

# PREDICTING DRAFT POSITION USING THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE COMBINE MEASUREMENTS IN THE 2022 NFL ROOKIE CLASS

Robert L. Herron<sup>1</sup>, Chris P. Bonilla<sup>2</sup>, Greg A. Ryan<sup>3</sup>, Charles P. Katica<sup>4</sup>, Jason C. Casey<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Montevallo, Montevallo, AL, <sup>2</sup>Liberty University, <sup>3</sup>Piedmont University, <sup>4</sup>Pacific Lutheran University, <sup>5</sup>University of North Georgia

## INTRODUCTION

- Research is conflicting regarding the usefulness of the NFL Combine for determining draft position
- The purpose of this study was to determine if the anthropometric and performance measures of the athletes invited to the 2022 NFL Combine predicted draft position in the 2022 NFL Draft

## METHODS

### PREDICTORS

#### Anthropometric

Height (in)  
Weight (lbs)  
Hand Size (in)  
Arm Length (in)

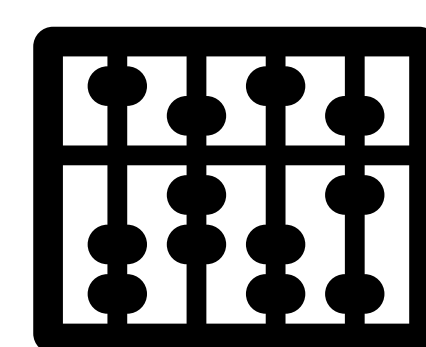
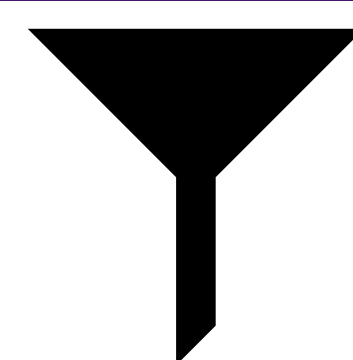
#### Performance

40-Yard Sprint (s)  
Vertical Jump (in)  
Broad Jump (in)

### OUTCOMES

Draft Position (1-262)  
Undrafted = 263

### STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

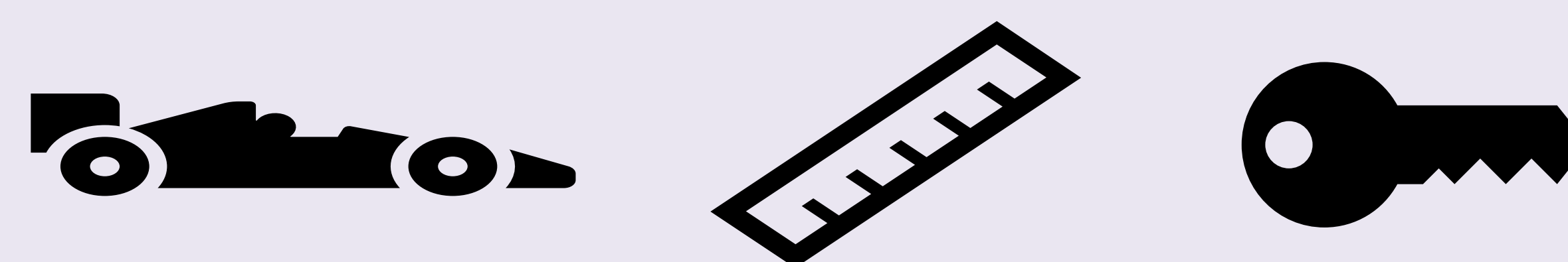


- Forward Multiple Linear Regressions
- All Players and Position specific regressions
- Players removed Listwise from analysis
- 20-Yard Shuttle and 3 Cone Drill removed from analysis due to small sample



## Scouting Combine Performance Testing & Anthropometrics Still Matter in NFL Draft Process

Speed & Size = Key



## RESULTS

- 184 of 315 (58.4%) athletes completed all tests and included in analysis
- A significant regression omnibus equation was found ( $F = 19.80$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ), with an  $R^2$  of 0.25:
- Draft Position =  $-448.66 + 272.44$  (40-Yd Sprint) –  $4.765$  (Weight) –  $37.55$  (Hand Size)
  - 95% CIs: (-785.54 to -111.77), (195.06 to 349.81), (-1.84 to -0.77) and (-62.42 to -12.69).

Position	N	R <sup>2</sup>	Variables
All	184	0.25	40-Yd Sprint Weight Hand Size
OL	47	0.36	40-Yd Sprint Hand Size
DL	23	0.52	40-Yd Sprint Weight
RB	27	0.37	Broad Jump Hand Size
LB	24	0.37	40-Yd Sprint
TE	7	0.60	40-Yd Sprint
WR	32	0.29	40-Yd Sprint
DB	17	--	--
QB	7	--	--

## PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

- Combine performance predictive of draft order
- Caution warranted for position specific regressions due to low sample sizes
- Strength of prediction varied between individual position groups
- Largest contributors: 40-Yd Sprint and Hand Size