Brandon Beech, DE/OLB, Benedict College

Graduation Year: 2014

Height: 6’3”

Weight: 245 lbs.

2013 Stats (Senior): 37 tackles, 6.5 tackles for a loss, 3 sacks, 0 interceptions, 0 pass breakups, 1 forced fumble, 2 fumble recoveries, 4 quarterback hurries, 2 blocked kicks

Current Team: Free Agent

**Strengths:** Beech is a versatile player on the defensive side of the ball. He can line as a DE in a 4-3 defense, an OLB in a 3-4 defense, and can be used on special teams. He has a decent first step, plays with okay speed, and has a high motor. Against running plays, he can diagnose an inside run. He uses his quickness to crash down the line of scrimmage, and get to the ball carrier from the backside before he gets started. On outside run plays, he can set the edge as an OLB, and chase down the ball carrier when he attempts to stretch the play even further outside. Against the pass as either a DE or OLB, he uses his hands well to disengage an offensive lineman quickly to get into the backfield. When he gets to the QB, he can do the work to bring him down. He shows the ability to be able to drop back into coverage when called upon on pass plays as well to play zone. He has decent closing speed when he gets to the ball carrier, and will not stop until he is on the ground. On special teams, he shows his ability to be able to block kicks.

**Weaknesses:** While Beech does have the size to be an OLB, he is slightly undersized to be a typical DE at the pro level. Despite playing with a high motor, he tends to play with a high pad level. With a high pad level, it can make him a liability when engaging larger offensive linemen & blockers. He shows that he can bring down a ball carrier, but he doesn’t use the best technique, or wrap up ability when in the open field. His ability to guard a RB or TE in man coverage is a question. Consistency & competition level will be looked at closely.

**Summary:** Overall, Beech is a versatile player that can be used in either a 3-4 defense, a 4-3 defense, and/or on special teams. He shows that he can be a weapon against the run, whether it’s crashing down the LOS through traffic & filling a gap, chasing down a RB from the backside, or stopping the ball carrier on the outside. He has good hands to disengage himself from a blocker to get to the QB, and work to bring him down. He can drop back in zone coverage when needed, but does not show if he can be effective in man coverage. With a high motor, he doesn’t stop until the ball carrier is down, or until the whistle is blown. Consistency will be a big question with him. Can he be able to stop the run, rush the passer, drop back in coverage, and bring down ball carriers on a consistent basis at the pro level. I see him fitting in best as a OLB at the pro level. A team in the CFL, AFL, IFL, or in Europe willing to bring him on will have quite the player to work with.

**Grade:** CFL/AFL/IFL/European Prospect (Free Agent)