

# SCOUTING REPORT

ALEX KARRAS

*Updated: March 13, 2016*

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### REVISION LISTING

DATE	DESCRIPTION
June 20, 2015	Initial Release
March 13, 2016	Added the following games: 12/13/59 and 10/1/61

# OVERALL ANALYSIS

## Overall Analysis

### POSITION

Defensive Tackle

### HEIGHT AND WEIGHT

Height: 6'2"      Weight: 248

### TEAMS

1958-62 and 1964-70 Detroit Lions

### UNIFORM NUMBER

71

### SCOUTS

Primary Scout: Ken Crippen

Secondary Scout: Matt Reaser

# OVERALL ANALYSIS

## STRENGTHS

- Very quick to chase down the play
- Extremely quick off the snap
- Consistently gets hands up while rushing passer

## WEAKNESSES

- Can get his pad level a little high
- Can get knocked down easily, but quickly gets back up

## BOTTOM LINE

Excellent in both a one-gap and two-gap position. He was extremely quick off the ball and showed excellent quickness to chase people down. Very competitive. Karras was disciplined in his gap assignments, was quick to shed blocks and was excellent at following the play. He could get knocked down easily, but was very quick to get back up and pursue the play. He did get his pad level a little high at times and tried to just use strength to recover. On the pass rush, he was able to get his hands up to block the lanes. He was also able to get very good pressure on the quarterback. Against the run, Karras was able to quickly follow the play and have an impact, even on the opposite side of the field.

## GRADING SCALE

CLASS	GRADE	DESCRIPTION
Hall of Fame	9.0	Rare
	8.5	Exceptional to Rare
	8.0	Exceptional
Hall of Very Good	7.5	Very Good to Exceptional
	7.0	Very Good
	6.5	Good to Very Good
Other	6.0	Good
	5.5	Above Average to Good
	5.0	Above Average
	4.5	Average to Above Average

# OVERALL ANALYSIS

## GRADING SPECIFIC FACTORS

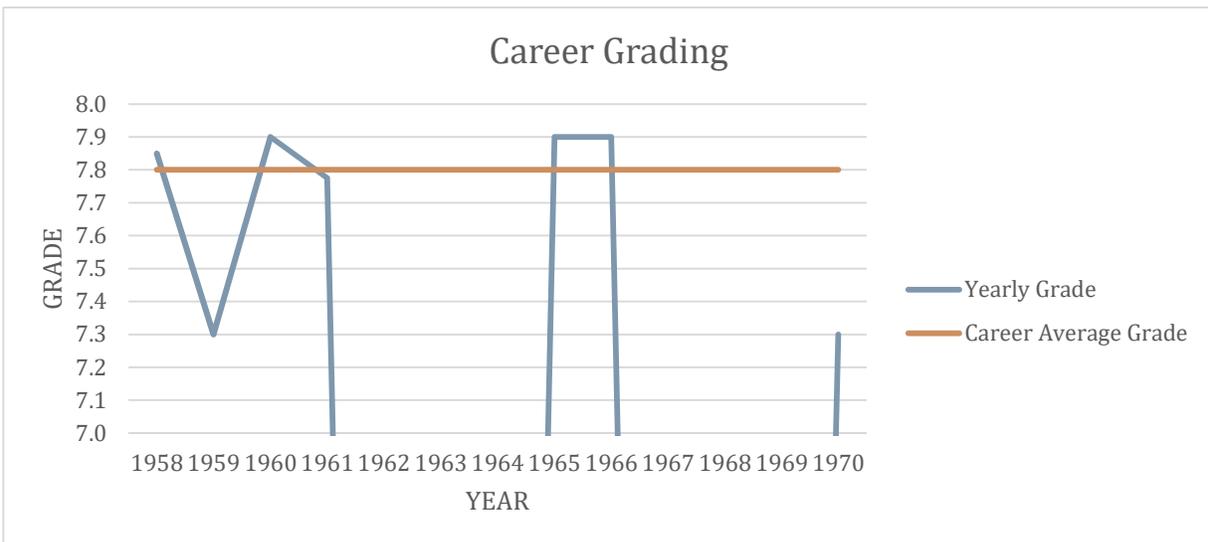
SPECIFIC FACTOR	GRADE	SPECIFIC FACTOR	GRADE
OVERALL ATHLETICISM (QAB):	7.2	INITIAL QUICKNESS:	7.3
Quickness:	7.2	HAND USE:	8.0
Agility:	7.1	DISENGAGE FROM BLOCKS:	8.1
Balance:	7.1	PASS RUSH:	7.8
STRENGTH AND EXPLOSION:	8.1	RUN STOPPING:	8.0
COMPETITIVENESS:	8.1	TACKLING:	7.9
MENTAL ALERTNESS:	7.4	LATERAL AGILITY:	7.8
INSTINCTS:	7.4		

## OVERALL GRADE

7.8

## NUMBER OF GAMES REVIEWED

11



# GAME REVIEWS

## Game Reviews

### GAME REVIEW

DATE	OPPONENT	OVERALL GRADE
October 5, 1958	Green Bay Packers	8.0

#### BOTTOM LINE

Karras played the left defensive tackle position and primarily lined up anywhere between the 2i-technique and 3-technique positions. Occasionally, he would shift to the zero-technique or 1-technique positions before the snap. He faced right guard Jim Salsbury (#67). On the first defensive play, Karras muscled his way to the inside of Salsbury. Karras then proceeded to shed the block and chase after Starr. Karras was not quick enough to catch Starr and let up before getting to the sideline, but he was able to push him towards teammates to make the tackle. A few plays later, Karras was able to get past Salsbury to make a play on the runner, but the runner went right past him with little effort from Karras. A few plays later, Karras shed his blocker and ran down the halfback on the opposite side of the field to make a tackle ten yards downfield. In the second quarter, Karras had a nice bull rush to push Salsbury back and to get in the face of Starr as he was getting ready to throw. The ball went straight into the air and was intercepted, however the ball was fumbled back to Green Bay. Midway through the second quarter, he did a very good job to shed his blocker and move down the line to tackle the runner for little gain. Excellent arm tackle on the first defensive series of the third quarter. The ball was fumbled and recovered by Detroit. On the next series, Karras was able to get to the outside of Salsbury and push his way to Starr. He was able to get a hold of Starr's leg, but Starr lateraled to his back to avoid the sack. On the next play, he stunted to the opposite side of the center, blew through the gap and tackled the runner in the backfield. In the beginning of the fourth quarter, he was hit low and went to the ground. He got up and proceeded to assist in the sack of Starr. Excellent competitiveness. Later in the fourth quarter, he chased the quarterback around the backfield and eventually assisted in a sack. Overall, Karras was quick off the ball and ran through most cut blocks. Only twice did he hit the ground. On the first, he quickly got up and got in on the tackle. On the second, he got up and got a sack.

### GAME REVIEW

DATE	OPPONENT	OVERALL GRADE
December 7, 1958	New York Giants	7.7

#### BOTTOM LINE

Karras played the left defensive tackle position and primarily lined up between the 2i-technique and the 3-technique positions. However, before the snap, he could be seen shifting down as far as the zero-technique

# GAME REVIEWS

position. He primarily faced right guard Bob Mischak (#62) and center Ray Wietecha (#55). In the first quarter on a goal line stand, Karras wrapped up the legs of the back and tackled him short of the goal line. Also in the first quarter, he was able to get past Mischak and got his hands up to deflect the pass. In the beginning of the second quarter, Karras was able to shed the block of Wietecha to stop the runner for no gain. Late in the second quarter, Karras shifted to the zero-technique or the opposite 1-technique position (hard to tell from the camera angle) right before the snap. He pushed his way through the outside of the center and was able to get in the face of quarterback Charley Conerly (#42). Also in the second quarter, he was fooled on a draw play and the runner went past him. Karras turned, hustled downfield and made the tackle. Karras showed discipline in his gap assignments. Several times, he was able to make the tackle of the runner for no gain. Did not get much push into the backfield, but showed very good movement down the line to follow the play. He struggled to get off of one-on-one blocks. There was snow on the ground, so that may have impacted footing in the game.

## GAME REVIEW

DATE	OPPONENT	OVERALL GRADE
December 13, 1959	Chicago Bears	7.3

## BOTTOM LINE

Karras played left defensive tackle and lined up between the 2-technique and three-technique positions. He primarily faced right guard Stan Jones (#78). On the fourth play of the first series, Karras was able to get around Jones to get in the face of quarterback Ed Brown (#15). The pass was off target and incomplete. At the beginning of the second quarter, Karras was able to push the guard into the backfield and assist in making the tackle of the runner for a loss. Also in the second quarter near the Detroit goal line, Jones was able to push Karras back and knock him to the ground. He did it again two plays later. On the next series, Karras did a very good job to shed the guard, work his way down the line and trip up the runner for a short gain. A few plays later, he shed the guard again to stuff the runner at the line of scrimmage. Two plays later, he was able to push the guard back and get in the face of Brown. The pass was almost intercepted. In the third quarter, he was pushed back slightly by Jones. However, he recovered, went around Jones and ran it to hit Brown as he was passing. The pass was incomplete. In the fourth quarter, Karras got around Jones and was chasing Brown toward the opposite sideline. Karras pulled up before the play was complete. Later, he was able to assist on a sack of Brown. He was also able to blow through the line and quickly sack Brown on a one-step set. Overall, Karras made a few mental mistakes with jumping before the ball was snapped. He was not aggressive in pursuit and sometimes pulled up before the play was complete. The offensive line was able to get leverage on him and consistently neutralize him.

# GAME REVIEWS

## GAME REVIEW

DATE	OPPONENT	OVERALL GRADE
December 4, 1960	Baltimore Colts	7.9

### BOTTOM LINE

Karras played the left defensive tackle position and lined up between the 2i-technique and three-technique positions. He primarily faced right guard Alex Sandusky (#68). Early in the first quarter, Sandusky pulled to block on a sweep. Karras got in behind him and stopped the runner for a loss. Karras showed very good to excellent speed in getting to the runner. In the beginning of the second quarter, Karras was able to push Sandusky aside and get in the face of Johnny Unitas (#19) as he was getting ready to throw. Even though Sandusky released him, Karras showed excellent quickness to get to Unitas. However, Sandusky could have tried to hold the block a little longer. The pass was incomplete. In the third quarter, Karras pushed Sandusky aside and sacked Unitas. A few plays later, Karras showed excellent speed to chase down a runner on a sweep, tackling him for little gain. Later in the quarter, Karras fought through two blockers to assist on a sack of Unitas. About midway through the fourth quarter, Unitas dumped off a short pass. Karras shed his block and chased down the receiver for the tackle. Excellent competitiveness and very good speed. He did it again on the next play. Overall, Karras did allow himself to be blocked at times. He did get pushed off the ball multiple times. On quick plays, that was a negative. However, on long plays, he got off blocks quickly and pursued the ball. He did have excellent pursuit throughout the game, showing a high motor and competitiveness.

## GAME REVIEW

DATE	OPPONENT	OVERALL GRADE
September 24, 1961	Baltimore Colts	7.9

### BOTTOM LINE

This film only showed the second half. Karras played left defensive tackle and lined up in the 2-technique position. He primarily faced right guard Alex Sandusky (#68). Very good job of shedding blocks to get to the runner. Was able to get push into the backfield. In the third quarter, he pushed Sandusky back, got a hand up and deflected the pass, which fell incomplete. In the fourth quarter, he was able to get past Sandusky and put a hard hit on Johnny Unitas (#19) as he was throwing the ball. Also in the fourth quarter, Karras recovered a fumble. Overall, Karras was quick to get off blocks and scrape down the line of scrimmage to find the ball and make the tackle. However, he did get caught up in traffic a few times in pass rush.

# GAME REVIEWS

## GAME REVIEW

DATE	OPPONENT	OVERALL GRADE
October 1, 1961	San Francisco 49ers	7.5

### BOTTOM LINE

Karras played left defensive tackle and primarily faced right guard Ted Connolly (#64). In the first quarter, Karras was able to shed the block of the right guard and hit the quarterback hard as he was releasing the ball. The pass was incomplete. On a few occasions in the first quarter, Karras was knocked to the ground. He did get back up quickly, but balance was an issue. In the second quarter, Karras was able to get past Connolly and chased John Brodie (#14) toward the sideline. He showed very good speed in pursuit. Overall, quick off the snap, as well as quick and agile in small spaces. He was able to hit and pressure Brodie on a few occasions, but it was usually a half-step after the ball was released. There were several times that he pulled-up on his pursuit of the ball carrier. He was easily fooled by the play-action, except once in the fourth quarter where he sacked Brodie.

## GAME REVIEW

DATE	OPPONENT	OVERALL GRADE
October 15, 1961	Los Angeles Rams	8.0

### BOTTOM LINE

This film is incomplete. While it focuses strictly on the Detroit defense, not all plays were shown while on defense. Karras played left defensive tackle and primarily lined up between the 2-technique and 3-technique positions, but did shift down to the zero-technique position. He primarily faced right guard Joe Scibelli (#71). In the first quarter, Karras was able to run through the gap and pressure quarterback Zeke Bratkowski (#12). The pass was incomplete. Also in the first quarter, Karras was able to get around Scibelli to hit the quarterback, but the ball had already been thrown. In the second quarter, Karras was able to get through the block of Scibelli to make a tackle on the runner for no gain. Also in the quarter, he was able to trail the pulling guard to tackle the runner for a loss. Later in the quarter, on a bull rush, Karras was able to knock Scibelli on his back and assisted on a sack of the quarterback. Early in the third quarter, Karras pushed aside Scibelli and almost got a hand on the quarterback's throwing arm. Overall, Karras was strong at the point of attack. He showed very good push and consistent pressure. He regularly threw aside, threw down, pushed down and went around Scibelli.

# GAME REVIEWS

## GAME REVIEW

DATE	OPPONENT	OVERALL GRADE
November 23, 1961	Green Bay Packers	7.7

### BOTTOM LINE

Karras played the left defensive tackle position and primarily lined up anywhere from the 2i-technique to the three-technique position, He faced right tackle Forrest Gregg (#75). On the first play of the game, Karras exploded off the ball ran through the backfield and chased down Paul Hornung (#5) to tackle him for a loss. Showed excellent speed and the ability to wrap up on the tackle. Gregg pulled to block, which was what allowed Karras to run free. On the second offensive series, Karras shifted to the 2i-technique position right before the snap. He blew through the gap and pressured Starr. Extremely quick off the ball, but was not quick enough to chase down Starr. Later in the first quarter, Gregg again pulled to block and Karras was free to go after the runner. Karras got his fingers on the runner, but did not put in enough effort to tackle the runner. He let up early on the play. Excellent hit on Starr in the second quarter. He pushed aside Gregg, then pushed aside center Jim Ringo (#51) to get to Starr and cause a fumble. Detroit recovered the ball. Quality of play dropped in the second half. Karras did not make an impact and was sealed and blocked away from the run while he generated no push or pass rush. He was on the ground too often, especially in the fourth quarter. Overall, Karras was extremely quick off the snap. He showed excellent quickness in chasing people down. He sometimes had trouble shedding blocks as he would get his pad level high and just try to muscle the lineman out of the way. When he used technique, he was effective. He was disciplined in his gap assignments. Two different halves for Karras.

## GAME REVIEW

DATE	OPPONENT	OVERALL GRADE
October 31, 1965	Los Angeles Rams	7.9

### BOTTOM LINE

This is an NFL Play-by-Play Report film. Not all plays were shown. Karras played left defensive tackle and lined up in either the 2i-technique or the 2-technique position. He primarily faced right guard Joe Scibelli (#71). In the first quarter, Karras was able to get pressure on quarterback Bill Munson (#19), but Munson was able to get the ball away. A series later, he was able to pressure Munson again, forcing Munson to roll out. A few plays later, Karras followed a pulling Scibelli, but over pursued as Dick Bass (#22) ran a counter behind him. Two plays later, Karras was able to push his way through both Scibelli and Bass to chase down Munson for a sack and a nine-yard loss. In the second quarter, Karras chased down the receiver on a screen pass to make a tackle. Excellent quickness by Karras. Twice in the quarter, Karras was able to get pressure on Munson, who threw interceptions both times. In the fourth quarter, Karras continued to get pressure on

# GAME REVIEWS

Munson, forcing Munson to move around in the pocket or to be flushed out of the pocket. Overall, Karras was excellent and consistent on the pass rush.

## GAME REVIEW

DATE	OPPONENT	OVERALL GRADE
October 2, 1966	Green Bay Packers	7.9

### BOTTOM LINE

This is a Game of the Week film. As a result, not all plays are shown. Karras played the left defensive tackle position and lined up between the 2i-technique and 2-technique positions. He primarily faced right guard Jerry Kramer (#64). Kramer seemed to struggle against Karras' strength and speed. Karras was able to get very good push into the backfield on passing plays. Karras showed very good reactions to the play and displayed speed and agility to cover plays on the opposite side of the field. In the third quarter, Karras recognized and identified the screen, and quickly got over to assist on the tackle. Later, on a sweep away from him, he ran down the line to assist on the tackle. Late in the third quarter, Karras was able to shed the block of Kramer to make a very good tackle of Hornung. In the fourth quarter, he was able to toss Kramer aside and hit Bart Starr (#15) for a sack. Karras was blocked out of the play a few times while defending the run.

## GAME REVIEW

DATE	OPPONENT	OVERALL GRADE
December 26, 1970	Dallas Cowboys	7.3

### BOTTOM LINE

Karras played left defensive tackle and lined up between the zero-technique and the 3-technique positions. He faced right guard Blaine Nye (#61) and center Dave Manders (#51). On the first defensive play of the game, Karras shed the block of Nye and tackled running back Walt Garrison (#32) for a five-yard gain. At the end of the first quarter, Karras was able to push into the backfield and grab the runner's foot for a nice tackle for no gain. In the second quarter, Karras recognized and identified a screen pass and quickly ran to make the tackle for a loss. Excellent play. In the third quarter, an unblocked Karras missed on stopping a runner that went right by him. In the fourth quarter, the running back ran through Karras' attempted arm tackle. Overall, Karras was on the ground too often. He had the strength to get off blocks, but did not have the speed or explosiveness to chase down the plays. He was a step slow in making plays to his side of the field.