

Best Offensive Line Development

Ohio State, Iowa, and Where They Fit

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THE LOW DOWN SKINNY

Determining where a high school prospect should consider going to school is an exciting and challenging task. Family history, personal affinity, state of residence, official visits, high school coach relationships, camps attended, and college coach persistence all play a part in what schools are on a prospect's wish list.

However, two items are commonly left off of the prospect's checklist and only added on when the recruiter conveniently decides to tout his program's achievements with his own statistical slant:

- 1) How many players (at the prospect's position) have been sent to NFL camps and
- 2) How much success the target school has had on the field at the next level (NFL). Florida State may be ranked #8 in terms of how many players it's sent to NFL camps over the last ten years (they've sent a total of 98), but how relevant is that to me if I'm an offensive line prospect? (FSU's actually tied for 35th with regards to offensive lineman success on the field at the next level.)

The first question tells us what caliber of prospect the school recruits and what relationships the coaching staff has with the next level. The second tells us how prepared a school's prospects are to achieve success once they reach the next level. Some schools simply recruit outstanding talent, use the players to find great success while they're on campus, and don't coach them up for the next level. Other schools recruit well, find moderate success within the player's 5-year span, and do an outstanding job coaching them up to succeed at the next level.

GOING TO CAMP

Over the last ten years (2002-2011), Ohio State and Iowa have each sent 17 prospects to NFL camps via the draft or undrafted free agency. Only four schools have sent more: Miami and USC have both sent 19 while Oklahoma and Florida have both sent 18. (Arkansas, Texas, and Tennessee tied with Ohio State and Iowa by each sending 17 as well.)

School	Drafted	Undrafted	Total
Miami	10	9	19
USC	9	10	19
Oklahoma	7	11	18
Florida	6	12	18
Iowa	11	6	17
Ohio State	9	8	17
Arkansas	7	10	17

Tennessee	6	11	17
Texas	6	11	17

By offensive line position, here's what these nine schools have sent to camps:

School	C	OG	OT	Total
Miami	5	7	7	19
USC	6	6	7	19
Oklahoma	2	7	9	18
Florida	4	5	9	18
Iowa	3	7	7	17
Ohio State	5	7	5	17
Arkansas	3	6	8	17
Tennessee	3	9	5	17
Texas	2	7	8	17

Clearly, between 2002 and 2011, if you were an offensive lineman at one of these nine schools, you had a great chance to make it to an NFL camp - all nine sent just shy of two offensive linemen per year to NFL camps.

NEXT LEVEL PREPARATION

Who schools and position coaches send to NFL camps is only half of the story. The second half of the story is how these prospects fare once they reach the next level. Are they prepared? Do these schools simply sign great recruits who invariably will get a shot at the next level or do they develop good recruits into great NFL prospects? (Hint: Florida sent 18 to NFL camps over these ten years – only 5 contributed on NFL rosters between 2009 and 2011 and, collectively, those 5 ranked 27th in OL contribution to on-field success among schools that sent at least one OL to an NFL camp each year from 2002-2011.)

The below schools are ranked by how their departed have performed at the next level between 2009 and 2011 (min 1 OL/yr):

School	Sent to NFL Camps	Contributors	Points
Boston College	15	8	559
Miami	19	8	542
USC	19	7	473
Texas	17	7	398
Oklahoma	18	6	369
LSU	14	5	329
Michigan	15	4	324
Notre Dame	16	8	305
Nebraska	16	4	304
Auburn	13	6	280

Illinois	14	4	275
Georgia	16	5	273
Arizona State	13	4	265
Iowa	17	9	261
Tennessee	17	5	251
Mississippi	15	5	232
Ohio State	17	4	221
California	14	5	217
Alabama	16	6	216
Utah	12	4	213
Virginia Tech	10	4	203
Oklahoma State	10	3	198
Oregon State	10	3	193
Hawaii	12	4	190
Maryland	15	6	189
Colorado	14	3	172
Florida	18	5	169
Arkansas	17	5	165
Texas Tech	12	4	165
N.C. State	11	3	164
Florida State	13	5	150
Oregon	10	3	142
Rutgers	10	3	142
Wisconsin	15	6	142
Central Florida	11	3	134
Penn State	13	3	118
Michigan State	10	2	117
San Diego State	13	3	110
Louisville	11	4	109
Colorado State	10	2	105
Northwestern	11	3	97
Clemson	15	2	90
South Carolina	14	3	89
Texas A&M	12	3	85
Stanford	14	3	81
Pittsburgh	10	5	72
Central Michigan	10	1	66
Georgia Tech	10	2	37
Syracuse	10	3	37
TCU	12	2	31
Missouri	12	1	4

BYU	14	1	2
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Iowa may have had 9 guys on NFL rosters since 2009 that actually had gameday contributions, but their contributions (points) were far less impactful than those by 8 guys from Boston College. BC has been and continues to be the premier origination point for offensive line talent in the NFL.

Points: Each offensive lineman in the NFL is awarded points based on rushing yards accumulated while on the field, passing yards accumulated while on the field, turnovers and sacks committed while on the field, and first downs achieved while on the field. An offensive lineman must be declared active for a game in order to accumulate any points. (Date range: 2009-2011)

Contributors: There are many offensive linemen who show up on the two-deep, but aren't activated all season long. To that end, they are not deemed a "Contributor" since their point accumulation for the year would have been zero. Only those offensive linemen who actually participate in a game accumulate points. (Date range: 2009-2011)

Sent to NFL Camps: Number of OL prospects the schools sent to NFL camps via undrafted free agency or the draft. (Date range: 2002-2011)

SUCCESS RATE

Perhaps the most telling component of grading schools on whom they send and who actually excels at the next level is the Success Rate. Out of 100 players sent to NFL camps, how many contribute to their team's success on the field on gameday? Over the last ten years, 260 schools have sent at least one offensive lineman to an NFL camp. For the 52 schools that have sent a minimum average of one OL per year to an NFL camp, let's compare the Camp list of schools (2002-2011) to the Contributors list of schools (2009-2011):

School	Sent to NFL Camps	Contributors	Success Rate	Points
Boston College	15	8	53.3%	559
Iowa	17	9	52.9%	261
Notre Dame	16	8	50.0%	305
Pittsburgh	10	5	50.0%	72
Auburn	13	6	46.2%	280
Miami	19	8	42.1%	542
Texas	17	7	41.2%	398
Maryland	15	6	40.0%	189
Wisconsin	15	6	40.0%	142
Virginia Tech	10	4	40.0%	203
Florida State	13	5	38.5%	150
Alabama	16	6	37.5%	216
USC	19	7	36.8%	473
Louisville	11	4	36.4%	109
California	14	5	35.7%	217

LSU	14	5	35.7%	329
Oklahoma	18	6	33.3%	369
Mississippi	15	5	33.3%	232
Hawaii	12	4	33.3%	190
Texas Tech	12	4	33.3%	165
Utah	12	4	33.3%	213
Georgia	16	5	31.3%	273
Arizona State	13	4	30.8%	265
Oklahoma State	10	3	30.0%	198
Oregon	10	3	30.0%	142
Oregon State	10	3	30.0%	193
Rutgers	10	3	30.0%	142
Syracuse	10	3	30.0%	37
Arkansas	17	5	29.4%	165
Tennessee	17	5	29.4%	251
Illinois	14	4	28.6%	275
Florida	18	5	27.8%	169
Central Florida	11	3	27.3%	134
N.C. State	11	3	27.3%	164
Northwestern	11	3	27.3%	97
Michigan	15	4	26.7%	324
Nebraska	16	4	25.0%	304
Texas A&M	12	3	25.0%	85
Ohio State	17	4	23.5%	221
Penn State	13	3	23.1%	118
San Diego State	13	3	23.1%	110
Colorado	14	3	21.4%	172
South Carolina	14	3	21.4%	89
Stanford	14	3	21.4%	81
Colorado State	10	2	20.0%	105
Georgia Tech	10	2	20.0%	37
Michigan State	10	2	20.0%	117
TCU	12	2	16.7%	31
Clemson	15	2	13.3%	90
Central Michigan	10	1	10.0%	66
Missouri	12	1	8.3%	4
BYU	14	1	7.1%	2

OHIO STATE OR IOWA

Before either, it's worth mentioning that while Boston College may not be on the verge of conference domination or even a bowl game, BC will continue to churn out top-level offensive linemen for the NFL. There is no parallel in college football programs that best prepare their offensive linemen for the next level.

When comparing offensive linemen at Ohio State and Iowa, both do a comparable job sending players to NFL camps. They've both sent 17. Iowa's sent 11 thru the draft and 6 via undrafted free agency since 2002. Ohio State has sent 9 thru the draft and 8 via undrafted free agency.

The real difference is when it comes down to their Success Rates once they get to camp. 53% of Iowa offensive linemen (9/17) have contributed to on-field success since 2009. 24% of Ohio State offensive linemen have done so (4/17).

Here are Iowa's 9 that contributed to on-field success between 2009 and 2011:

Team	String	Yr	Rd	Pos	Last	First	Points
Baltimore	1st	07	3	OG	Yanda	Marshal	73
Green Bay	1st	10	1	OT	Bulaga	Bryan	61
Cleveland	1st	03	2	OG	Steinbach	Eric	59
Seattle	1st	04	1	OG	Gallery	Robert	47
Indianapolis	2nd	09	4	OG	Olsen	Seth	9
Baltimore	2nd	08	FA	C	Mattison	Bryan	6
N.Y. Jets	PSq	09	FA	OG	Kroul	Matt	3
Philadelphia	2nd	11	5	OG	Vandervelde	Julian	2
Atlanta	3rd	09	FA	C	Bruggerman	Rob	1
Iowa Total							261

Ohio State's 4:

Team	String	Yr	Rd	Pos	Last	First	Points
N.Y. Jets	1st	06	1	C	Mangold	Nick	105
Detroit	1st	06	4	OG	Sims	Rob	102
N.Y. Giants	2nd	10	FA	C	Cordle	Jim	8
San Francisco	2nd	09	FA	OT	Boone	Alex	7
Ohio State Total							221

Mangold and Sims have had greater success since 2009 than any of the individual Iowa offensive linemen, but as a collective, the Iowa offensive linemen have had a greater impact.

Want a shot at the NFL as an offensive lineman? Either Ohio State or Iowa will offer a great opportunity to get a shot. Want to make the most of that shot? Go Iowa. Then again, consider opening up the search and head for Chestnut Hill to get the very best shot at the next level.