



### NFL Draft 2021 Scouting Report: TE Sammis Reyes, Chile (IPPP)

*\*Our TE grades can and will change as more information comes in from Pro Day workouts, leaked Wonderlic test results, etc. We will update ratings as new info becomes available.*

*\*\*Our TE formulas had some slight changes in the offseason—an adjustment to better identify and value TE prospects that are smaller physically and are primed for the era ahead...the era of Jordan Reed and Delanie Walker-type TEs. Our historical grades will have changed some on various prospects as well, to show their grades by comparison.*

**Sammis Reyes** is the kind of prospect that gets everyone super-excited – the ‘Man of Mystery’ prospect. Never been on a football field in college. Former U.S. (college) and Chile (Olympic/international type teams) basketball player (and everyone loves a good basketball-to-football conversion story). Topped off with an impressive (special) NFL Combine (they had that for international players, not U.S. ones).

What’s not to love? Oh, the possibilities!

The reality is: most of these basketball power forwards converting to football are failing. The quest for the next **Antonio Gates** story has been a dead end recently. **Erik Swoope**, **Rico Gathers**, **Ross Travis** among others lately. **Mo Alie-Cox**, **Darren Fells**, and **Demetrius Harris** have stuck around...but no great impact story like an **Antonio Gates** or **Jimmy Graham** (who did have a year of football) or **Tony Gonzalez** type stories.

Reyes is fighting an uphill battle in the NFL for too many reasons to list, and you know what they are (like being undrafted, like being inexperienced, etc.). However, Reyes has a couple of ‘twists’ in his story that might give him a little more boost in his quest.

There are four main areas/things to consider with Reyes, on his quest...

#### **1) Enduring the hardscrabble road to this point...**

Reyes’s story is worth reading about even if he never plays a down on the field...

I could go about in detail, but I came across an interview of Reyes where he said it all better than I could. So, I’ll provide the link to that story, which you should read before proceeding further.

*The short version is:* Left Chile for the U.S at age 14 because he was offered a private high school scholarship for basketball. The school closed halfway into his first year and he was essentially stuck in



Florida with no school, limited contact with his parents, living on his own in a foreign country and fending for himself to find food.

He luckily found another basketball scholarship at a prep school and eventually earned a scholarship to the University of Hawaii, where an entire other set of odd things played out – he quit Hawaii before ever playing, transferred to Tulane (earned a Master's in Business Administration), and then to finish out playing ball at Loyola/New Orleans. On a recommendation, he took a chance at the NFL's international development program, did a special training (10 weeks) for prep, as he did food delivery to earn money while waiting to see if the NFL might work out in some way.

The longer story: <https://www.audacy.com/thefandc/sports/washington-football-team/the-unbelievable-sammis-reyes-story>

It wasn't an easy road to this point, but Reyes overcame and has flourished – advanced degrees and now an NFL contract.

### **2) His International Combine...**

The wild journey of Reyes's life led him to the NFL's prep program for International players and then a Combine to show off to scouts. Reyes wound up, arguably, the #1 most attention-receiving prospect from this special Combine.

Reyes posted measurables of:

6'6"/264

4.65+ 40-time

a shocking 31 bench reps

a 36" or 39"+ vertical, depending upon the reports.

Those are pretty impressive numbers for a TE prospect. Had he played college football anywhere and posted those Combine numbers – he would have been drafted for sure. Probably a 5th-6th-round pick at least. Higher if he had nice tape.

### **3) His basketball journey...**

BUT Reyes has no real football tape to go by, so it's all physical projections and private workouts. In order for me to scout him, without football tape, I went and watched several clips of his basketball time at Tulane and internationally...just to try and get a better feel for his movement skills.



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He played a versatile power forward role. He could go down low with the big boys or try to play along the baseline side-to-side. I expected to see a tough power forward bullying around, but really Reyes is more of a finesse basketball player...a really savvy, finesse player who overcomes some height and speed deficiencies (for a power forward at a higher level) with smarts and confidence and toughness.

He was a very good passer...especially for a power forward. He was a decent rebounder due to his timing and technique of using his body. He blocked shots well off timing not size. He could 'play' some ball, but not because he was a physical force -- but because he was a good, fundamentally sound, confident player. He was not going to the next level of hoops because he was too small and not athletic enough to play down low in the pros (my assessment).

I wanted to see a physical force on tape, but I did not. However, I was surprised to see such a gifted, subtle, heady/scrappy player...and that gives some unique hope to his football conversion, in a different way than 'future blocker on special teams'.

#### ***4) Washington took him seriously.***

Reportedly, 20 different teams reached out to Reyes after they saw his Combine – but he lived in Washington, where his girlfriend was/is and wanted to play for Washington if he could.

Washington didn't mess around. They made him a much bigger offer than the international program players typically get – a 3-year/\$2.45M deal with \$400K guaranteed, and a spot on the roster...to keep him away from the random assignments of players by the NFL (it's a whole thing...).

This is not the typical low investment flyer camp invite – this is Washington making a real investment.

#### ***What do I see?***

From his Combine workout and his basketball tape, I see a guy who is not as athletic as you think. Some are using his measurables to say he's like **Kyle Pitts** or more athletic than Pitts – he's not (Mike Gesicki had great Combine numbers and he's nothing like Pitts). Reyes is not even close to Pitts in movement skills. Reyes looks a little stiff in his movements (thus the skipped agility times, I suppose) ...'stiff' or 'NFL-like' as an athlete (at TE). He's not the fluid movement and athletic dominance of Pitts (or a Waller, etc.), nor does he have Pitts' hands or experience, obviously -- but Reyes has NFL-level movement skills for sure.

If you're looking for an 'A' grade prospect right away...it's not here. He might develop into a 'C' grade at some point, and then maybe 'B' is achievable. But I do not see a path to 'A' sitting here. Usually, these guys take 2-3 years to develop into 'useful/viable', if they do. I suspect that for Reyes. He'll give you all



he's got. He might be good someday, but it's all 'projections' and 'hopes' right now. Legitimate reason for hope.

### Sammis Reyes, Through the Lens of Our TE Scouting Algorithm:

Never played any football, so nothing much to put in this section.

He was mostly a backup player for the University of Tulane (and left the team because of playing time), so that's all we really know about his basketball peak abilities.

### The Historical TE Prospects to Whom Sammis Reyes Most Compares Within Our System:

There are some good NFL TEs on this list of comps, but all we have are physical comps/projections. We have no performance basis to add in, so it's a semi-blind dart throw at his NFL comparables. The list provides hope/the reason why Washington was willing to take a shot.

TE Grade	TE-Reed	Last	First	Yr	College	H	H	W	Spd-Agil Metric	Strgth Blxing Metric	Hands Metric
6.876	6.15	Reyes	Sammis	2021	Int'l (Chile)	6	4.5	264	4.04	9.72	6.85
5.451	-1.61	Parker	Brian	2015	Albany	6	4.4	265	2.78	11.45	5.46
5.043	3.59	Williams	Jonah	2020	Weber St	6	5.0	281	3.66	16.35	5.76
4.784	-1.27	Watson	Ben	2004	Georgia	6	3.4	258	5.28	11.89	6.25
7.651	1.72	McDonald	Vance	2013	Rice	6	4.1	267	5.79	13.51	7.77
10.665	7.91	Gates	Antonio	2003	Kent State	6	4.0	258	11.07	8.29	9.10
6.536	-0.92	Fiedorowicz	C.J.	2014	Iowa	6	5.4	265	3.23	10.70	9.19

*\*A score of 7.0+ is where we start to take a TE prospect more seriously. A score of 8.50+ is where we see a stronger correlation of TEs going on to become NFL good/great/elite. A score of 10.00+ is more rarefied air in our system and indicates a greater probability of becoming an elite NFL TE.*

*All of the TE ratings are based on a 0–10 scale, but a player can score negative, or above a 10.0 in certain instances.*

*\*\*The 'TE-Reed' score is in honor of Jordan Reed's 2015 season...looking at TEs in a different manner—the smaller, speedy receiving threats.*



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*“Speed-Agility Metric” = A combination of unique metrics surrounding speed, agility, physical size, mixed with some on-field performance metrics. High scorers here project to have a better YAC and show characteristics to be used as deep threats/create separation.*

*“Power-Strength Metric” = A combination of unique metrics surrounding physical size profiling, bench press strength, etc. High scorers here project to be more physical, better blockers, and less injury-prone.*

*“Hands Metric” = A combination of unique metrics surrounding on-field performance in college, considering the strength of opponents played. Furthermore, this data considers some physical profiling for hand size, etc. High scorers here have a better track record of college statistical performance, and project the combination of data for receiving success at the next level.*

### **2021 NFL Draft Outlook:**

Undrafted/signed by Washington partway into the IPPP program, to not allow any other team to get him through the regular IPPP channels.

If I were an NFL GM, I would have been interested in him too...but I’m not sure I would have made the investment that Washington did (6th-round pick type money). I see more hope with Central Florida WR convert to TE **Jacob Harris** than I do with Reyes, but I see a path for Reyes too.

### **NFL Outlook:**

Will be in development for a year or two before we see any real breakout...if there is one. **Logan Thomas** will be fading (due to age) in 2-3 years as Reyes might be coming on...it could work out nicely for Washington. I think Reyes will give it his all and make the 53-man roster, but we’ll need more time to see if he has enough will/effort/ability to make it to NFL impact starter someday.

There is real hope here for NFL purposes, and maybe Fantasy output someday. Not in 2021, but soon after. Looking forward to seeing him work in the preseason, and then we can reassess our timetable projections.



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