

2026 NFL DRAFT · POST-DRAFT MODEL ANALYSIS

WE GRADED OUR OWN 2026 MOCK. IN PUBLIC.

The 2026 draft was the model's first live test. Exact-pick accuracy was 9%, but round-level accuracy reached 43% and Round 1 talent identification hit 66%. The main failure was not misjudging talent. It was eight first-round trades the model had no way to predict.

9%

Exact pick accuracy (9 of the top 100)

43%

Round-level accuracy

66%

R1 round accuracy (21 of 32)

66%

Pool coverage (64 of 97 drafted in top 100)

8

Round 1 trades, the main failure driver

WHAT THE MODEL GOT RIGHT

STRONG TALENT ID. ROUNDS, LESS SO.

- ✓ **R1 talent pool: 66% accuracy.** 21 of 32 first-round picks were correctly predicted to go in Round 1. The model knew who the players were; trades moved them, not talent misgrades.
- ✓ **Prospect pool coverage: 64 of 97 (66%).** Nearly two-thirds of modeled players were drafted in the top 100. Talent identification is the model's strongest component.
- ✓ **9 exact pick hits:** Mendoza #1, Ioane #14, Bisontis #34, R Mason Thomas #40, Terrell #48, Golday #51, CJ Allen #53, Beck #65, Trost #93.
- ✓ **OL-heavy draft correctly anticipated.** Nine OTs went in Round 1, and the model had seven of them in its R1 pool.
- ✓ **R2 talent ID at 41% round accuracy.** 13 of 32 R2 picks matched. Nine more went in R1 (undervalued), confirming correct identification with conservative calibration.

KEY FINDING

The near-miss rate tells the better story: 21 more players were correctly identified as top talent but placed in the wrong round. That is a calibration failure, not a scouting failure.

WHAT THE MODEL GOT WRONG

EIGHT TRADES BROKE THE BOARD.

- ✗ **8 Round 1 trades, completely unmodeled.** Every trade cascades through later slots. Chiefs to #6, Eagles to #20, Browns down: each reshuffle broke downstream predictions even when the player call was right.
- ✗ **Eagles went WR-first, not OL-first.** Kalshi had the Eagles OL-first at 47%. Roseman traded up to #20 for Makai Lemon, driven by A.J. Brown trade dynamics the model could not price.
- ✗ **~34 players outside the prospect pool.** Jordyn Tyson (#8), Ty Simpson (#13), Malachi Lawrence (#23) and Markel Bell (#68) were not in the 97-player database at all.
- ✗ **TE surge in Round 2 unpredicted.** Five TEs went in picks 54–61. The model had no positional momentum mechanism.
- ✗ **R3 accuracy at 25% (9 of 36).** 26 of 36 R3 picks were outside the model entirely, including Drew Allar (#76) and Austin Barber (#86).

DATA QUALITY NOTE

"Emm. McNeil-Warren" vs. "Emmanuel McNeil-Warren" caused a false miss (#58, Browns). Every name now has to be checked against an official source.

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EAGLES PICKS

The model had the Eagles OL-first (47% on Kalshi). They went WR-first: Makai Lemon #20 (traded up from #23), Eli Stowers TE #54, Markel Bell OT #68. Lesson: a team's post-trade intent can outweigh its positional need scores.

9%

CONTEXT ON EXACT ACCURACY

Naming the exact player at the exact slot, in a draft with eight first-round trades, is an extremely hard target. Round-level accuracy (43%) and Round 1 pool identification (66%) are the more meaningful benchmarks. This is DraftIQ's baseline to beat.

V5 ENGINEERING PRIORITIES STATUS AS OF OCTOBER 2026

FIVE FIXES WE COMMITTED TO. WHERE EACH STANDS.

#	PRIORITY (APRIL 2026)	STATUS	SINCE APRIL
1	Trade probability modeling Model trade likelihood at each slot. Eight R1 trades made this the single highest-impact fix.	Done	Built in May: a DraftIQ trade value chart fitted on 45 real trades (2020–2026) and a trade layer for the six most active trading teams.
2	Expand the prospect pool Grow well past 97 players so Rounds 2–3 aren't blind spots.	Partial	The 2027 Stakes Board tracks 140 draft-eligible underclassmen, refreshed on a set schedule. A pre-draft coverage-gap check flags players outside the pool.
3	Real-time beat reporter layer Watch credible reporters on draft night and override the model when a pick leaks.	Not yet	Part of the live draft-night model, scheduled after the 2027 draft.
4	Positional surge detector When 3+ players at a position go within 10 picks, raise the odds for the rest of that position.	Not yet	Part of the live draft-night model, scheduled after the 2027 draft.
5	Standardize player names Check every name against an official source on import.	Partial	Each board refresh checks names and class year against official school rosters, and no player is added from a single source.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR 2027

THE 2026 DRAFT IS NOW TRAINING DATA.

Every miss is tagged as trade-driven, a pool gap or a calibration error, and those tags drove the v5 rebuild. The audit also shaped what agents see: DraftIQ's tools show a projected pick **range** and what each end of it is worth, not a single slot.

The 2027 draft will be graded the same way, in public, the week after it ends. The target set in April stands: better than 60% round-level accuracy.

SEE THE 2027 CLASS

Every top draft-eligible underclassman's projected range, rookie-deal value and NIL benchmark, plus a tool to run any prospect's stay-or-declare math.

draftiq.ai/board · Stakes Board

draftiq.ai/declare · Stay / Declare tool

draftiq.ai/agents · Founding agents