

Simpson		Trenton		Clemson		LB	6.0	
LAST NAME		FIRST NAME		COLLEGE		POSITION	FINAL GRADE	
6020	235	4.43	1014	3238	7712		N/A	
HEIGHT	WEIGHT	40 TIME	HAND SIZE	ARM	WINGSPAN		SPARQ SCORE	
ATHLETIC ABILITY							SECTION GRADE: 6.0	
Fast footwork when working in the zone moving from receiver to receiver, but a just little bit choppy in his transition from coverage to attacking the ball carrier. Could be just a little bit smoother in movement overall. Will launch his body to make a tackle but doesn't have much explosion in his movement otherwise. His hands are adequately strong and quick but not at a high level as he struggles getting past blockers.								
PASS COVERAGE ABILITY							SECTION GRADE: 7.5	
Most of the time he's on the field, Trenton Simpson will play short zone. (It's about 75% to 80% of all the plays.) He's very effective at this. So far in 2024, only 6 percent of passes have come his way. In this regard, he ranks 379th among linebackers that have played over 500 plays for passing targets in his direction, so passes hardly come his way. He also bumps tight ends who are coming out on routes. And there were a few times he even played man on a running back or wide receiver. In fact, one of his four pass defenses on the year came against a wide receiver on a quick slant. Does not play coverage deep and does not have any interceptions to date. Just covers well to avoid passes coming his way.								
PASS RUSH - INITIAL QUICKNESS / HAND-USE / PASS RUSH MOVES							SECTION GRADE: 3.5	
Simpson doesn't do much of this and for good reason. He doesn't have a big burst off the line, and he doesn't have very active hands. His hands are not very strong, and he doesn't have many moves to get past blockers. Consequently, he is often held up against blockers on the line. In 2024 so far, Simpson has 1.5 sacks. These occurred when Simpson would play zone and then react when the quarterback got out of the pocket appearing to scramble. So in those cases, Simpson did not have to face any blockers.								
AGAINST THE RUN - BOTH AT HIM AND IN PURSUIT							SECTION GRADE: 5.5	
Similar to pass rushing, Simpson has trouble working against blockers. Most of his tackles on runs occur 5 to 7 yards down field because either he is getting pushed back by blockers or he works cautiously to avoid getting held up by blockers. He's not shy to get into the pile; however, and his more successful plays on the run occur when he finds an opening between blockers or on the outside. Speaking of which, in short yardage, Simpson will always play on the outside to either defend the pass or attack from the outside. In regards to tackling, Simpson will typically aim for below the waist. He's not a violent tackler, even though his body will instantly launch as he's making the tackle. He also wraps up on the tackle instead of just carelessly unloading on a player. He tends to be cautious, so he doesn't miss in the open field. With that, he doesn't miss many tackles and doesn't have many tackles broken.								
INSTINCTS / AWARENESS							SECTION GRADE: 7.0	
Great instincts and awareness. With every play, Simpson gets a little impatient. He'll even take a couple of steps in anticipation before the snap. Also, since Simpson mostly plays the zone and does it well, he's good at changing direction and shifting from receiver to receiver in the zone. As a result, only 6% of passes have gone his way. His 1.5 sacks in 2024 came from when the quarterback escaped the pocket and got ready to run in the open field. So this shows Simpson's awareness to the quarterback on the play.								
COMPETITIVENESS / TOUGHNESS / PLAYING STRENGTH							SECTION GRADE: 6.0	
NFL level strength but not dominant strength. Does not work well against blockers, both offensive linemen and tight ends. (No blocks from running backs or wide receivers were observed.) In fact, he will often get pushed backwards. Even compared to his teammates, Simpson seems to be pushed furthest away from the line of scrimmage. At least he makes a strong enough tackle on a ball carrier. Tough enough, though, to not be afraid to get into a pile. Simpson will also always play to the whistle and not give up even if it looks like he's been beaten. In fact, on a pass rush attempt, Simpson was caught between two offensive linemen when a teammate came and sacked the quarterback. The quarterback dropped the ball, and since Simpson was still working, he still managed to slip between the two offensive linemen to dive on the ball for the fumble recovery.								
LEADERSHIP / INTANGIBLES / CHARACTER / FOOTBALL INTELLIGENCE							SECTION GRADE: 6.0	
In year 2, Simpson doesn't really have the top level leadership traits. He has the smarts to read and react to the offense. He also lines up in multiple spots--inside linebacker, outside linebacker, and in man coverage. He also plays on three special teams--kick return, punt, and field goal block								
GDE	CATEGORY	COMMENTS / DESCRIPTION				GAMES VIEWED	COMBINE RESULTS	
8.0	READ & REACT	Makes adjustments in the zone and makes reads off the quarterback and running back.				9/5/24 @ KC  10/6/24 @ CIN 10/27/24 @ CLE 11/3/24 vs DEN	VERT JUMP 4012	
4.5	INITIAL QUICKS	Plays a little cautiously off the snap because he's often reading the offense, and in the event he's trying to get to the backfield, he'll use a little patience to find a spot in between blockers.					BROAD JUMP 9' 10"	
4.5	PLAY STRENGTH	Really lacks strength against blockers at the line of scrimmage. Also really won't jolt a ball carrier. Sufficient strength on the tackle and rarely gets knocked off the tackle.					20 SHUTTLE 4.25	
3.5	USE OF HANDS	Limited pass rush moves. Hands are not active and strong.					60 SHUTTLE N/A	
5.5	SHED BLOCKER	Can shed blockers with varying success.					3 CONE 7.07	
5.5	RUN AT HIM	Can effectively make the tackle when the run is toward him. This will often occur after 5 to 7 yards because Simpson struggles to penetrate blocks.					CRITICAL FACTORS	BENCH PRESS 25
6.0	PURSUIT / RANGE	Will always work to the whistle. Has good but not blazing speed to catch runners down the field. Will consistently make the effort to get the runner if in his range.						
5.5	TACKLING	Doesn't miss many tackles. Launches at point of attack but doesn't make the violent hit.						
6.5	CLOSING BURST	Launches at point of attack. Sudden burst when making a tackle.					ATHLETICISM 6.0 COVERAGE 7.5 PLAYING SPEED 6.5	INITIAL QUICKS 4.5
7.5	ZONE COVERAGE	Does this quite often and does a good job holding his ground and transitioning to receivers in his zone.						COMPETES 6.0
7.5	MAN COVERAGE	Doesn't do it too often but has covered running backs and wide receivers in man.						
6.5	ERRORS	Only a few non-critical errors observed in terms of lateness in a zone or getting juked or misinterpreting where the ball carrier is going.					INSTINCTS 6.5	
STRONG POINTS				WEAKNESSES				
Excellent in coverage, probably the best linebacker in coverage for the Ravens. Very good instincts and awareness, constantly reading the quarterback and running back, depending on the play and transitioning receiver to receiver while playing in the zone. Does well on the fundamentals, like tackling (especially in space), never giving up on a play, or knowing how to adjust when doesn't have the top level strength or quickness.				Struggles working at the line of scrimmage. Consequently, he is not an effective pass rusher and gets caught by blockers too many times. Likewise, Simpson does not have top level playing speed, quickness, and strength. Also does not have strong, active hands to get him out of trouble when facing blockers.				
SUMMARY / BOTTOM LINE								
Trenton Simpson is a solid starter who is effective mostly in coverage, especially in zone. He's reliable in that he makes plays out in space without missing tackles or causing any other critical errors. While he struggles working against blockers at the line of scrimmage, he knows his limitations and adjusts to make the most out of every play. Simpson's struggles at the line of scrimmage are caused by a lack of dominant strength and quickness. Simpson, though, has the competitiveness and toughness to get his head in the pile and consistently work until the whistle sounds. In addition to playing defense, Simpson is an active participant on special teams, working with the kick return, field goal block, and punting teams.								

