

BASIC PROSPECT INFORMATION													
	Name Makai Lemon		Position Wide Receiver		School USC		Class Junior						
	Date of birth 6/2/2004		Jersey Number #6		247 Recruit Rating ★★★★★		Draft Class 2026 NFL Draft						
	MEASUREMENTS												
	Height 5'11"		Weight 192 lbs		Arm Length 30 1/2"		Hand 8 3/4"						
NOTABLE AWARDS													
2025 Biletnikoff Award, 2025 Unanimous All-American, 2025 Co-Winner Polynesian College Football Player of the Year, 2025 First-Team All-Big Ten													
NFL TRANSITION													
Draft Grade: First Round		Player Comparison Amon-Ra St. Brown		Scheme Fit West Coast Timing Offense		Player Archetype Versatile slot separator with strong hands							
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 RUSHING STATISTICS (PFF)													
Years:	Games Played	Receptions	Targets	Yards	Yards Per Reception	Touchdowns	Yards Per Route Run	ADOT	Drops/Fumbles				
2025	9	61	97	711	11.7	8	2.37	11.7	1/1				
2024	12	75	113	1,098	14.6	10	3.04	12.6	7/2				
2023	3	0	4	0	0	0	0	24.8	0/0				
2022	9	23	48	466	20.3	4	2.79	17.0	5/0				
Career	33	159	262	2,275	14.3	22	2.71	13.3	13/3				
SCOUTING REPORT													
Home Games Scouted:		Missouri St, Georgia Southern, Michigan St, Michigan, Northwestern, Iowa, UCLA				Away Games Scouted:		Purdue, Illinois, Notre Dame, Nebraska, Oregon					
Conference Championship Games, Bowl Games, and College Football Playoff (CFB) Games Scouted:					None in 2025								
<p>Summary — Born March 3, 2003, in Los Angeles, California, Makai Lemon is a junior wide receiver for the USC Trojans, standing 5'11" and weighing around 192 pounds with a well-proportioned frame and willingness to block, which allows him to thrive out of the slot. A four-star recruit out of Mater Dei High School, he committed to USC in 2021 and quickly made an impact in the Trojans' passing attack. After limited action as a freshman, Lemon broke out in 2023 and truly established himself in 2025, finishing with 85 receptions for 1,345 yards and 12 touchdowns, including multiple explosive games against top Big Ten competition — most notable against Iowa in a rainy environment. His accolades reflect his rise: Biletnikoff Award winner in 2025, Unanimous First-Team All-American (2025), Polynesian College Football Player of the Year (co-winner, 2025), and First-Team All-Big Ten (2025). Lemon's strengths center on route-running precision, with the ability to vary tempos, sink hips, and create separation even against tight coverage. His extremely reliable hands and body control are also notable in contested-catch situations and along the sideline. Lemon also has juice as a one-cut violent runner to generate yards after catch through sharp cuts and decisive acceleration. Lemon is also highly engaged as a run blocker, showing high-effort and versatility. His ability in this role will be an instant impact at the next level. His skillset as a receiver in combination with his blocking ability gives confidence in his ability to line up in the slot as an offensive weapon capable of influencing the game in a variety of ways. His slot alignment also helps mitigate some of his limitations in his transition to the NFL: Modest catch radius (though he maximizes this with timing, late hands, and late separation), average long speed, and continued development in his release vs. press (shows up vs. Leonard Moore in the Notre Dame game). With that being said, I do still believe he has the capability to align on the boundary throughout the game; it will simply not be his home. Lemon's ceiling and style most closely resemble Amon-Ra St. Brown as a polished, high-volume slot receiver with reliable hands, route precision, YAC ability, and contributions as a run blocker. Overall, he projects as a high-upside, technically refined receiver capable of being a chain-moving target and reliable playmaker in timing-based West Coast offenses that prioritize timing, precision, short and intermediate routes, and slot utilization.</p>													
<p>What Encouraged Me</p> <p>Usage & Versatility — Makai Lemon is a versatile weapon who thrives in the slot, but can also align on the boundary and operate in motion, using his route-running and spatial awareness to create separation in multiple alignments. He also contributes on gadget plays behind the line of scrimmage to dictate coverage and can contribute on special teams with experience as both a kick and punt returner, adding value in all phases of the game.</p> <p>Athleticism — Makai Lemon possesses explosive quickness, deep hip sink in his stems, and fluid change-of-direction skills, allowing him to separate in short areas and accelerate out into and out of breaks as well as after the catch. His balance, body control, and agility make him difficult to tackle in traffic, while his overall speed and lateral movement allow him to threaten from the slot or the boundary and contribute as a returner in the open field.</p> <p>Route Running — Lemon's polished route running, tempo variation, ability to manipulate defensive leverage, and deep understanding of zone coverage allow him to attack coverage and win with route running intelligence rather than pure athleticism, consistently creating separation. He excels in the short and intermediate portions of the field and benefits from free releases in the slot, making him a reliable target.</p> <p>Ball Skills — Ball skills are in contention for Lemon's best overall trait; Lemon has outstanding hands at the catch point. His hands are soft yet strong with body control and flexibility to adjust naturally to off-target throws, keep his feet in bounds on sideline targets, demonstrate late hands in contested catch situations, and secure catches through contact with fearlessness over the middle of the field.</p> <p>Yards After Catch (YAC) Ability — With the ball in Lemon's hands, he demonstrates quickness, decisiveness, and one-cut ability to generate extra yardage in space or on special teams if asked to handle return duties. He transitions cleanly from receiver to ball carrier, making defenders miss and maximizing the value of his touches.</p> <p>High Effort, Effective Run Blocking — Makai Lemon is a high-effort, physical receiver who consistently competes in the run game, particularly from the slot or in condensed formations. His technique, hand placement, leverage, and toughness allow him to sustain blocks on linebackers and defensive backs, opening lanes for ball carriers and adding a valuable dimension to the offense beyond the passing game.</p>					<p>Areas of Growth/Concern</p> <p>Lack of Top End Speed — Lemon declined to compete in NFL combine athletic testing, but did participate in some of the on-field drills. Lemon then tested at the USC pro-day where he registered times ranging from high-4.4's to low 4.5's, but these were all hand times — on tape these testing number correlate well and I feel are an accurate representation of his speed. His vertical speed is adequate to sustain vertical separation, but his separation created is primarily technique and timing-based. Corners with exceptional long speed or recovery burst can close the gap on vertical routes.</p> <p>Press Release — Physical press corners can disrupt his timing early in the route as seen against Notre Dame when matched up with Leonard Moore. His frame, while solid, can be challenged by stronger perimeter defenders, particularly in press situations. He will need to develop more refined hand usage, refine his release consistency, and develop more release counters to consistently win against NFL press coverage.</p> <p>Release Polish Consistency — Generally, Lemon is solid in his releases; however, there are times he will rush the release and fail to set the corner up, especially on vertical routes which allow the corner to stay in phase and squeeze him into the boundary. Becoming more consistent in this area will help him continue to threaten defenses vertically at the next level as he relies more heavily on creating separation in the release or at the stem due to modest overall pure vertical speed to create separation.</p> <p>Modest Yards After Catch Threat — With the ball in his hands, Lemon tends to be more of a decisive, one-cut runner who turns upfield quickly and determines his YAC attack. This at times has led to Lemon not allowing downfield blocks to develop and he has turned down wider areas of green grass leaving yards on the field. Greater patience in his transition to scan for YAC tracks could result in even more explosive plays for Lemon at the next level.</p>								