

BASIC PROSPECT INFORMATION											
	Name   Fernando Mendoza		Position   Quarterback		School   Indiana (Cal Transfer)			Class   Redshirt Junior			
	Date of birth   10/1/2003		Jersey Number   #15		247 Recruit Rating   ★★☆☆			Draft Class   2026 NFL Draft			
	MEASUREMENTS										
	Height   6' 5"		Weight   236 lbs		Arm Length   31 7/8"			Hand Span   9 1/2"			
NOTABLE AWARDS											
2025 Heisman Trophy Winner, Consensus All-American, AP College Football Player of the Year, First-Team All-Big Ten, Big-Ten Graham-George Offensive Player of the Year, Griese-Brees Quarterback of the Year, National Championship Game MVP, Big-Ten Championship Game MVP, Davey O'Brien Award, Maxwell Award, Walter Camp Player of the Year, Manning Award											
NFL TRANSITION											
Draft Grade: First Round		Player Comparison   Ryan Tannehill		Scheme Fit   Run heavy, RPO system			Player Archetype   Efficient, timing and rhythm based elevated game manager				
NFL COMBINE ATHLETIC TESTING											
40 Yard Dash		10 Yard Split		Bench Press		Vertical Jump		Broad Jump		3 Cone Drill	20 Yard Shuttle
DNP		DNP		DNP		DNP		DNP		DNP	DNP
CAREER PASSING STATISTICS (PFF)											
Years:	Attempts	Completions	Completion %	Yards	Touchdowns	Interceptions	ADOT	Turnover worthy play %	Pressure to sack %		
2025	382	273	71.5	3,536	41	6	9.8	2.6	18.9		
2024 (Cal)	390	265	67.9	3,004	16	6	8.4	3.5	25.6		
2023 (Cal)	277	153	63.0	1,708	14	10	8.4	5.0	16.3		
Career	1,015	691	68.1	8,248	71	22	8.9	3.5	21.1		
CAREER RUSHING STATISTICS (PFF)											
Years:	Games Played	Attempts	Yards	Yards Per Attempt	Touchdowns	Long	Missed Tackles	Yards After Contact	Fumbles		
2025	16	76	377	5.0	7	21	17	244	5		
2024 (Cal)	11	52	334	6.4	2	50	8	156	3		
2023 (Cal)	9	38	197	5.2	2	16	6	101	9		
Career	36	166	908	5.5	11	50	31	501	17		
SCOUTING REPORT											
Home Games Scouted:		Old Dominion, Kennesaw St, Indiana St, Illinois, Michigan St, UCLA, Wisconsin				Away Games Scouted:		Iowa, Oregon, Maryland, Penn St, Purdue			
Conference Championship Games, Bowl Games, and College Football Playoff (CFB) Games Scouted:					Ohio State (Big-Ten Championship), Alabama (CFP), Oregon (CFP), Miami (National Championship)						
<p><b>Summary</b> — Fernando Mendoza is a 22-year-old Red-Shirt Junior at 6'5" 236 pounds with a prototypical NFL frame that allows him to see over defenses and absorb contact. After steady development at Cal, he transferred to Indiana for his junior season and delivered a historic 2025 season guiding the Hoosiers to a perfect 16-0 record, the Big-Ten title, and a 2026 College Football Playoff (CFP) National Championship victory. Along with these team features, Mendoza earned a number of personal accolades as well: Heisman Trophy (the first for Indiana), consensus All-American, AP College Football Player of the Year, First Team All-Big Ten, among a number of others. A high-school multi-sport standout (football, tennis), academic achiever (almost went to Yale), and charismatic leader both on and off the field with high-character and no personality red flags. On the field, Mendoza separates himself with the prototypical size and build NFL front offices covet. As a passer, there are moments of brilliance where he blends accuracy, touch, timing, and advanced ball placement to leverage coverage and hit receivers in stride or throw receivers open on the boundary on back shoulder throws. Mendoza also offers functional linear mobility as a gritty scrambler and functional RPO option. His pocket poise when staring down the barrel in the pocket and toughness as a runner were also highlights of his game during Indiana's CFP run which led to Mendoza's championship-level leadership and intangibles elevating and inspiring his teammates around him. However, transitioning from an RPO-heavy scheme, showing some minor mechanical inconsistencies, and some physical limitations as far as his mobility and pure arm talent still present a learning curve. Mendoza will be a better fit for some offenses than others, but with continued growth and landing in the right offensive structure, he offers the potential to become a franchise's quarterback — think of a younger version of Ryan Tannehill in Tennessee. Though his talent does not correlate to that of a first overall pick, the combination of position premium and talent in this year's quarterback class (or lack thereof) will likely inflate his value to first overall contention.</p>											
<p><b>What Encouraged Me</b></p> <p><b>Elite Frame &amp; Workhorse Build</b> — Prototypical 6'5" 236 lbs frame with long arms gives him ideal pocket presence, vision over the line, and a frame to survive contact both inside and outside of the pocket.</p> <p><b>Durability</b> — Extremely tough and durable player who shows absurd willingness to play through injury, illness, and continuously got back up after heavy contact. This was no better epitomized than in Indiana's National Championship run where he absorbed massive hits while maintaining production and leadership.</p> <p><b>Football IQ, Processing, and Decision Making</b> — Quick processor with efficient pre and post-snap diagnosis of coverages, safety rotations, leverage, and blitzes. He works through quick game reads and RPO concepts instantly, rarely forcing throws or turning the ball over within structure.</p> <p><b>Pocket Management</b> — Fearless in the pocket standing tall amid chaos and willing to absorb massive contact to deliver throws downfield. This was prominent during clutch drives in the clutch against Oregon, Penn State, in the Big Ten title game against Ohio State, and in the National Championship game against Miami. When faced with pressure, he is savvy enough to escape initial pressure with subtle pocket movement or RPO runs in bursts.</p> <p><b>Mechanics</b> — Generally clean, balanced, and repeatable mechanics when throwing from a balanced base and provided the protection to going through a clean process remaining in rhythm. When allowed to go through his process he is generally a rotational thrower with a quick three-quarter release, good hip rotation, and consistently gets his lead foot aligned to generate consistent power and accuracy.</p> <p><b>Arm Talent</b> — Mendoza's arm talent is solid with functional strength generating good zip and velocity on intermediate throws, capable of altering his arm slot for added versatility, and uses his long arms for whip and torque on timing routes, back-shoulders, and layered placements. His composite arm talent is reliable when in rhythm and structure despite lacking elite raw arm traits.</p> <p><b>Accuracy</b> — Nation-leading 79% adjusted completion percentage with a number of pinpoint ball locations on tape. One of the best throws in his bag is also one of his most consistent, the back shoulder ball where he and Sage Surratt displayed rare chemistry, consistently, timing, and precision. Mendoza also shows the ability to throw with impressive touch, layering throws into intermediate windows between zones. Mendoza also consistently puts the ball exactly where receivers need it to be to maximize yards after the catch and attacks condensed windows with exact ball placement where only his receiver could make a play on the ball (See Omar Cooper's game-winning catch in the back of the end zone against Penn State).</p> <p><b>Mobility</b> — Functional, gritty scrambler who excels on designed RPOs, in scramble situations, and when given free-access rushing lanes to pick up critical first downs and consistently shows a willingness to absorb contact when he can sniff the goal line (See National Championship against Miami).</p> <p><b>Intangibles</b> — Elite competitor and natural leader whose calm confidence bleeds into the locker room. Proven winning mentality, elevates those around him, and has a high-character off-field presence.</p>					<p><b>Areas of Growth/Concern</b></p> <p><b>Scheme Production</b> — Mendoza thrived in a simple shotgun/RPO-heavy system with quick, structured reads, limited instances under center, and leveraged a simple route tree. The offense prioritized pre-determined throws and structured RPO reads, which limited his exposure to multi-progression concepts and led to him staring down targets and opening the door to defensive backs reading his eyes — operating in a pro-style offense will require adjustment. Due to this, it has also not allowed him to grow as a manipulator of defensive backs or move safeties with his eyes.</p> <p><b>Mechanics Inconsistencies</b> — While mechanics are clean and repeatable when set in rhythm, he will frequently get tosey in the pocket, including with his plant/back foot when getting into his throwing motion, which can impact accuracy and velocity generated. As a rotational thrower, you want to see roughly a 75/25 split in your weight distribution with 75% of weight being on your plant/back foot. Prior to getting into your throwing motion, you want all of your cleats to be in the ground because that's where quarterbacks get their power — front the ground up. You then want to see that weight transfer from plant/back foot to front foot, bringing your hips, and keeping the shoulders square to the target. Mendoza typically plays on his toes in his base, which makes it difficult to achieve that 75/25 split in favor of a balanced base. Being on the toes into the throwing motion can have an impact on ball placement, and not having all your cleats in the ground can impact velocity. The hindrance is especially noticeable when throwing off-platform or under pressure when he will throw off his back foot, drift away from the throw rather than work downhill, and becomes more of a linear thrower on the move, which more heavily relies on all your cleats in the ground. These minor hiccups have caused sails, overthrows, lost power, and shown up as the issue during his occasional placement inconsistencies. Luckily, all of this is a coachable area but has had an impact on velocity and accuracy when the full kinetic chain isn't synced.</p> <p><b>Accuracy Off-Platform</b> — Accuracy, completion percentage, and production drop sharply when on the move or off-platform. 77.0% completion percentage, 2,916 yards, 9.7 YPA, 32 TD's, and 4 INT when "kept clean" and 51.2% completion percentage, 620 yards, 7.6 YPA, 9 TD's, and 2 INT's when "under pressure" (PFF). Additionally, as mentioned above, mechanics can break down, he throws off the back foot, and will drift into his throws, all of which have impacted his accuracy.</p> <p><b>Adequate, but not Elite Arm Talent</b> — Solid zip on short/intermediate routes but lacks elite arm talent to generate outstanding strength — deep shots will hang when released off-platform — and power — generating significant velocity from off-platform base — which limit some of his off-script upside.</p> <p><b>Athletic Limitations</b> — Adequate linear burst to use escape lanes when naturally formed, but a lack of dynamic laterally agility limits his ability to create these escape lanes and significantly extend plays. He is best operating from a clean pocket and limiting his "on the hoof" exposures. A career 21.1% pressure-to-sack ratio illustrates the limitations perfectly.</p>						