Jordan Willis

Edge Defender

Age: 21 Ht: 6'03" Wt: 263
Arms: 33 3/8"   40: 4.62s
College: Kansas State

I. Executive Summary

By PFF's overall season grades, Willis finished as the No. 1–ranked edge defender in college football in 2016, ahead of the likes of Myles Garrett, Derek Barnett, Taco Charlton, Charles Harris and Takk McKinley. On a game-by-game basis, Willis' grades have climbed steadily since 2014 to the point where he posted a 2016 season without any significant low points. His play improved each season of his career in overall grade, pass rush grade and run defense grade.

Willis posted his best pressure percentage in 2016, affecting the QB on over 15% of his opportunities — and over 16% when coming from his base position at left defensive end. The majority of his pressure came by winning to the outside, but he showed the ability to generate pressure via various attacks.

With 80 total pressures generated in 2016, Willis finished second in the country, and, proving himself not to be one-dimensional, Willis graded near the top of his position group as a run defender as well.

Jordan Willis was on the field for more than 92% of Kansas State's defensive plays — one of the highest percentages among all Power 5 edge defenders in 2016 and the largest percentage he has seen in the past three seasons with the Wildcats. Willis' snap total was also limited by the team's Week 4 game being called at halftime due to lightning. The vast majority of Willis' 2016 snaps came from the left defensive end position and he rushed the passer on 62% of those snaps.

Named the South's Most Outstanding Player at the 2017 Senior Bowl, Willis earned the game's highest pass-rush grade after posting a pair of sacks, four hurries and two forced fumbles on 22 pass-rush snaps.
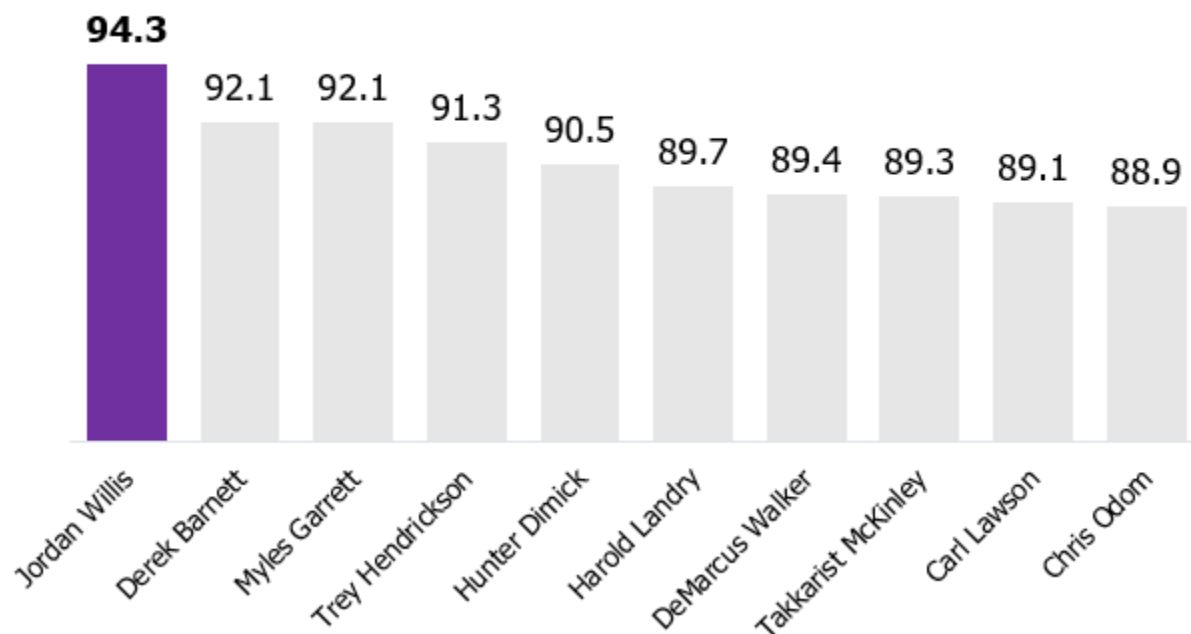
Willis' 2016 season as an edge rusher compares very favorably to that of one of PFF's top 2015 edge rushers, Joey Bosa.

II. Grades

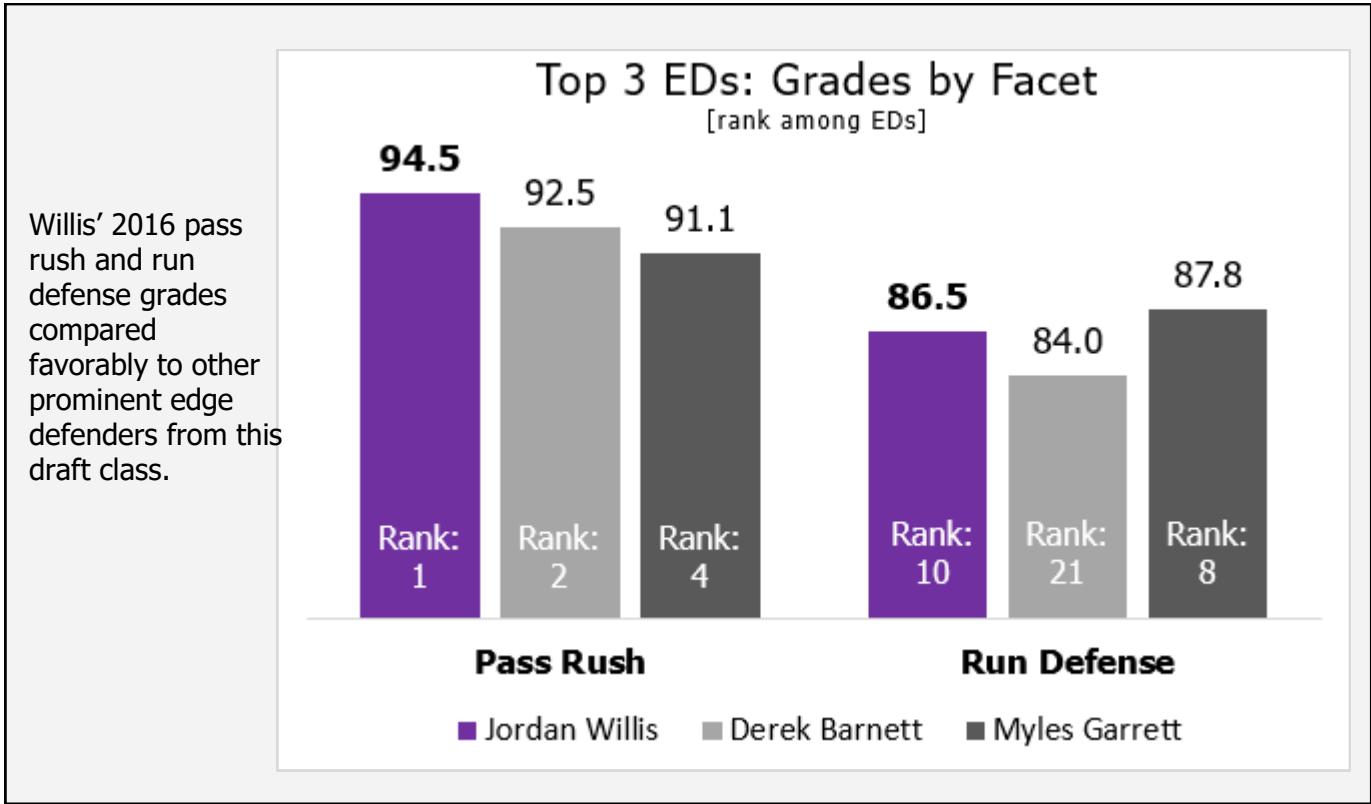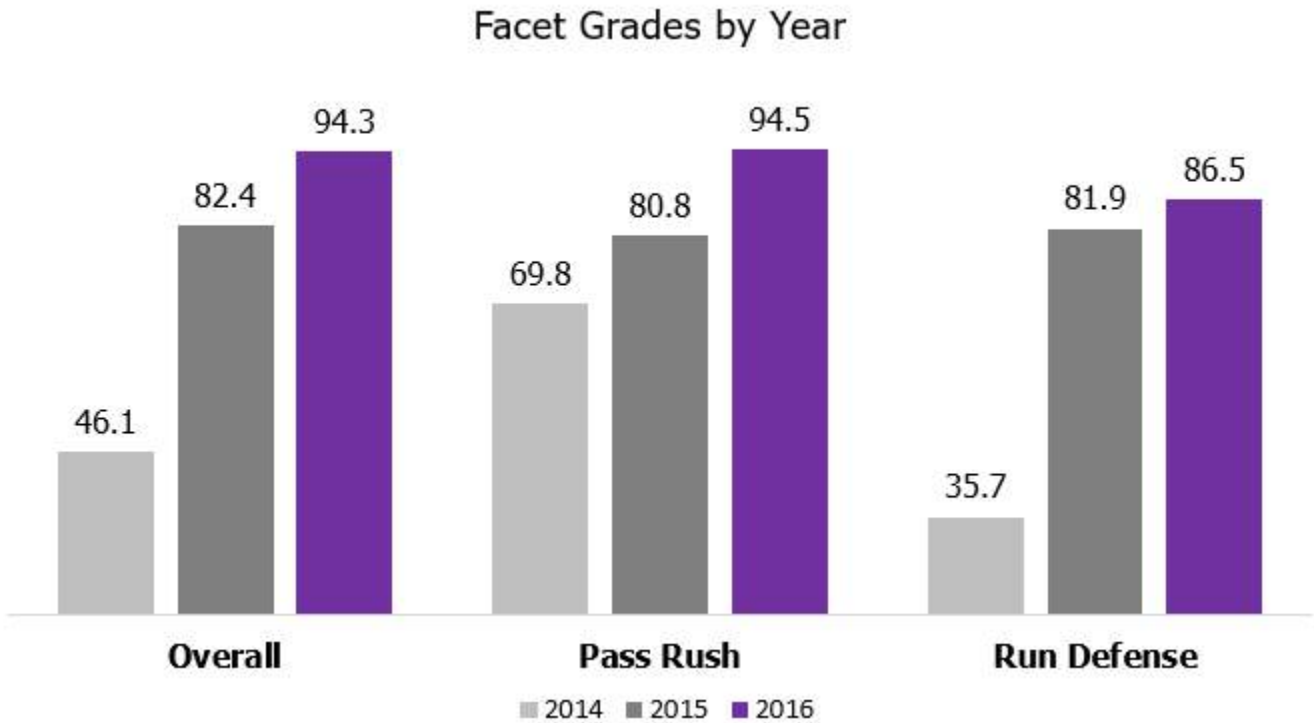Willis topped the country's edge defenders (ED) with the highest overall PFF grade in 2016.

2016 Top 10 EDs by Overall PFF Grade

Player	Grade
Jordan Willis	94.3
Derek Barnett	92.1
Myles Garrett	92.1
Trey Hendrickson	91.3
Hunter Dimick	90.5
Harold Landry	89.7
DeMarcus Walker	89.4
Takkarist McKinley	89.3
Carl Lawson	89.1
Chris Odom	88.9

Top 3 EDs: Grades by Facet
[rank among EDs]

Willis' 2016 pass rush and run defense grades compared favorably to other prominent edge defenders from this draft class.

	Pass Rush			Run Defense		
Grade	94.5	92.5	91.1	86.5	84.0	87.8
Rank	1	2	4	10	21	8

■ Jordan Willis ■ Derek Barnett ■ Myles Garrett

Over his past three seasons at Kansas State, Willis improved in each facet of play each season. While his pass rush production is what is most commonly noted about him, he also performed well against the run.

Facet Grades by Year

	Overall			Pass Rush			Run Defense		
2014	46.1			69.8			35.7		
2015		82.4			80.8			81.9	
2016			94.3			94.5			86.5

■ 2014 ■ 2015 ■ 2016

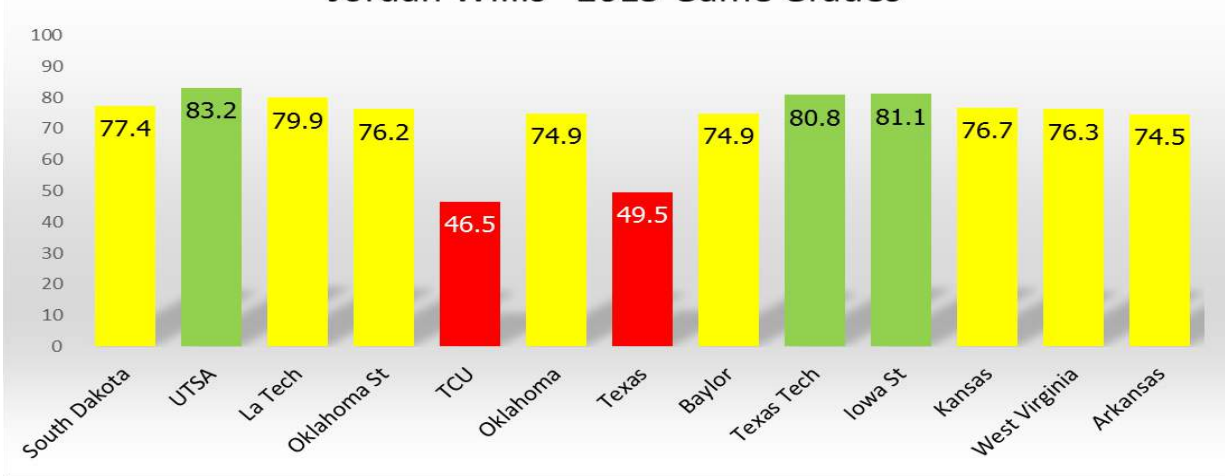Willis' game by game production trend from 2014 to 2016, as reflected in PFF overall game grades below, shows the growth of a player who improved each season, culminating in his 2016 effort that ranked him atop the country's best edge defenders.
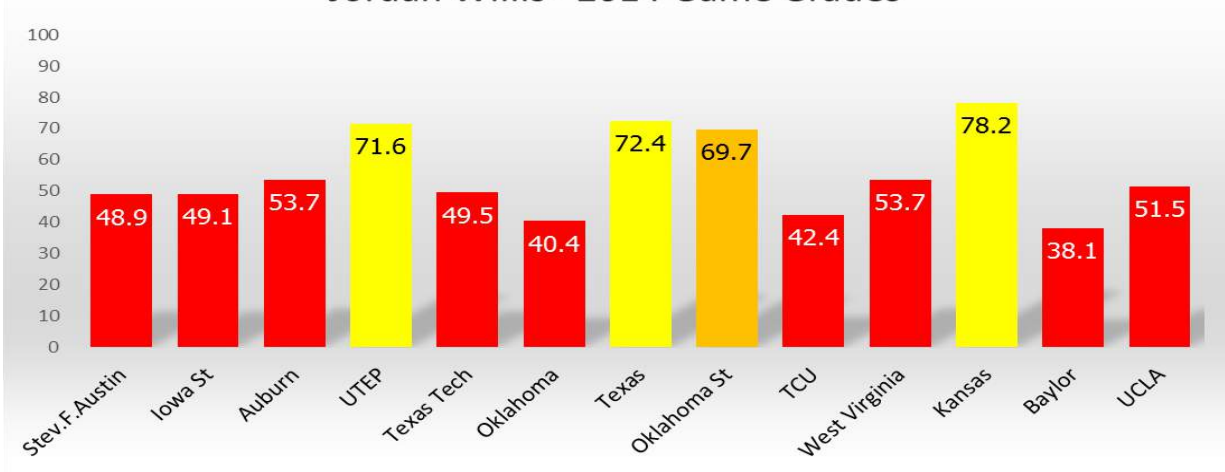
Jordan Willis - 2016 Game Grades

Opponent	Grade
Stanford	82.1
FAU	83.4
Missouri St	87.2
West Virginia	82.7
Texas Tech	86.0
Oklahoma	80.3
Texas	94.8
Iowa St.	77.9
Oklahoma St	89.3
Baylor	74.8
Kansas	90.4
TCU	82.9
Texas A&M	77.9
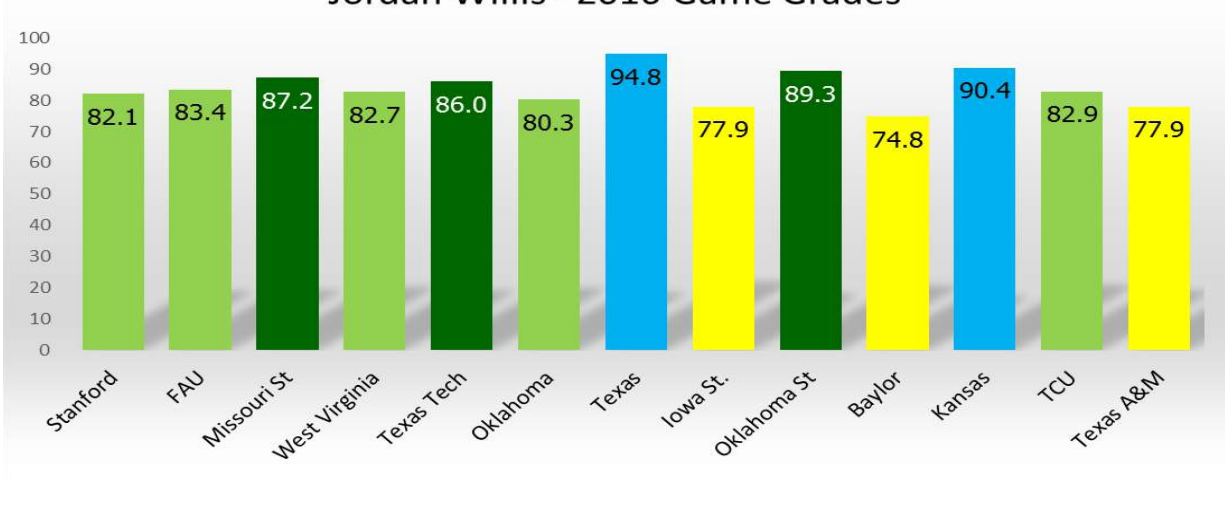
Jordan Willis - 2015 Game Grades

Opponent	Grade
South Dakota	77.4
UTSA	83.2
La Tech	79.9
Oklahoma St	76.2
TCU	46.5
Oklahoma	74.9
Texas	49.5
Baylor	74.9
Texas Tech	80.8
Iowa St	81.1
Kansas	76.7
West Virginia	76.3
Arkansas	74.5

Jordan Willis - 2014 Game Grades

Opponent	Grade
Stev.F.Austin	48.9
Iowa St	49.1
Auburn	53.7
UTEP	71.6
Texas Tech	49.5
Oklahoma	40.4
Texas	72.4
Oklahoma St	69.7
TCU	42.4
West Virginia	53.7
Kansas	78.2
Baylor	38.1
UCLA	51.5

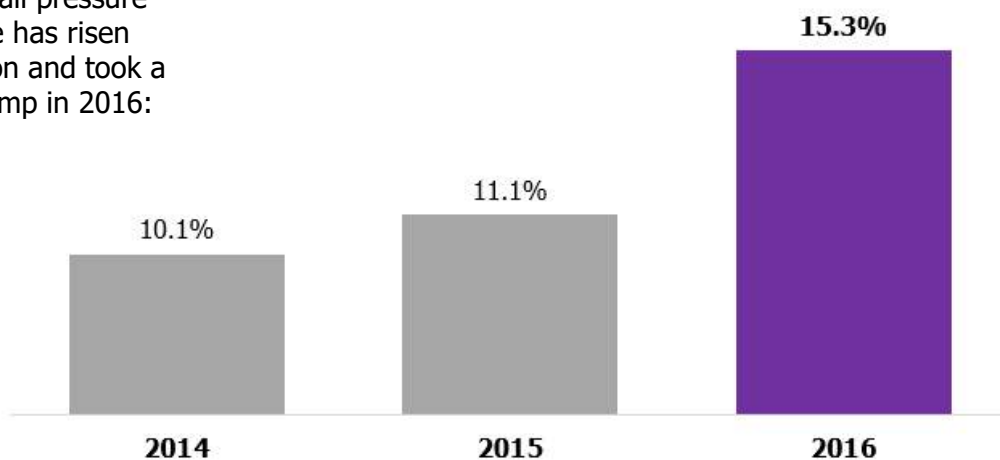| RATING COLOR	ELITE	VERY GOOD	GOOD	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	POOR

III. Production—Pass Rush

The most common place to find Willis rushing the passer from in 2016 was the left defensive end spot—that was also where he was most effective as a pass rusher, generating pressure of some form on more than 16% of his 447 attempts.
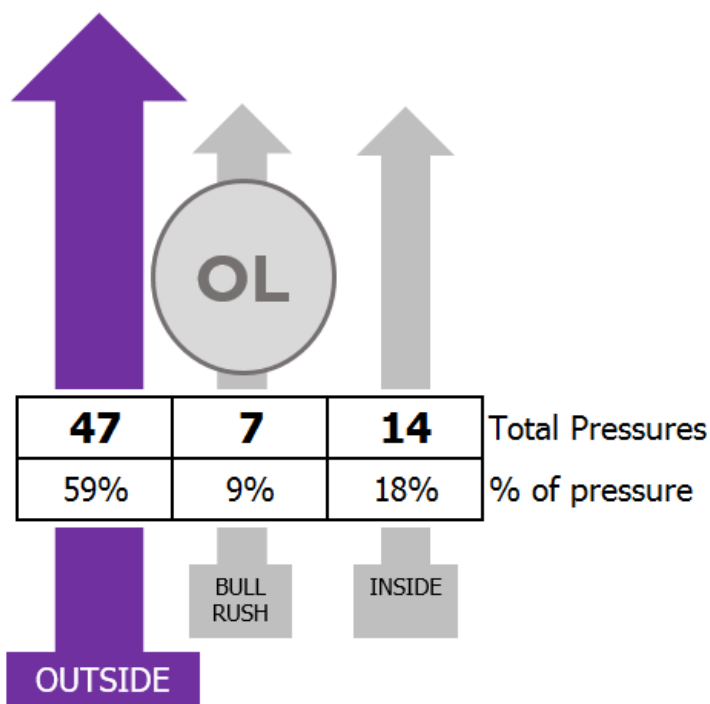
Willis - Pressure % Breakdown By Position						
	LOLB	LEO	LE	Interior	REO	ROLB
Total Pass Rushes	8	447	48	2	17	2
Pressure %	0.0%	16.6%	10.4%	0.0%	5.9%	0.0%

Willis' overall pressure percentage has risen each season and took a massive jump in 2016:

Willis: Pressure % by Year

- 2014: 10.1%
- 2015: 11.1%
- 2016: 15.3%

Willis Pressure Map

47	7	14	Total Pressures
59%	9%	18%	% of pressure

OUTSIDE — BULL RUSH — INSIDE

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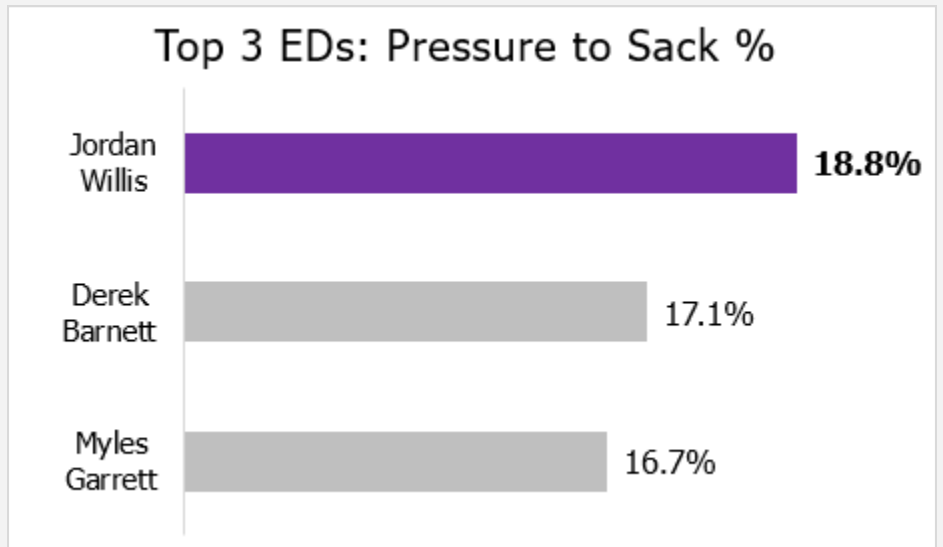
Breaking down how Willis earned his pressure in 2016, the diagram to the left shows his propensity for winning to the outside.

In addition to those numbers when beating a blocker, he earned 6 pressures while un-blocked and 6 more in clean-up or pursuit situations.

Top 3 EDs: Pressure to Sack %

His impressive pressure percentage in 2016 stands out when shown against those of some other top edge defenders in the class.

Player	Pressure to Sack %
Jordan Willis	18.8%
Derek Barnett	17.1%
Myles Garrett	16.7%

Willis: Pressure to Sack %

Willis converted pressure into sacks 15 times in 2016, more than 18% of his total pressures and the highest figure of his time at Kansas State.

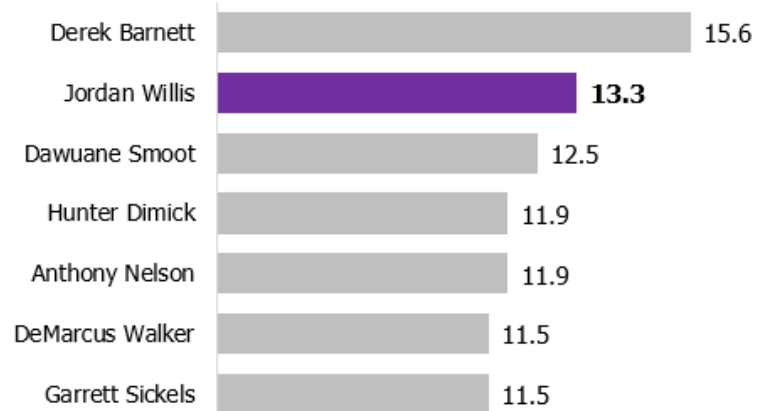| Year	Pressure to Sack %
2016	18.8%
2015	14.9%
2014	16.2%
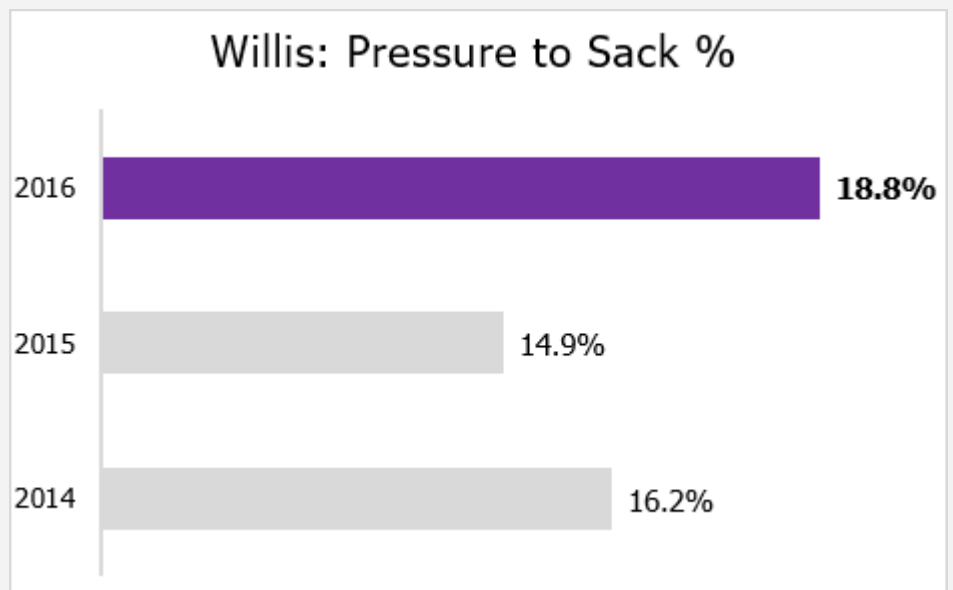
Taking pressure percentage a step further and weighing sacks a bit heavier than hits or hurries produces a metric called "Pass Rushing Productivity" (PRP). Willis ranked highly among all edge defenders in the Power 5 conferences in 2016 with an impressive 13.3 PRP.

When looking more specifically at edge defenders primarily playing a 4-3 DE position, Willis' PRP again stacks up well...

Power 5 4-3 DEs by PRP
[vs. Power 5 comp. + min 60% snaps]

Player	PRP
Derek Barnett	15.6
Jordan Willis	13.3
Dawuane Smoot	12.5
Hunter Dimick	11.9
Anthony Nelson	11.9
DeMarcus Walker	11.5
Garrett Sickels	11.5

Top 20 Power 5 EDs by PRP
[vs. Power 5 comp. + min 60% snaps]

Player	PRP
Ogbonnia Okoronkwo	18.6
T.J. Watt	18.1
Derek Barnett	15.6
Ryan Anderson	14.4
Carl Lawson	14.4
Arden Key	14.2
Takkarist McKinley	14.2
Charles Harris	14.1
Jordan Willis	13.3
Jimmie Gilbert	13.2
Dawuane Smoot	12.5
Anthony Nelson	11.9
Hunter Dimick	11.9
Koron Crump	11.8
DeMarcus Walker	11.5
Joey Alfieri	11.5
Garrett Sickels	11.5
Devonte Fields	11.3
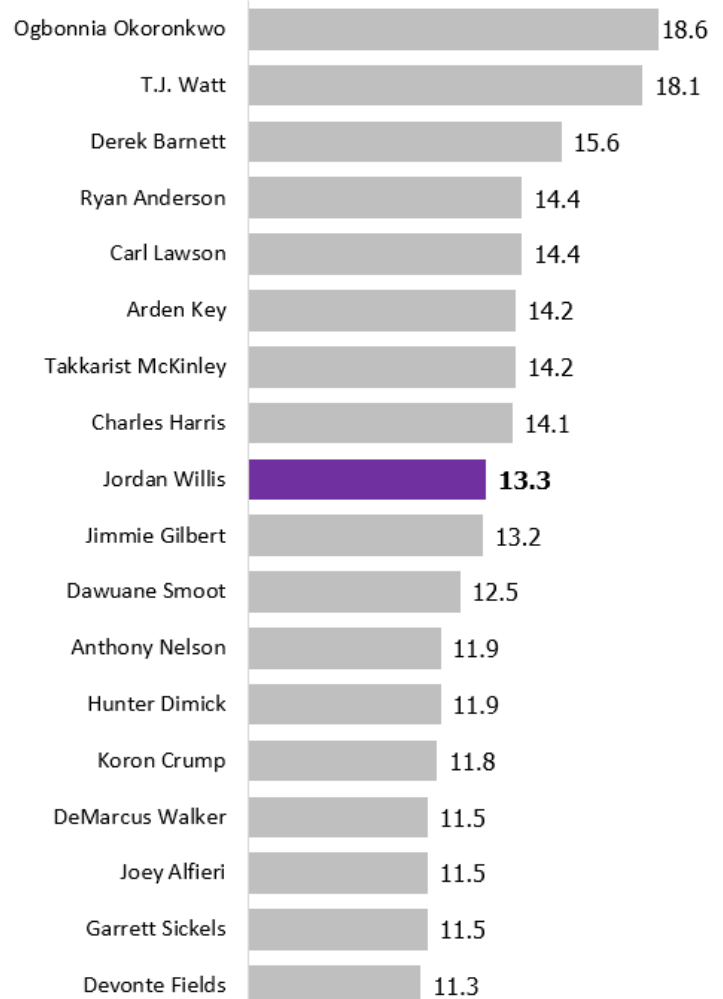
Willis' tally of 80 total pressures generated in 2016 was 2nd-best in the country and most impressive in that total was the late tear he was on—producing 32 total pressures from Week 12 through the bowl game, well ahead of any other in that stretch.

#	Player	College	Total Pressures
	Most Total Pressures (Sacks + Hits + Hurries), All Defenders, 2016		
1	Hunter Dimick	Utah	81
2	**Jordan Willis**	**Kansas St**	80
3	Trey Hendrickson	Florida Atl	78
4	Derek Barnett	Tennessee	75
5	Harold Landry	Boston College	69
6	Randy Allen	S. Alabama	68
7	Carl Lawson	Auburn	67
7	Tarell Basham	Ohio	67
7	Jonathan Allen	Alabama	67
10	Rashad Dillard	Troy	65

#	Player	College	Total Pressures
	Most Total Pressures (Sacks + Hits + Hurries), All Defenders, **Week 12 through Bowl Games**, 2016		
1	**Jordan Willis**	**Kansas St**	32
2	Derek Barnett	Tennessee	25
3	Ja'Von Rolland-Jones	Arkansas St	24
4	DeMarcus Walker	Florida St	24
5	Randy Allen	S. Alabama	22
6	Tarell Basham	Ohio	20
7	Omarius Bryant	W. Kentucky	19
7	Olasunkanmi Adeniyi	Toledo	19
7	Jimmie Gilbert	Colorado	19
10	Taco Charlton	Michigan	19

Looking at sacks generated against Power 5 competition, Willis once again rose to the top of the list, finishing second in the nation with 14 sacks.

#	Name	Team	Sacks
1	DeMarcus Walker	FSU	16
2	**Jordan Willis**	**KSU**	**14**
3	Derek Barnett	UT	13
4	Ejuan Price	PIT	12
5	Hunter Dimick	UTE	11
5	Harold Landry	BC	11
5	Arden Key	LSU	11
8	Ryan Anderson	UA	10
8	Charles Harris	MIZ	10
8	Josh Sweat	FSU	10
8	Jimmie Gilbert	CU	10
8	Koron Crump	ASU	10
13	Ifeadi Odenigbo	NOR	9
13	Bradley Chubb	NCS	9
13	Dorance Armstrong Jr.	KAN	9
13	Tim Williams	UA	9
13	Tyquan Lewis	OSU	9
18	Takkarist McKinley	CLA	8
18	Taco Charlton	UM	8
18	T.J. Watt	WIS	8
18	Carl Lawson	AU	8
18	Josh Carraway	TCU	8
18	Pita Taumoepenu	UTE	8
18	Duke Ejiofor	WF	8
18	Darius English	SC	8
26	5 tied		7

IV. Production—Run Defense

PFF's run defense grades, however, take much more into account than just tackles—beating blocks and positively affecting plays also factor into the grade. When all else was considered, Willis' run defense grade showed him to be one of the top run defenders among edge players.

Edge Defenders
Run Defense Grades, 2016

Player	Grade
Terence Waugh	89.6
Marquavius Lewis	89.0
Myles Garrett	87.8
Jordan Willis	**86.5**
Noble Nwachukwu	86.3
Breckyn Hager	86.0
Chris Wormley	85.5
Christian Wilkins	84.9
Kevin Kavalec	84.8
Chris Odom	84.7
A.J. Jefferson	84.4
Bradley Chubb	84.3
Derek Barnett	84.0
Malcolm Roach	83.8
Olasunkanmi Adeniyi	83.8
Rashad Dillard	83.5
Takkarist McKinley	83.4
Fadol Brown	83.3
Nela Otukolo	83.3
DeMarcus Walker	83.1

Comparing Willis to a standout from a year ago, Joey Bosa, the two most recent top-graders among edge defenders stack up with similar final seasons. Willis produced more total pressures than Bosa's 2015 season.

| Jordan Willis (2016)		Joey Bosa (2015)	
Total QB Pressures	80	Total QB Pressures	70
Pos Rank	2nd out of 189	Pos Rank	3rd out of 150
Pressure %	15.30%	Pressure %	20.20%
Overall PFF Grade	94.3	Overall PFF Grade	93.4
Pos Rank	1st	Pos Rank	1st

V. Playing Time

Willis finished 2016 with one of the highest total snap counts among all Power 5 edge defenders. While playing in more than 92% of his team's defensive snaps, a career best for him at Kansas State. His total of 841 defensive snaps played in 2016 was also limited by the team's Week 4 game being called at halftime due to lightning.

| #	Player	Team	Run Def. Snaps	Pass Rush Snaps	Coverage Snaps	Total Snaps	Snap %
	Power 5 Edge Defender Snap Leaders by Snap %, 2016						
1	Hunter Dimick	UTE	346	524	35	905	97.5%
2	Ogbonnia Okoronkwo	OU	362	261	237	860	93.0%
3	**Jordan Willis**	**KSU**	**305**	**524**	**12**	**841**	**92.4%**
4	Ross Dzuris	NEB	363	450	5	818	92.3%
5	Dawuane Smoot	ILL	474	362	2	838	91.9%
6	Porter Gustin	USC	359	417	51	827	90.7%
7	Uchenna Nwosu	USC	352	364	98	815	89.3%
8	Jimmie Gilbert	CU	377	345	131	853	84.8%
9	Derek Barnett	UT	411	389	27	827	80.1%
10	Daeshon Hall	TAM	378	424	13	815	76.2%

10 times in 2016, Willis played at least 90% of KSU's defensive snaps and he played every snap in a game four times during the season.

Snap % by Game 2016
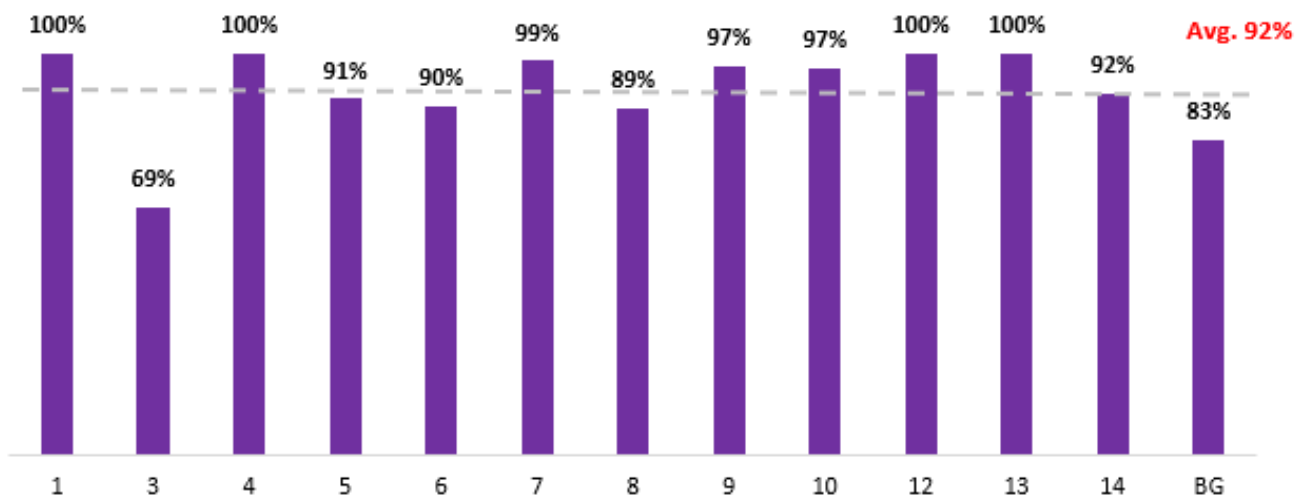
Looking at his snap percentage progression over the past three seasons shows his climb up to every-down contribution.

Snaps Played by Year
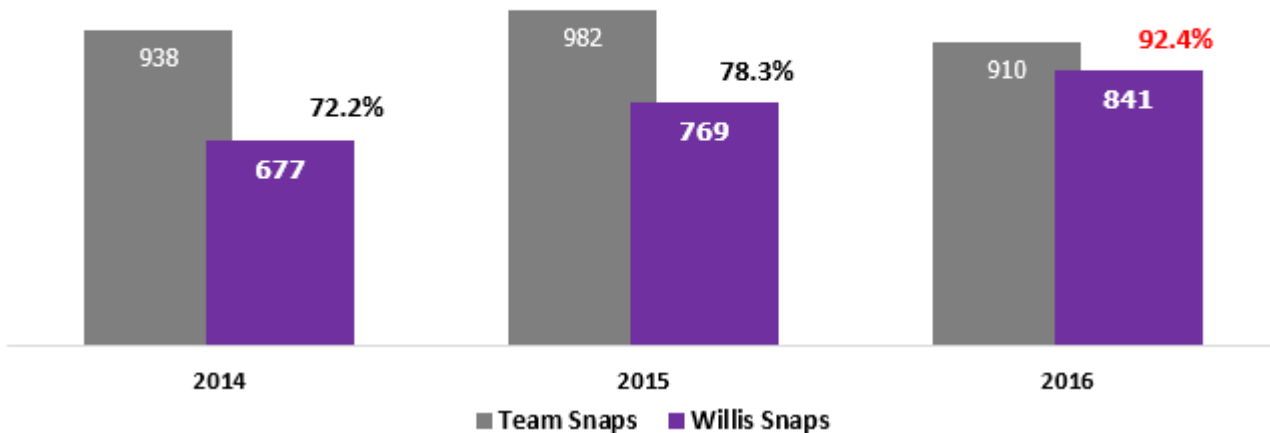
Willis' snaps by alignment changed over the past three seasons. In 2016, 85% of his snaps came from the left side in a defensive end position...

2016										
Week	LOLB	LEO	LE	Interior	RE	REO	ROLB	Off-Ball	Total	%
1		48	1	1					50	100%
3	1	40	4						45	69%
4	1	28	1						30	100%
5	2	30	38						70	91%
6		83	1	2					86	90%
7		64	2						66	99%
8		39	16	2					57	89%
9		62	5			7			74	97%
10		62	3						65	97%
12	13	66				6	2		87	100%
13		62	1	1		9	1		74	100%
14		67	3						70	92%
BG	1	63	3						67	83%
Total	18	714	78	6	0	22	3	0	841	92%
	2%	85%	9%	1%	0%	3%	0%	0%		

...while in 2015 his shift to the left side was split more between a true edge position and time spent in a 5-technique alignment.

2015										
Week	LOLB	LEO	LE	Interior	RE	REO	ROLB	Off-Ball	Total	%
1		30	6	3	4	3			46	67%
2		35	7	6	1	4			53	77%
3	17	42	6	10		7		9	91	100%
5	3	44	8	5	2	4			66	77%
6	11	27	6	5					49	83%
7		49		4					53	62%
8		21	20			1			42	58%
10	5	47	1	5					58	78%
11	7	18	34	3	1				63	73%
12	7	16	34	6	1	1			65	97%
13	5	25	1	5	1	1			38	54%
14		30	38	6		1			75	89%
BG		63		3		1		2	69	100%
Total	55	447	161	61	10	23	0	11	768	78%
	7%	58%	21%	8%	1%	3%	0%	1%		

...and in 2014 he saw the majority of his action on the right side or lined up in the interior.

2014										
Week	LOLB	LEO	LE	Interior	RE	REO	ROLB	Off-Ball	Total	%
1				13		39			52	81%
2				12		44		3	59	81%
4	3	3		9	5	7	26	7	60	78%
5				7		29			36	56%
6		6		15		26		1	48	77%
8				8		52			60	73%
9				13		26			39	72%
10				13		32			45	69%
11		1		8		65	1		75	88%
13				25	1	51		1	78	85%
14				8		26	1		35	70%
15				3		55			58	72%
BG				9		23			32	36%
Total	3	10	0	143	6	475	28	12	677	72%
	0%	1%	0%	21%	1%	70%	4%	2%		

In addition to Willis spending more time locked in at the LDE spot in 2016, his percentage of snaps spent pass rushing was also the highest of his past three seasons.

2016							
Week	Total	Run Def.	RD%	Pass Rush	PR%	Pass Cov.	Cov%
1	50	27	54%	23	46%	0	0%
3	45	19	42%	26	58%	0	0%
4	30	17	57%	12	40%	1	3%
5	70	27	39%	40	57%	3	4%
6	86	16	19%	68	79%	2	2%
7	66	34	52%	32	48%	0	0%
8	57	26	46%	31	54%	0	0%
9	74	25	34%	47	64%	2	3%
10	65	21	32%	44	68%	0	0%
12	87	31	36%	56	64%	0	0%
13	74	18	24%	52	70%	4	5%
14	70	24	34%	46	66%	0	0%
BG	67	20	30%	47	70%	0	0%
	841	305	36%	524	62%	12	1%

In 2015 and in 2014, he saw something much closer to a 45%-55% split between run defense and pass rush duties.

2015							
Week	Total	Run Def.	RD%	Pass Rush	PR%	Pass Cov.	Cov%
1	46	19	41%	26	57%	1	2%
2	53	18	34%	34	64%	1	2%
3	91	29	32%	62	68%	0	0%
5	66	19	29%	47	71%	0	0%
6	50	19	38%	31	62%	0	0%
7	53	26	49%	27	51%	0	0%
8	42	31	74%	10	24%	1	2%
10	58	24	41%	34	59%	0	0%
11	63	27	43%	35	56%	1	2%
12	65	36	55%	28	43%	1	2%
13	38	14	37%	24	63%	0	0%
14	75	32	43%	40	53%	3	4%
BG	69	41	59%	27	39%	1	1%
	769	335	44%	425	55%	9	1%

Notable in 2014 was his game in Week 4 against Auburn where he lined up more often as a ROLB and dropped into coverage more than he would the rest of his college career.

2014							
Week	Total	Run Def.	RD%	Pass Rush	PR%	Pass Cov.	Cov%
1	52	13	25%	39	75%	0	0%
2	59	21	36%	38	64%	0	0%
4	60	35	58%	0	0%	25	42%
5	36	17	47%	19	53%	0	0%
6	48	9	19%	38	79%	1	2%
8	60	30	50%	30	50%	0	0%
9	39	17	44%	21	54%	1	3%
10	45	23	51%	22	49%	0	0%
11	75	39	52%	36	48%	0	0%
13	78	27	35%	51	65%	0	0%
14	35	9	26%	26	74%	0	0%
15	58	26	45%	32	55%	0	0%
BG	32	17	53%	15	47%	0	0%
	677	283	42%	367	54%	27	4%