

FOOTBALL

NFL DRAFT

Penn State tight end draws scouts' raves

Warren says former UGA star Bowers is 'a great example.'

Editor's note: This is the seventh article in our position-by-position NFL draft series. Today, we look at the top tight ends.

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Former Penn State tight end Tyler Warren had a dynamic college career and likely will be the top tight end taken in the NFL draft, scheduled for April 24-26 in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Last season, former Georgia All-American Brock Bowers was drafted 13th overall by the Raiders and went on to have a sensational rookie campaign. He was named to the Pro Bowl, and was a first-team All-Pro and a finalist for offensive rookie of the year.

Warren is very much aware of the season that Bowers turned in.

"He did a lot of good stuff and he's a great example just to learn from and see how he plays the game," Warren said. "It is a great example to look at, and it was awesome to see him do that."

Warren, who played four seasons for the Nittany Lions, can't match Bowers' college accolades, but he's an excellent prospect. SumerSports.com is among those that have Warren rated as the No. 1 tight end in the draft.

"Warren is a complete tight end that can work



Penn State tight end Tyler Warren, who's 6-foot-6 and 249 pounds, blossomed into a star last season, catching 104 passes for 1,233 yards and eight touchdowns. He also rushed for 218 yards and four TDs. GINA FERAZZI/LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

across the formation as a pass catcher or a blocker," says the SumerSports draft guide. "His athleticism is always on display, and he is a true threat after the catch."

Former Falcons general manager Thomas Dimitroff is the director of football operations for SumerSports.

Warren picked up 57.3% of his 1,233 receiving yards after the catch.

"Going into this season, the run after the catch was something I wanted to be better at, that I could improve on," Warren said. "I feel like I did a good job."

Penn State, which advanced to the College



LSU tight end Mason Taylor is the son of Pro Football Hall of Famer Jason Taylor. JASON GETZ/AJC

Football Playoff last season, lined up Warren all over the

field, including quarterback. They used him much like for-

mer Saints coach Sean Payton used to deploy Taysom Hill. Warren embraced his versatile role.

"What I try and do is be a guy that can kind of fit in a lot of different roles," Warren said. "I don't know if I have one that really sticks out the best. That's kind of fun about the tight end position: You get to do a lot of different things within the offense."

"I can do a lot of different things, so whatever the offense needs from week to week and what they want my role to be is what I'll do. That might change from game to game. I'm a guy (who) can do a lot of different things."

Warren is not into com-

parisons to the other tight ends in the draft.

"I'm not really focused on trying to be better than other people," Warren said. "Just trying to be the best tight end I can be. That's what's helped me do whatever's needed within the offense. That's what I focus on. I try to get good at a lot of different things in a lot of different roles."

He said it took him a couple of seasons to get into the flow of college football.

"I had to wait my turn and learn from the guys in front of me, understanding I was not at the point I needed to be in order to play and contribute," he said.

Michigan's Colston Loveland, LSU's Mason Taylor, Miami's Elijah Arroyo and Bowling Green's Harold Fannin Jr. are the other top tight ends in the draft.

Taylor is the son of Jason Taylor, the Pro Football Hall of Fame defensive end who starred for the Dolphins. His uncle, linebacker Zach Thomas, also is a Pro Football Hall of Famer.

"Being that complete tight end and doing it all – that's something I pride myself on," Taylor said. "Doing it all for an offense."

Taylor flashed his big-play ability at LSU; he had six receptions of at least 20 yards and two of at least 30 last season.

"I think I'm a tremendous route-runner," said Taylor, who was a starter in each of his three seasons with the Tigers. "I think I run smooth, but I can separate myself from defenders."

TOP 10 TIGHT END PROSPECTS

Here are the top 10 tight end prospects, with height, weight, projected round, for the NFL draft, which is set for April 24–26 in Green Bay, Wisconsin:

1. Tyler Warren, Penn State, 6-6, 256 (first round)

He was a cornerstone of the Nittany Lions' offense, as he had 104 catches for 1,233 yards and eight touchdowns. He also ran the ball 26 times for 218 yards (8.4 per carry) and four touchdowns. Warren gives off Taysom Hill vibes. He became the first Penn State player to win the John Mackey Award, which goes to the nation's top tight end.

2. Colston Loveland, Michigan, 6-6, 248 (first)

He was a Mackey Award finalist. Loveland played in 39 games and made 24 starts over the past three seasons.

3. Mason Taylor, LSU, 6-5, 251 (first/second)

The son of Pro Football Hall of Fame defensive end Jason Taylor, he was the most productive tight end in LSU history; he finished with 129 catches for 1,308 yards and six touchdowns. He caught at least one pass in each of his final 28 games in college. He's considered a precise route-runner.

4. Elijah Arroyo, Miami, 6-5, 250 (second)

He was the talk of the Senior Bowl, as he stood out in the blocking drills and got open deep. He started all 13 games and was named second-team All-ACC last season at Miami, finishing with 35 catches for 590 yards and seven touchdowns.

5. Harold Fannin Jr., Bowling Green, 6-3, 241 (second)

He led the nation in receptions (117) and receiving yards

(1,555); both were single-season FBS records for a tight end. He also was the first tight end in college football history to be named conference MVP.

6. Terrance Ferguson, Oregon, 6-5, 247 (third)

He played in 53 games in four seasons with the Ducks. He left as the program's career leader in receptions by a tight end with 134 and receiving touchdowns with 16. He ranked second all-time in tight end receiving yards with 1,537.

7. Gunnar Helm, Texas, 6-5, 241 (third/fourth)

He played in 54 games and made 24 starts in his career at Texas. He was a Mackey Award semifinalist last season, when he led the Longhorns with 60 receptions; that was a school single-season record for tight ends.

8. Oronde Gadsden II, Syracuse, 6-5, 243 (third/fourth)

He caught 141 passes for 1,970 yards and 14 touchdowns in his career. He played in 36 games and made 28 starts at Syracuse.

9. Jackson Hawes, Georgia Tech, 6-4, 252 (fourth)

The Yale transfer was used primarily as a blocking tight end. He's a ferocious blocker and was used as a puller at times. He's a power player with limited pass-catching skills. He did catch 35 passes for 371 yards and six touchdowns in his time at Yale.



10. Jake Briningstool, Clemson, 6-6, 241 (fourth/fifth)

He played in 48 games for the Tigers and caught 127 passes for 1,380 yards and 17 touchdowns. He was a two-time All-ACC honoree who was the fifth Clemson tight end to earn multiple All-ACC selections.

Local prospects

Ben Yurosek, Georgia, 6-4, 245

He played four seasons at Stanford and caught 108 passes for 1,342 yards and five touchdowns. He played in 14 games last season with the Bulldogs and caught 15 passes for 185 yards.

■ **Best of the rest:** Alabama's CJ Dippre, Notre Dame's Mitchell Evans, Nebraska's Thomas Fidone II, Texas Tech's Jalin Conyers, Pitt's Gavin Bartholomew, UCLA's Moliki Matavao.

■ **Teams in need:** Falcons, Patriots, Jets, Bears, Dolphins and Colts.

■ **Need area for Falcons:** Yes. Kyle Pitts is set to play in the fifth year of his rookie contract. Charlie Woerner played well as the blocking tight end, and Feleipe Franks was re-signed in free agency to help on special teams.

— D. ORLANDO LEDBETTER

Bulldogs

continued from B1

stand on the offensive depth chart after spring practice.

Quarterback

Stockton has maintained a healthy edge throughout the offseason, and nothing that was seen on G-Day shifted that opinion. He got better as the day unfolded, and he throws an impressive deep ball. The key for Stockton will be working the middle of the field and avoiding hits when he has the football.

Puglisi got a lot of snaps Saturday, attempting 49 passes. He was more streaky than Stockton, but in working with the first-team offense, he did go 3-of-3 for 52 yards. Puglisi looked like a promising young player but one who has some improving to do.

True freshman Ryan Montgomery is recovering from a knee injury and did not practice this spring. Walk-on Colter Ginn led a touchdown drive in his first reps of the afternoon. Based on G-Day, he seems to be ahead of both 2025 quarterback signees (the other is Hezekiah Millender).

Running back

Nate Frazier is Georgia's clear No. 1. He got limited work Saturday but did score the first touchdown.

Behind Frazier, Georgia has a glut of options. Branson Robinson and Roderick Robinson sat out G-Day as they recovered from injuries. That has been a consistent theme throughout

their careers.

True freshman Bo Walker was one of the biggest winners of spring, looking like a player who could contribute immediately. He had a 30-yard run on G-Day.

Wide receiver

This group had a great G-Day, with multiple receivers impressing.

Noah Thomas, a 6-foot-6 transfer from Texas A&M, and Colbie Young, who is 6-3, were the starters on the first play, giving the Bulldogs a mammoth receiving corps when paired with tight ends Oscar Delp, a former West Forsyth High star who is 6-5, and Lawson Luckie, an ex-Norcross High standout who is 6-4. Young caught a touchdown pass, while Thomas was targeted early before leaving with an AC sprain.

Dillon Bell and London Humphreys delivered strong performances. Their ability to play all over the offense should help greatly in the fall. Humphreys had two touchdowns catches, while Bell added a 13-yard run to go with his 78 receiving yards.

USC transfer Zachariah Branch showed off his play-making ability, hauling in a 36-yard catch to set up the first score of the day. Sacovie White, a redshirt freshman from Cass High, ended the day strong, catching a touchdown pass from Stockton over cornerback Ellis Robinson.

Tight end

Delp and Luckie started on G-Day. Luckie had an impressive 26-yard gain to pick up



Wide receiver Dillon Bell (86) once again figures to be used at various spots in the offensive lineup. He had a 13-yard run as well as 78 receiving yards in the G-Day game.

PHOTOS BY DANIEL VARNADO FOR THE AJC



Kirby Smith was impressed with how well the players who enrolled in January performed this spring.

an early third down; Delp is one of the team's key voices.

Keep an eye on redshirt freshman Jaden Reddell, who had a strong spring. He caught his only target Saturday and looks to have a role.

Georgia worked to get true freshmen Elyiss Williams and Ethan Barbour, from Milton High, involved; they combined for 12 targets. But that turned into only four receptions for 33 yards. Williams had a tough day, as he dropped a TD pass and was flagged for holding. But that

effort is not indicative of his spring or his potential.

Offensive line

The starting line Saturday had sophomore Bo Hughley (Hughes High) at left tackle, senior Micah Morris at left guard, junior Drew Bobo at center, redshirt freshman Michael Uini at right guard and junior Earnest Greene III at right tackle.

Junior tackle Monroe Freeling missed spring after labrum surgery. That Greene was at right tackle was telling; he started at left tackle the past two seasons.

Uini was in the lineup because redshirt freshman Daniel Calhoun (Walton High) had a foot injury. Right guard is unsettled, given how many reps Calhoun missed this spring.

Juan Gaston, a true freshman tackle from Westlake High, drew strong reviews this spring. He'll have to continue to reshape his body to help this fall.

DAILY LAW JOURNAL

legal notices

Notice of Filing for an Application for a Georgia MALPB

An application for a Georgia merchant acquirer limited purpose bank charter, to be known as Strategic Payments MALPB and to be located in Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia, has been made to the Department of Banking and Finance by Carlos Minetti in accordance with Chapter 9 of Title 7 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, known as the "Georgia Merchant Acquirer Limited Purpose Bank Act." The following persons have been proposed as the initial directors: Carlos Minetti; Leland Rodger; Francis Ryan; and Patricia Walsh. Any person wishing to comment on the application may do so by filing written notice to the Department of Banking and Finance at its main office location at 2990 Brandywine Road, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30341-5565, by the 30th day from the Department of Banking and Finance posting notice of the MALPB charter application within the Financial Institutions Bulletin located on its website. Non-confidential portions of the application are available for review as directed by the Department of Banking and Finance within the Financial Institutions Bulletin. 4-9, 4-16-25

legal notices

Request for Proposals (RFPs) Multiple Opportunities Available Proposal Deadline: Thursday, May 29, 2025, by 5:00 PM CT The Alliance for Innovation, acting as the Lead Contracting Agency and Co-operative on behalf of Edge Public and participating entities—including all, local and state government agencies, higher education institutions, K-12 schools and nonprofit organizations—is seeking proposals from qualified vendors for a range of RFPs: • Office Products – RFP 2025-100 • MRO – Maintenance, Repair and Operations RFP 2025-101 • Building and Facilities Supplies and Services – Store Front/Online Purchases RFP 2025-102 • Batteries, Power, Lighting and Solutions RFP 2025-103 • Janitorial, Sanitation, and Paper Supplies RFP 2025-104 Contracts resulting from this solicitation may be awarded to multiple vendors on a National or Regional basis. Full specifications and proposal documents are available via the AFI Procurement Portal at https://indigo.bonfirehu.b.com. Only proposals submitted through this portal will be accepted. Deadline for submission: Thursday, May 29, 2025, by 5:00 PM CT. 4-16-25