


BASIC PROSPECT INFORMATION											
	Name Sonny Styles		Position Linebacker		School Ohio State			Class Senior			
	Date of birth 11/24/2004		Jersey Number #0		247 Recruit Rating ★★★★★			Draft Class 2026 NFL Draft			
	MEASUREMENTS										
	Height 6' 5"		Weight 244 lbs		Arm Length 32 7/8"			Hand span 10"			
NOTABLE AWARDS											
First-Team All-American, First-Team All-Big Ten, Block "O" Jersey Recipient, Ohio State Team Captain, Butkus Award Finalist, Chris Spielman Award											
NFL TRANSITION											
Draft Grade: First Round		Player Comparison Fred Warner		Scheme Fit Versatile Tampa-2 LB			Player Archetype Complete modern three-down linebacker				
NFL COMBINE ATHLETIC TESTING											
40 Yard Dash		10 Yard Split		Bench Press		Vertical Jump		Broad Jump		3 Cone Drill	20 Yard Shuttle
4.46		1.56		DNP		43.5"		11'2"		7.09	4.26
CAREER TACKLING STATISTICS (PFF)											
Years:	Games Played	Tackles	Assist Tackles	Missed Tackles	Missed Tackle %	Defensive Stop	Forced Fumbles	Sacks	Hits		
2025	14	71	17	2	2.2%	47	1	2	1		
2024	16	68	16	19	18.4%	43	1	6	1		
2023	13	33	18	6	10.5%	18	1	2	1		
2022	8	4	1	1	16.7%	3	0	0	0		
Career	51	176	52	28	10.9%	111	3	10	3		
CAREER COVERAGE STATISTICS (PFF)											
Years:	Targets	Receptions Allowed	Catch % Allowed	Yards Allowed	YAC Allowed	Touchdowns Allowed	Interceptions	Pass Break-Ups	Penalties		
2025	34	29	85.3%	183	129	1	1	3	0		
2024	43	43	72.9%	385	305	1	0	2	1		
2023	20	12	60.0%	117	53	0	0	1			
2022	4	3	75.0%	54	24	0	0	0			
Career	117	87	74.4%	739	511	2	1	6	1		
SCOUTING REPORT											
Home Games Scouted:		Texas, Grambling, Ohio, Minnesota, Penn State, UCLA, Rutgers				Away Games Scouted:		Washington, Illinois, Wisconsin, Purdue, Michigan			
Conference Championship Games, Bowl Games, and College Football Playoff (CFB) Games Scouted:					Indiana (Big Ten Championship), Miami (CFP)						
<p>Summary — Sonny Styles is the modern NFL linebacker prototype: a 6'5", 244 lb rangy defender from a deep Ohio State pedigree — his father Lorenzo Sr. was an All-Big Ten Buckeye linebacker and Super Bowl champion — who enrolled early as a five-star recruit, started his career as a safety, transitioned full-time to linebacker in 2024 to help win a national title, and emerged as a dominant three-down playmaker. After earning the prestigious unanimous Block "O" jersey, serving as a 2025 team captain, and claiming first-team All-Big Ten and All-American honors in his final season, Styles blends elite safety-bred coverage instincts, sideline-to-sideline range, sure tackling, violent hands against blocks, and high-character leadership into a chess piece capable of erasing underneath zones, pursuing from depth, blitzing off the edge, and communicating pre-snap like a veteran. At just 21 years old with only two full seasons at linebacker, his rare combination of length, explosive athleticism, processing speed, and intangibles gives him legitimate Fred Warner ceiling potential as a perennial Pro Bowl starter and culture-setter in today's modern game. While there are minor refinements he can make, it is understandable considering he is still just two years into his transition to off-ball linebacker. With that being said, the most prominent aspect of his game that works against him is out of his control — off-ball linebacker is not a position modern NFL franchises value in the early portions of the first round. Styles' immense talent will test that precedent. In Ohio State's College Football Playoff matchup against the National Champion Indiana Hoosiers he put together teach tape film across the board and solidified himself as a top prospect in the class regardless of position. Positional value be damned, give me Styles in the top 5 of the 2026 NFL Draft.</p>											
<p>What Encouraged Me</p> <p>Youth & Growth Ceiling — At 21 years old with only two full seasons at LB, Styles offers massive developmental runway and long-term prime; already posting elite production while still refining instincts.</p> <p>Physical Profile — Being 6'5", having long arms, and a muscular build gives him prototypical length to engulf runners, extend through blocks, and take away the middle of the field with a range and a massive wingspan.</p> <p>Athleticism — A certified freak per Bruce Feldman's 2025 Freaks List (No. 10 overall), blending explosive burst, elite change-of-direction, and basketball-derived body control. His standout testing at the combine, 4.446 40-yard dash, 43.5-inch vertical, and 11-foot 2-inch broad jump, confirmed his explosive abilities. His explosiveness, acceleration, and redirection at 6'5" make him a dynamic playmaker in pursuit and in coverage affecting the game the game in every phase.</p> <p>Run-Game Defense — Styles is disciplined in his run fits, violent with his hands, sharp in pursuit, and a sure tackler (2.2% missed tackle rate in 2025) making him highly reliable against the run — a true sideline-to-sideline run game defender.</p> <p>Coverage Skills — Styles safety background has inherited him zone instincts with sharp QB vision, quick route diagnosis, seamless handoffs, and allows him to operate as a reliable underneath eraser. He is at his best in zone and would thrive in a Tampa-2 heavy scheme allowing him to process routes in front of him with a quick trigger to react and limit YAC.</p> <p>Ball Skills — Another trait that has translated in his move from safety to linebacker is Styles ball skills where he tracks well, attacks at the highest point with length, disrupts throws (3 PBU in 2025), and turns coverage into turnovers (1 INT in 2025). His blend of length and athleticism allow him to take away windows and make plays that not all off-ball linebackers are capable of influencing.</p> <p>Tackling — One of the surest tacklers in the class with a near-elite wrap-up rate and very low missed tackles (2.2% missed tackle rate in 2025); uses length for a wide radius, delivers pop on contact without going high often, and consistently finishes plays securely in space or traffic.</p> <p>Intangibles and Leadership — Unanimous Block "O" recipient, 2025 captain, and "coach-like" leader with elite work ethic, relentless motor, and high football IQ.</p>					<p>Areas of Growth/Concern</p> <p>Limited Linebacker Experience — Only two full seasons at linebacker after safety background; still building off-ball instincts.</p> <p>Some Hip stiffness Working Downhill — Occasional hip stiffness downhill or in quick transitions; long frame can cause wider angles vs. shifty runners/routes.</p> <p>Vertical Route Exposure — Mostly worked underneath zones; limited tape carrying vertical routes (seams/posts), though he will likely not be asked to do this often in the NFL either.</p>						