

# Delarrin Turner-Yell NFL Draft 2022: Scouting Report for Oklahoma S

By Staff

Bleacher Report

April 30, 2022

HEIGHT: 5'10 1/4"

WEIGHT: 197

HAND: 10"

ARM: 31 3/4"

WINGSPAN: 6'4 1/4"

40-YARD DASH: 4.47

3-CONE: DNP

SHUTTLE: DNP

VERTICAL: DNP

BROAD: 10'2"

## POSITIVES

- Efficient in the run game. Makes quick reads and triggers, shooting gaps and filling running lanes.
- Strong tackler who is able to get tight ends and bigger backs down. Shoots to take out legs with secure wrap tackles and has the ability to run through ball-carriers.
- Gets a quick jump on the ball in the air. Shows the ball skills to track and play the ball.

## NEGATIVES

- Lacks skills for man coverage. Poor eye discipline, as well as slow reactionary skills. Lacks twitch to cover faster threats.
- Can take poor angles to the ball at times, leading to some missed tackles in space.
- Has some tightness and heavy feet at times.

## 2021 STATISTICS

9 G, 53 TOT, 2.5 TFL, 3 INT, 1 PBU

#### NOTES

— 2021 2nd Team All-Big 12 Selection (Coaches)

— Three-year starter (2019, 2020, 2021)

#### OVERALL

Delarrin Turner-Yell is an experienced safety with three seasons as the starting strong safety under his belt. He shows to be a smart player with a high IQ and understanding of the scheme he plays. An aggressive player to the run, he generally is in the right position, and he has the awareness to get a jump on the ball. He has shown the ability to play in two-high, as well as cover down over the slot.

When defending the pass, he does a good job of playing underneath coverage and pushing out to the flats, but he has shown some tightness and slower change of direction and redirecting ability. Heavy footed at times, he is an above-average runner who can struggle in man coverage when matched against twitchier receivers or athletic tight ends.

As a run defender, Turner-Yell is an aggressive player who makes quick reads, comes downhill with his hair on fire and delivers a blow to ball-carriers. He has the ability to sift through trash and find the ball. He lacks some fluidity in space and may take incorrect angles that lead to missed tackles.

Turner-Yell has gained a lot of experience over his career at Oklahoma. He excelled in the run game but has lacked in playing the pass, especially when in man coverage. He may find a role as a special teams player but lacks the ability to make an immediate impact at safety. He will need to improve his coverage ability, as well as his overall consistency.

GRADE: 5.9 (6th Round: Backup/Draftable)

OVERALL RANK: 240

POSITION RANK: S16

PRO COMPARISON: Geno Stone

# OU football: Three things to know about Delarrin Turner-Yell for the 2022 NFL Draft

By Rob Hibbard  
The Oklahoman  
April 28, 2022

OU football safety Delarrin Turner-Yell is hoping to cap his career as an Oklahoma Sooner by being selected in the 2022 NFL Draft Thursday through Saturday, April 28-30.

The 2022 NFL Draft begins at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 28.

OU Pro Day notebook: Perrion Winfrey looking forward to playing position he's 'truly supposed to play' in NFL

Turner-Yell, a native of Hempstead, Texas, was a consistent starter on the Sooners' defense the past three seasons.

Turner-Yell, who majored in human relations, started all 13 games he played in during the 2019 OU football season. He started he played in during 2021, and started eight of the 10 games he played in during 2020.

Here's some basic information about Delarrin Turner-Yell:

High school: Hempstead  
Height: Five feet, 11 inches  
Hometown: Hempstead

Here are three things to know about Oklahoma football safety Delarrin Turner-Yell for the 2022 NFL Draft.

Delarrin Turner-Yell: His best game in 2021 was against Iowa State

In the Sooners' 28-21 win against Iowa State, Turner-Yell tallied a career-high 11 tackles, including two solo, and an interception.

'I'm going to thrive in the league': Where does OU linebacker Brian Asamoah feel like he fits in the NFL?

Delarrin Turner-Yell: The honors

Turner-Yell received several honors during his OU football career, including:

All-Big 12 Second Team  
Academic All-Big 12 Second Team

Delarrin Turner-Yell chose OU football over who?

The safety picked OU football in 2018 over Nebraska, Utah, Houston and other schools.

# NFL Draft Profile: Delarrin Turner-Yell, Safety, Oklahoma Sooners

By Staff

SI.com

March 8, 2022

Pros:

Calderone: Turner-Yell's processing skills are noticeable on tape, as he is always in the right place at the right time, especially in the run game. His shoulders and hips line up on a slender frame. Despite his skinny frame, he shows he has the strength and physicality needed to play the safety position. He's willing to come up and make a play at the line of scrimmage utilizing his solid play recognition skills. Turner-Yell has a knack for recognizing route concepts which is one of his most substantial assets as a prospect. His tackling technique is something out of a clinic, as he is great at wrapping up and waiting for reinforcements with more prominent ball carriers. He comes flying up to the line of scrimmage on run plays, looking to make a tackle which shows he is engaged and alert in all play scenarios.

Cons:

Calderone: Turner-Yell occasionally over pursues the football in running scenarios where he comes flying down the field to make a play. He is also limited in size, affecting how NFL teams see him as a hybrid safety.

Summary:

Calderone: After exploding onto the scene in 2019, Turner-Yell showed more dominance in 2020, being a key leader for the backend of the Sooners defense. As a freshman, he had just seven tackles in four games. He quickly surpassed that level of play the following season, totaling 75 tackles in his sophomore season. The Sooner safety is dynamic because he can be dominant in pass coverage and the run game and he should be able to play multiple techniques at the next level.

Background:

A three-star recruit by 247Sports, ESPN and Rivals. Rated as the No. 24 safety in the country by 247Sports and No. 100 by ESPN. He chose Oklahoma over Houston, Nebraska, Utah and others. Major is human relations and his first name is pronounced duh-LAIR-ee-in.

One-Liners

Calderone: The Sooner safety is dynamic because he can be dominant in pass coverage and the run game and he should be able to play multiple techniques at the next level.

Grades

Current Player Value/Potential Player Value

Calderone: 7.6 / 8.0

11/22/21 - Heading into the season, there was not a game in the Big 12 more anticipated than the week 12 matchup between Iowa State and Oklahoma. While the season did not turn out as expected for the Cyclones, the Sooners still have an opportunity for the College Football Playoffs. Their win on Saturday put them one step closer to reaching that goal. In a strong defensive performance that limited star running back Breece Hall to 58 rushing yards, it was safety Delarrin Turner-Yell who stood out as a playmaker with 11 tackles, including some big third-down stops. The senior also added a timely third-quarter interception of Hunter Dekkers, almost putting the game out of reach for the Cyclones. After the game, Turner-Yell said: "You can call it being in the right place at the right time but at the end of the day I made a play and I'm very happy."

# Caring and Hardworking: Delarrin Turner-Yell hopes to stand out at this week's NFL draft combine

By John Williams

USA Today

March 1, 2022

The next step for prospective NFL draft prospects is underway in Indianapolis as NFL teams, agents, and draft-eligible players gather to go through the NFL scouting combine.

While most of the focus is on the on-field testing in the 40-yard dash, bench press, vertical and broad jumps, and agility drills, what happens behind closed doors will be just as important to NFL teams.

For Delarrin Turner-Yell, it's his first opportunity to meet with teams in his draft process. The safety who played more than 1,800 snaps for the Sooners defense has a ton of experience that should help him at the next level.

'I wanted to be able to make the most of it': Delarrin Turner-Yell reflects on his time with the Oklahoma Sooners

In the third part of our series with Delarrin Turner-Yell, I asked him what he wants NFL teams to learn about him after spending time with them this week in Indianapolis.

"I'm really outgoing, and I'm a caring type of person. Whichever team decides to draft me, I want them to know that they drafted me to be more than a football player," Turner-Yell said. "With things going on in the world, it's really bigger than football. How can I impact the community? How can I impact the younger generation? How can I help someone be able to live out their dream? To help someone that's doubting that one kid. Here myself, you know, actually being able to live out my dream, with me having to go through the same things with people saying, I can't do it, I'm too small. I can be the individual that, you know, helps that kid that's really going through those things. And just lead him the right way. So I'm a really caring, really outgoing type of person, you know, but we're on the field. I'm very hardworking, you know, trustworthy, and I'm just a guy that's gonna play the game the way it's supposed to be played."

'I was playing my best ball': Delarrin Turner-Yell shares what led to his decision to enter the NFL draft

Intangibles aren't something you can see on film or get from a testing drill. Understanding the mental makeup of a player requires meeting with that player and getting to know them. For Delarrin Turner-Yell, this is as important for him as what he does on the field this week. As he said, it's more than a game.

He doesn't take the opportunity to impact the lives of others lightly because, as a kid, it was a cousin of his and former NFL player that helped him believe that he could get to the NFL level.

Terrence Toliver, who spent time with the Texans, Bears, Lions and then spent some time in the CFL, helped encourage the Sooners' safety to believe that he could accomplish his dreams.

"Growing up watching how he did it and being from the same, small country town where you constantly hear 'no one ever makes it,' (Toliver) changed the narrative," Turner-Yell said. "He helped me along the

way, even after he moved on, letting me know he was there for me if I ever needed because he had already gone through the things I was getting ready to go through (the combine).”

And that’s what DTY wants to pay forward to the NFL community wherever he plays. He wants to walk alongside athletes to encourage them to chase their goals.

And his on-field goals. When I asked him what he hopes to run in the 40-yard dash, DTY said, “Low 4.4s.” If he hits that this week in Indy, that’ll turn some heads.

As Delarrin Turner-Yell takes part in this week’s NFL scouting combine, his goals are right in front of him. A strong week can make an impression on scouts and NFL front office folks that will help him find a role on a team at the next level.

# 'I was playing my best ball': Delarrin Turner-Yell shares what led to his decision to enter the NFL draft \

By John Williams  
USA Today  
February 23, 2022

Because of COVID-19, college players have been granted an extra year of eligibility and that was available for senior safety Delarrin Turner-Yell. But even prior to a productive season that saw him set a career-high in interceptions, Delarrin Turner-Yell knew the time was right to pull the trigger and head to the NFL.

He's one of 12 players declared for the NFL draft, a group that could have the highest number of draft picks the Sooners have seen in a given season since they had eight selections in the 2018 NFL draft.

But in a season where he battled a hamstring injury, Delarrin Turner-Yell was always planning on this being his last year to make a difference for the Crimson and Cream before heading to the league. But with a down 2021 season, Turner-Yell talked about what it took for him to rebound to have arguably the best season of his Sooners career.

"When the season first started I was looking at it as my senior year. The year before (2021) I really didn't have the year that I wanted. COVID came in, really didn't play as much, and make as many plays as I felt like I should have made," Turner-Yell said. "So I just sat down and I was just thinking, 'how can I make the most out of this season. How can I take my game to the next level? how can I make, you know, those game-changing plays.'"

And like he discussed in the first installment of our conversation with Turner-Yell, going back to the film was key for his improvement in 2021. And it was that improvement, despite the injury, that gave the Sooners safety the confidence that he could take the next step to the NFL.

"The thing I did was just go back and just watch myself years prior and look at those things and see how I could have improved on the things I messed up on in the past. Once I could clear those things up the next level is just waiting for me. And I trust myself, believe in myself enough to be able to take that jump."

But that confidence simply didn't come from within. DTY got confirmation on the football field after coming back from the hamstring injury that saw him miss three games in the middle of the season.

"I had an injury in the middle of the season with the hamstring. I was kind of frustrated about that, I was praying and asking the Lord to show me the way and I feel like in so many ways he showed me the way. Because I feel like after the injury, I came back, and I was playing my best ball throughout the entire season." Turner-Yell continued, "And I feel like just being able to send me that message and be able to allow me to come back and play better than I was at the beginning of the season. It was one of those things that was, once you get the thing that you're looking for, don't ask any more questions. Don't look back, and just keep on going."

Battling back from the hamstring injury, his performance on the field was the confirmation he needed to pursue the next level.

And it's hard to argue that. After returning for the Texas Tech game, Delarrin Turner-Yell had 28 tackles, 1.5 tackles for loss, and two interceptions over the final five games of the season. According to Pro Football Focus, DTY had the lowest passer rating allowed among all Oklahoma Sooner defensive backs at an NFL rating of 60.4. Only Justin Broiles allowed a lower yards per reception number than Turner-Yell's 7.9 among defensive backs.

Turner-Yell has the film to be a productive NFL safety. His first opportunity to meet with NFL scouts and front office people will come at the beginning of March with the NFL Scouting Combine.

# 'I wanted to be able to make the most of it': Delarrin Turner-Yell reflects on his time with the Oklahoma Sooners

By John Williams  
USA Today  
February 22, 2022

Coming off of an 11-2 season, the Oklahoma Sooners have a great deal of talent heading to the next level. Safety Delarrin Turner-Yell is one of five starters the Sooners are losing from the 2021 defense. As a three-year starter, his experience and understanding of the game became an invaluable asset for Oklahoma.

At the Oklahoma, Turner-Yell started 32 games, recording 190 total tackles and four interceptions, including three in 2021, a season in which he missed three games due to a hamstring injury.

It was a career that may not have finished how he or his teammates would have liked, but he walked away with three Big 12 championships and went 2-0 in bowl game wins over Florida and Oregon. An injury in the build-up to the 2019 Peach Bowl forced him to sit out the College Football Playoff semifinal.

In part one of our interview with Turner-Yell, he describes how his time with the Oklahoma Sooners helped shape him for his future in the NFL.

"I feel like the experience of starting at the University of Oklahoma for three straight years really helped me grow as a man because it also helped me to be able to handle harsh situations and be able to get over the hump," Turner-Yell said.

Every player experiences the harsh realities of stepping up in competition. Whether it's from the high school level to college, the B-team to the A-team, or from college to the NFL. Along the way, there's a realization of the opportunity in front of you.

For Turner-Yell, that realization came when he earned his first opportunity to start. It wasn't easy, and he described going through growing pains but knowing this was his chance to shine helped him push through, learn from his mistakes and work to get better.

"I couldn't figure things out like that. The first season that I started was my sophomore season. I was still fairly young in the program," he said. "But ultimately, whenever I was given a chance to be able to start and be able to play, I had to be able to understand how important it was. How big of an opportunity it was. I wanted to be able to make the most out of it."

Former defensive coordinator Alex Grinch helped Turner-Yell understand what it meant to play for the University of Oklahoma. "Coach Grinch just sat me down, and he talked to me about the importance of being able to play at the University of Oklahoma. How important it was, how big of a deal it was, and he really just allowed me to look at it from a different lens."

The journey of a first-year starter can be up and down. Not every practice will be a clean one, but even the bad practices help players learn and grow to become better players as they go.

And it was watching film and learning the importance of watching film that pushed him over the hump in his understanding and processing of the game.

“There were times where we’ll be at practice, everyone has a bad practice, and there’ll be days where it’s, ‘OK, well, how can I get over the hump.’ I just started to learn the importance of watching film. Because once you watch film on the things you mess up on, you can easily tell what I could have done to be a step faster. Just going back and seeing how I can correct the things that I messed up on. And the biggest way to do that is to watch film. To watch yourself mess up. To see what steps you could have taken. Where should your eyes have been in order for you to be able to make that play?”

Starting as a sophomore wasn’t the easiest task, but for Turner-Yell, it was the proving ground that helped him grow the most during his time at Oklahoma.

“I feel like it helped me grow as a man because, you know, in life, you tend to go through things that you really don’t know what the outcome is going to be or how are you going to overcome it. But going through that helped me be able to overcome things like that in life.”

After a successful career that culminated in second-team All-Big 12 and All-Big 12 academic selections, Turner-Yell can take what he learned at the university and apply it as he takes the next step in his playing career: the NFL scouting combine, which begins March 1 in Indianapolis.