

Williams		Marcus		Utah		\$	4.5
LAST NAME		FIRST NAME		COLLEGE		POSITION	FINAL GRADE
6010	204	4.56	0912	3212	7778		N/A
HEIGHT	WEIGHT	40 TIME	HAND SIZE	ARM	WINGSPAN		SPARQ SCORE
ATHLETIC ABILITY						SECTION GRADE:	5.5
Good footwork and change of direction. Smooth in transtion, shifting his hips, and overall movement. Not elite level quickness but sufficient. Also lacks playing speed for a safety. Has to play a little deeper to get the angle, and just seems a step slower than the faster players.							
PASS COVERAGE ABILITY						SECTION GRADE:	5.5
Free safety who plays deep zone most of the time. (Rarely plays man). Has good awareness to adjust and find a spot that needs to be covered. Williams also knows where to play over the top to support cornerbacks. The only concern is when Williams plays deep. It is clear that his goal is always to prevent the big play, but he seems to take himself too far away from the play too often. This happens about 50% of all plays. When he is locking on a receiver, he stays fairly well at the receiver's hip.							
BALL SKILLS / HANDS						SECTION GRADE:	5.5
No interceptions for 2024 and only 2 pass breakups, so this was barely observed. Not many opportunities to play on the ball either. Williams timed the play well on both pass breakups.							
COMPETITIVENESS / TOUGHNESS / PLAY VS RUN						SECTION GRADE:	4.0
Lacks tenacity. Not an a violent hitter. Tends to come up to the ball carrier right after the tackle was made. In fact, there were a couple of times where the ball carrier would get free after breaking a tackle, and Williams got caught off guard and didn't make the play. Williams also tends to launch his body instead of making a clean wrap-up tackle. Against the run, Marcus Williams rarely makes a play. He is 6th on the team for tackles in 2024, but plays on 97% of all defensive plays. So he has had more opportunities to make plays than most others on the defense.							
INSTINCTS / AWARENESS						SECTION GRADE:	6.5
As a free safety, Marcus Williams does well making sure all areas are covered for the back end of the defense. He consistently makes adjustments when necessary to find the open spots to make sure receivers are covered or if other defensive backs need support deep against receivers. He also maintains focus in that when passes don't go his way for a while, he will still stay to task. The only time this doesn't happen is when a ball carrier breaks a tackle, Williams is a bit late reacting to try to make the play.							
LEADERSHIP / INTANGIBLES / CHARACTER / FOOTBALL INTELLIGENCE						SECTION GRADE:	6.0
As a free safety, Williams directs the back end of the defense for coverage assignments. He does fairly well; although, there were a couple of instances where there was a mistake and a receiver would be left open. In those instances, Williams would protect another area that a receiver got open and needed coverage. So it's not like Williams was doing nothing on those plays. Williams has a good overall character and is a team player. He has his own Marked as Winners Foundation to support kids in academics and athletics. This is after getting a 4.0 GPA in high school and becoming a two-time All-PAC 12 academic at Utah.							
GDE	CATEGORY	COMMENTS / DESCRIPTION				GAMES VIEWED	COMBINE RESULTS
6.5	READ & REACT	Does well focusing in on the play and making adjustments as necessary.				9/5/24 @ KC 9/22/24 @ DAL	VERT JUMP 4312
6.0	MAN OFF COVER	Only observed a few times since he mostly plays zone. Stays on the hip of the receiver. However, all the receivers he faced weren't explosive off the line. Most of them were tight ends.					BROAD JUMP 10' 8"
N/A	TIGHT MAN COVER	Not observed					20 SHUTTLE 4.20
5.5	ZONE COVERAGE	Mostly plays deep zone. At times, he'll be too far away from the play. Other times, he will observe and find the right spot to cover. Although, he does tend to leave a little too much cushion.				10/21/24 @ TB	60 SHUTTLE N/A
5.5	BREAK & CLOSE	Reacts and has a good change of direction to get to the ball carrier. Williams is just not aggressive, though, on the tackle.				11/7/24 vs CIN	3 CONE 6.85
6.0	HIPS / TURN ABILITY	Good balance and shift in his hips. Smooth overall movement and fairly good change of direction.				CRITICAL FACTORS	BENCH PRESS 14
3.5	TACKLING	Not aggressive. Often seen at the ball carrier after the tackle is made by another defender. Rarely explodes at the tackle and is not a violent hitter. Will launch at the ball carrier and not wrap up, but still not a violent tackler.					
5.5	HANDS - INT / FBU	Limited opportunities resulting in no interceptions and 2 pass breakups in 2024. Timed the play just right on both pass breakup opportunities.					
4.5	HANDS - FIGHT BLK	Not many observations where Williams had to fight off a block, but tended to struggle in getting off the block in those instances.				ATHLETICISM 5.5	ZONE COVERAGE 5.5
3.5	DEEP SPEED	Doesn't have the top end playing speed like a free safety should have. Can't cover a lot of ground quickly. Seems a step slower than other faster receivers and has to compensate sometimes by playing a little deeper and using a different angle.				MAN COVERAGE 6.0	COMPETES 4.0
6.0	ERRORS	The only errors were when Williams missed a tackle or two or when a tackle was broken and Williams didn't respond.				PLAYING SPEED 3.5	INSTINCTS 6.5
STRONG POINTS				WEAKNESSES			
Considered a leader on the defense since he directs the coverage on the back end of the defense. Good awareness on each play. Reacts quickly to events and makes adjustments as necessary. Good balance with smooth movement and change of direction.				Lacks playing speed for a safety, which means he falls a step behind the faster players and doesn't recover well. With that, he also tends to play too deep in coverage keeping him out of the play. Williams is also not a very aggressive player and lacks toughness. He will not go after the big tackle.			
SUMMARY / BOTTOM LINE							
Marcus Williams is a free safety for the Baltimore Ravens. With that, he is a leader that ensures the correct coverage for the team. He has good overall awareness and reaction skills to go along with his smooth overall movement and change of direction. However, Marcus Williams has two major shortcomings. First, he lacks in top level playing speed for a safety, which means he can't cover ground quickly deep and he falls short on recover speed. Second, Williams lacks aggressiveness, so he doesn't take many risks and doesn't often go for the big violent tackle out in space. The Baltimore Ravens currently have the worst passing defense in the NFL in terms of passing yards allowed. They are also one of the worst (ranked 27th) for points allowed. Marcus Williams is just one of reasons for this as other defenders on the team have their own issues in coverage. He is good at reacting and making adjustments in coverage, but he not aggressive and lacks playing speed. As a result, he doesn't take a lot of risks, and he plays a lot of deep coverage, which often makes him irrelevant on the play.							

