anchor against the double teams. Uses too much finesse. Also needs to work on shedding blocks quicker.

**Overall:** Many expected him to post impressive numbers at the combine, but he chose not to workout. His stock has dropped some this postseason as many considered him a likely top 75 selection at one point but he appears to be a mid round prospect now.

## #16

Earl Mitchell

Arizona

Height: 6'1 • Weight: 289

40 Time: 4.94



### CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Tkls	Sks	Tfl	Pbu	Int
2006					
2007					
2008	40	1.5	4	1	0
2009	48	6.5	6	1	0
TTLS	88	8	10	2	0

**Strengths:** Quick, active hands. Has a burst to close and flashes some pop when given space to gain momentum. Gives good effort. Could contribute on both sides of the ball.

**Weaknesses:** Lacks ideal size. Relies too much on a marginally effective bull rush and gets tired too quickly. Likely never going to be a run stuffer so he would be a two down player. Struggles to change directions and is too often eluded for someone his size.

**Overall:** A former fullback who has good athletic ability and moves very well for his size. His performance at the East-West Shrine Game helped his stock as he showed that he could potentially be a solid three technique and will even have some teams grading him as a fullback. Should land in the mid rounds.

# DEFENSIVE TACKLE RANKINGS

## #17

Sean Lissemore

William & Mary

Height: 6'4 • Weight: 298

40 Time: 4.85

### CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Tkls	Sks	Tfl	Pbu	Int
2006	33	1	1.5	0	0
2007	43	2	2	0	1
2008	51	4	3.5	0	0
2009	66	6.5	7.5	2	2
TTLS	193	13.5	14.5	2	3

**Strengths:** Highly athletic kid with good strength. Likely a 3-technique at the next level because he lacks the bulk to play the nose. Moves well for his size. Good use of hands. Plays with good leverage. Adequate quickness. Uses a nice spin move in his pass rush. Does a good job of pushing the pocket.

**Weaknesses:** Raw pass rusher that is inconsistent. Needs to develop more moves and perhaps still bulk up some. Also needs to show he can dominant.

**Overall:** Lissemore has risen up the board as of late, especially after his pro day in which he displayed great explosiveness and athleticism. Before this many teams were trying to sneak and take him as a free agent but that is not going to happen now. This 2009 first-team All-CAA selection had 7.5 tfl and 6.5 sacks as a senior and is rising up the board. He could potentially go as high as the 5th or 6th round after his workouts.

## #18

Nate Collins

Virginia

Height: 6'2 • Weight: 279

40 Time: 5.05

### CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Tkls	Sks	Tfl	Pbu	Int
2006	17	1	3	0	0
2007	31	2	2.5	1	0
2008	36	0	3.5	3	0
2009	77	6	4.5	1	1
TTLS	161	9	13.5	5	1



**Strengths:** Has a good initial burst to slip through gaps and create havoc. Active feet and good acceleration through the gap and has a late burst to close. He also has good strength to slide off blocks and take down the runner.

**Weaknesses:** Lacks the ideal height teams look for and lacks the bulk and strength to hold up consistently against double teams. A project that will likely take two or three years before he is ready to heavily contribute.

**Overall:** A one year wonder that will likely drop due to concerns over why he only had one good year of production. Likely going to be a three technique in a 4-3 alignment and will go somewhere in the 5th-7th round range.

# DEFENSIVE TACKLE RANKINGS

## #19

Al Woods  
LSU

Height: 6'4 • Weight: 320

40 Time: 5.36

### CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Tkls	Sks	Tfl	Pbu	Int
2006	7	0.5	0	0	0
2007	22	2	0	0	0
2008	11	0	0	0	0
2009	33	1	4.5	2	0
TTLS	73	3.5	4.5	2	0

**Strengths:** Has great size and moves very well for that size. He is also strong and powerful and can control blockers. Able to handle double teams and maintain his gap. Could be a solid one gap player at the next level.

**Weaknesses:** Woods needs to develop a mean streak and work on his quickness and change of direction ability. Just a one-year starter so it will likely take time for him to tap his potential. Heavy-footed and not very quick-twitched.

**Overall:** Started just one year and had marginal production. He is a big, powerful, and long armed one technique kid who has potential but likely will take time before he is ready to start. Could come off the board in the 3rd round or could potentially fall to the 5th-6th round range.

## #20

Corey Peters  
Kentucky

Height: 6'3 • Weight: 295

40 Time: 4.95

### CAREER STATISTICS

Year	Tkls	Sks	Tfl	Pbu	Int
2006	18	1	1	1	0
2007	43	2.5	1.5	3	1
2008	36	4	6	2	0
2009	56	4	8	5	0
TTLS	153	11.5	16.5	11	1



**Strengths:** He has good size with a thick trunk and shows good smarts. Uses his explosive initial burst off the snap and closing speed to pressure the pocket. Can slide off the block and make a tackle. Has good character. Good hand strength and quickness to tug and rip the defender.

**Weaknesses:** Comes off the ball too high sometimes and often uses a simple bull rush. Does not generate enough power and has marginal stamina.

**Overall:** Had a nice senior season with 56 tackles, 8 tfl and 4 sacks. Has good size and is a developmental prospect that likely would be a backup early in his career. Because of the depth in this year's class he is unlikely to go before the 5th or 6th round.