Tight End Top 10 Prospects

This is my first time doing full tape watching and evaluating draft prospects in full.

I am basing my decisions purely on what I see, I have given this a great deal of attention, throughout the college season I have watched games due to games being played more in the UK, I have also used highlights as well as watching games as well.

With the playoffs also being shown in the UK and a great deal more attention on this there may be slightly more recentency bias in some of these picks.

With this tight end group the first two are, in my opinion, really top prospects and can easily be top tight ends in the NFL.

1. **Tyler Warren (Penn State)**

I do have Warren ahead of Loveland but I do think this is really close. Both are fantastic prospects, Warren edges it to be the best in the class.

Strengths:
Warren is a complete down it all tight end. He will be a day 1 starter in the NFL. He is happy to be involved in the run game as a solid blocker, not only that he takes carries. He can be involved in the pass game as a blocker or receiver. He plays in a fullback role at times and takes the right man in the coverage.
One of the other amazing things about Warren is he was a quarterback in high school so he threw some passes in the Penn State scheme.
The ball is very rarely dropped by Warren, he has great hands, he wins contested catches. He is that he could be used as a number one target at the next level.
When Warren catches the ball he is happy to run through defenders and get huge yards after catch. In the open field Warren is difficult to bring down because of his power also.

Warren recognises coverage well and is happy to sit in zones to get the targets to move the chains.
In the red zone Warren has been a big target for Penn State and that should also show at the next level.

Weaknesses:
It's a little harsh but improvements in Warren's separation could benefit him.

2. Colston Loveland (Michigan)
The other day 1 starter at the next level is Loveland. He was a fantastic player this year for Michigan. It wouldn't surprise me if he went above Warren but I think the general consensus is Warren just edges this.

Strengths:
Loveland is a great pass catching tight end, he wins his battles with linebacker, safeties and corners. Loveland is happy to avoid tackles with his speed or run through a tackler.
A quick release and speed is something that jumps off the tape for Loveland and with that he looks like a solid receiver. He has good hands and has big play potential because of his speed and size. He also recognises soft spots in defences well to get big plays.
Loveland is able to move out to the slot and also on the outside making him a big receiving threat.

Weaknesses:
The big difference between Warren and Loveland is the blocking. I think Loveland needs to work a little more on his blocking but he is capable.

3. Elijah Arroyo (Miami)
This was another recentency bias, however Arroyo highlights in the season but especially in the senior bowl will have rocketed him many draft boards. I have him as tight end 3 but it is close with Taylor in 4.

Strengths:
Arroyo has really good speed for a tight end, he lines up mainly in the slot, he creates separation often on his routes and wins lots of his 1 on 1 battles.
He has fairly solid movements, that with the speed makes him have some big plays.
In the Miami system he often finds soft spots in defences to be available to gain the required yards, he has good game situational awareness.

Weaknesses:
It maybe harsh but in games Arroyo's his route tree was that advances and his routes also weren't great, however it maybe a system thing as in the senior bowl he was outstanding. Arroyo could also improve in the run game.

4. Mason Taylor (LSU)
Taylor could be third in the list but the Arroyo senior bowl was so impressive that it does just take it, but Taylor is close.

Strengths:

Taylor is a super athletic tight end that can play at tight end, slot and also outside receiver. LSU used him a lot due to his good route running, the fact he won the closely contested battles and the fact he is a great pass catcher. He was a constant reliable target. One of the most impressive things with Taylor is he always high points the catches and doesn't give defenders a chance.

I believe Taylor along with the other 3 above will be a day one starter.

Weaknesses:

Although Taylor is athletic he is not the quickest of tight ends and because of this doesn't break separation as much.

Taylor is another in this class that needs to work on the run blocking. He is more of a receiving tight end.

5. Gunnar Helm (Texas)

Gunnar Helm has become one of my favourite players to watch this season. The Texas tight end would always bring in big plays. He had some huge catches in the college playoffs none bigger than the 4th down catch for a touchdown against Arizona State.

Strengths:

When you watch Helm it is easy to see why many have fallen in love with him. He does do everything asked and you can see he tries hard with it. Helm doesn't shy away from blocking and is more than capable. I would say he is probably the best blocker of the tight ends in this year's draft but Warren is close.

Helm seems to make big plays nearly every game I've watched in a 3rd down or 4th down situation. He always finds or creates space for receiving passes. He has reliable hands so bother Ewers and Manning used him in those situations. This gives him big opportunities in the red zone.

Helm is a solid player all round, although he doesn't have the exceptional highlight reel the others do he could develop into a really good tight end at the next level.

Weaknesses:

Helm doesn't have blistering pace, although he is OK, improvements could be made here.

Also with Helms routes sometimes there isn't the snap you would want to see, it may be a design of the play but tightening up routes could also help him at the next level.

Harold Fannin Jr (Bowling Green)

Another small mention here, I have not been able to watch full game highlights so can not give a full assessment of Fannin, however his stats look incredible and from the highlights I have seen, he could be a good player in the NFL.

6. **Mitchell Evans (Notre Dame)**
7. **Terrance Ferguson (Oregon)**
8. **Luke Lacey (Iowa)**
9. **Jake Briningstool (Clemson)**