

BASIC PROSPECT INFORMATION											
	Name David Bailey		Position Edge Rusher		School Texas Tech (Stanford transfer)		Class Senior				
	Date of birth 08/28/2003		Jersey Number #31		247 Recruit Rating ★★★★★		Draft Class 2026 NFL Draft				
	MEASUREMENTS										
	Height 6' 4"		Weight 251 lbs		Arm Length 33 3/4"		Hand span 10 1/4"				
NOTABLE AWARDS											
Big 12 Defensive Lineman of the Year (2025), Big 12 Defensive Newcomer of the Year (2025), Unanimous All-Big 12 First-Team, Consensus All-American, Finalist for the Lombardo Award											
NFL TRANSITION											
Draft Grade: First Round		Player Comparison Nik Bonitto		Scheme Fit 3-4 Outside Linebacker		Player Archetype Designated pass rushing standup 3-4 outside linebacker					
NFL COMBINE ATHLETIC TESTING											
40 Yard Dash		10 Yard Split		Bench Press		Vertical Jump		Broad Jump		3 Cone Drill	20 Yard Shuttle
4.50		1.62		DNP		35"		10' 9"		DNP	DNP
CAREER TACKLING STATISTICS (PFF)											
Years:	Games Played	Total Tackles	Missed Tackles	Missed Tackle %	Defensive Stops	Forced Fumbles	Batted Passes	Sacks	Hits		
2025	14	81	5	11.9%	40	2	2	15	23		
2024 (STAN)	12	39	6	20.7%	17	5	0	7	6		
2023 (STAN)	11	24	5	14.7%	12	0	0	5	2		
2022 (STAN)	11	28	7	16.3%	19	2	0	3	3		
Career	48	172	23	15.5%	88	9	2	30	34		
SCOUTING REPORT											
Home Games Scouted:		Arkansas Pine-Bluff, Kent St, Oregon St, Kansas, Oklahoma St, BYU, UCF				Away Games Scouted:		Utah, Houston, Arizona St, Kansas St, West Virginia			
Conference Championship Games, Bowl Games, and College Football Playoff (CFB) Games Scouted:					BYU (Big 12 Championship), Oregon (College Football Playoffs)						
<p>Summary —David Bailey is a modern NFL edge rusher with a game built on speed, explosiveness, length, and high-end pass-rush upside. At 6'4", 251 pounds, Bailey's game is centered on getting upfield quickly and disrupting the quarterback. He emerged as one of the most productive and impactful defenders during Texas Tech's college football playoff run, where he showcased a rare combination of burst, bend, and closing speed that consistently stressed offensive tackles. Bailey wins first with his get-off, regularly beating linemen out of their stance and forcing early engagement, and pairs it with the ability to flatten at the top of the rush and finish plays in the backfield. His length and athleticism allow him to affect throwing lanes, chase plays down from the backside, and create pressure even when he doesn't finish with sacks. As a pass rusher, Bailey is at his best when he can play in space, particularly in wide alignments where he maximizes his speed, cornering ability, and polished pass rush arsenal. He shows flashes of hand usage and the ability to convert speed to power, though his game is still more finesse and movement-based than power-driven. Bailey's effort shows up consistently in pursuit situations and second-effort pressures, adding to his overall disruptive presence. In the run game, Bailey offers solid but inconsistent value. He has the athleticism and length to set the edge and work laterally, but can struggle at times anchoring against power and maintaining gap discipline when offenses run directly at him. Rather than being a true point-of-attack enforcer, he's more effective as a penetrator and pursuit defender who creates negative plays with quickness and range — essentially he defends in the run game like a linebacker. Building on his play strength and consistency in this area will be key to becoming a complete three-down player. Overall, Bailey projects as a high-upside, pass-rush-focused edge defender whose impact will come from his ability to pressure the quarterback and create disruption. His blend of explosiveness, bend, and length fits perfectly in today's NFL, where edge players are valued for their ability to affect the passing game. However, the issue with his game is that defenses must <i>earn</i> the right to rush the passer by taking care of business, remaining disciplined, and maintaining gap integrity on early run downs. Bailey must prove he's capable of contributing in this phase on a consistent basis or at least capable of holding his own he wants to earn a three-down role. If he isn't able to do this, his role will be limited to designed pass rusher role for a defense who doesn't always see the field on early downs. While this is still valuable in the NFL, this career outcome would fall far below the ceiling potential he is going to be drafted to be as a three-down contributor.</p>											
<p>What Encouraged Me</p> <p>Physical Profile Upside — Bailey possesses an ideal modern edge frame with good height, length, and a lean, athletic build. He carries his weight well and has room to continue adding functional strength without sacrificing quickness which will help him continue his improvement as a run defender. While he's not a power player, and likely never will be, his frame supports further physical development to better handle NFL-level trench play.</p> <p>Positional Versatility — Bailey offers some positional flexibility as an edge with experience playing both from a two-point and three-point stance. While he projects cleanest as a 3-4 outside linebacker, he does have the ability to put his hand in the dirt as a 4-3 defensive end which will offer some schematic versatility for sub-package looks along the defensive front.</p> <p>Athleticism — Bailey is a high-level athlete whose game is built on explosiveness, flexibility, and fluid movement skills. He consistently displays an elite first step, allowing him to gain immediate upfield leverage and stress offensive tackles early in the rep. His ability to bend and corner is a standout trait, showing the hip flexibility and body control to flatten at sharp angles without losing speed. In addition to his burst, Bailey shows strong lateral agility and range, allowing him to redirect, pursue, and impact plays outside of his initial rush path. His closing speed and acceleration in space further reinforce his ability to finish plays and create disruption across the formation.</p> <p>Run-Game Defense — In the run game Bailey is more of a disrupter than game wrecker at this stage of his development. He flashes the ability to set the edge using his length and quickness, but can struggle to anchor against power and maintain gap discipline. His best work comes as a penetrator he will split gaps, locate the ball, make plays in the backfield, or force runners to alter their rush track. He is also consistent in backside pursuit where his athleticism and effort allow him to track down tacklers from the backside of the play. Ultimately, Bailey plays ball carriers in the run game like a linebacker — splitting gaps, flowing with runs, and pursuing making backside plays with his athleticism.</p> <p>Pass Rush Skillset — Bailey's pass-rush ability is the defining strength of his profile and the primary source of his impact. He is primarily a speed rusher who wins first with his explosiveness off the ball, consistently threatening the outside shoulder and forcing tackles to open their hips early. His pass rush arsenal is also rather polished with the standard bull rush, long arm, speed rush, spin move all while still developing his ability to convert of speed-to-power — Bailey also shows advanced technique such as the "ghost move". His bend and ability to reduce his surface area allow him to turn corners effectively, while also flashing hand usage and counters: inside moves, swipe/rip combinations, and spin moves. Bailey's natural tools, combined with a high motor and second-effort ability, allow him to generate steady pressure even when his initial move is stalled.</p> <p>Tackling — Bailey is a solid overall tackler who benefits from his closing speed and length in space generally finishing well when he arrives under control, particularly in pursuit situations.</p>					<p>Areas of Growth/Concern</p> <p>Cautionary Character Concerns — In 2024 with Stanford, Bailey was ejected from a 21-59 blowout loss against NC State for stomping on an opponents face mask. In 2025 after the Red Raiders were upset by the Arizona State Sun Devil's Bailey had confronted a camera man grabbing his shoulders and the back of his neck which was ultimately reported to the police and investigated. While it's hard to judge a player's true character from a few heavily covered incidents, it is worth noting as this has now been two separate instances. Bailey will have to address these concerns with front offices looking to invest early day 1 draft capital in him.</p> <p>Physical Profile — While Bailey has a long athletic frame for the position, he lacks play strength at this stage of his development. He can struggle when offensive linemen are able to get into his chest and control reps with physicality. At times, his game can rely too heavily on finesse and natural ability rather than refined technique which leads to uneven performance against more disciplined opponents. Adding functional strength will be important for him to consistently hold up against NFL-caliber tackles, particularly in the run game.</p> <p>High Pad Level — Bailey will play with a high pad level at times, which limits his ability to maximize leverage, particularly against stronger and more technically sound offensive linemen. This shows up both as a pass rusher, where he can lose power on contact, and in the run game, where he can struggle to anchor and control blocks at the point of attack. When his pads rise, he becomes easier to neutralize and can get displaced off his spot. Improving his ability to consistently play low will be critical to unlocking more power in his game.</p> <p>Athleticism — Bailey's linear athleticism is excellent, but his athleticism can occasionally work against him when he plays out of control, overrun plays, or take inefficient angles in pursuit due to his aggressiveness and speed. At times, he relies on his burst to recover rather than maintaining disciplined movement throughout the rep.</p> <p>Pass Rush Tendencies — While highly productive, Bailey's pass-rush approach relies heavily on his first step and athleticism where technically sound tackles can neutralize him. He can also improve his hand accuracy when hand fighting throughout the rush and further develop his pass-rush counters.</p> <p>Run Defense — Bailey's run defense is currently inconsistent and one of the biggest question marks in his prospect profile particularly at the point of attack. He tends to favor upfield penetration, which can create running lanes if he loses contain or gets widened out of his gap. He can also get dug out by kick-out blocks and can struggle to recognize these within the structure of the offense. He can also struggle to anchor against power and maintain edge integrity when linemen engage him with proper leverage. His tendency to play high at times further limits his ability to control blocks and shed effectively, making him more of a penetrator than a true edge setter. Finally, while his pursuit and range are strengths, he must improve play strength, leverage, and gap discipline to become a reliable three-down defender. If he is unable to become more consistent in the run game, he will be relegated to a designated pass rusher in the NFL which would be a difficult role to warrant early first round consideration.</p>						