

# PLAYMAKER

## OF THE

## WEEK

**ELIJAH AFENKHENA BRINGS HIS BASKETBALL EXPERIENCE TO THE CATCH POINT, USING HIS 6'3" 195 POUND FRAME TO HIGH POINT AND BOX OUT DEFENDERS WITH THE BALL IN THE AIR.**

**THIS PHYSICAL ROUTE RUNNER AND PLAYMAKER IS SOMEONE TO KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON IN THE COMING YEARS.**

**REPORT BY: CHANDLER PULLEN**

**ELIJAH AFENKHENA**

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**NCAA COMPARISON: CHRIS BELL**

**HANDS****BODY CONTROL****PLAYMAKER  
RECRUITING****YAC****ROUTE NUANCE****RELEASE NUANCE****STRENGTHS**

- Natural high point ability
- Plays through contact in all phases
- Good vision with the ball in his hands
- Strong, secure hands

**WEAKNESSES**

- Feet are a bit clunky
- Little bit tight as an Athlete
- Needs to improve how he attacks coverage

**40 YD DASH****4.72****BENCH PRESS****185****SQUAT****350****POWER CLEAN****185**

Elijah Afenkhenia was given a chance to make plays at the varsity level during his freshman year and he made the most out of it. The big bodied wideout led his team with 687 receiving yards and 10 TDs on 27 receptions (25.4 yards/catch) at the Texas 4A level. That's 25% of his team's receptions, 37% of their receiving yards, and 55% of their receiving touchdowns as a freshman; leading Taylor high school to a top 20 passing attack in Texas 4A despite holding a 5-6 record. Looking at the tape you wouldn't expect Afenkhenia to be a freshman, towering over most of his battles on the outside at 6'3" 195. His athleticism is rare for his age as well, showing the ability to effortlessly fly by his 4A competition to make catches deep down the field. Afenkhenia isn't just a speed threat however, showing the ball tracking ability, physicality in his routes, and strength at the catch point of someone who can play at the next level. He flashes the ability to be a playmaker in the short game as well, showing solid burst off of the line, good vision in the open field, and build-up speed to cut off defender angles. Where Afenkhenia does show his youth is in his technicality as a receiver. He does not show nuances in his releases or routes except for physicality and some flashes of stemming on his deep routes. However these are to expected from a freshman, and he has three more years to improve this before hitting the college level and has all of the traits to do so. Afenekhenia will show some pretty clunky feet at times, limiting his ability to separate on his release and make hard cuts on his breaks. He shows some tightness in his game as well, which if not worked on can lead to a limited skill set as an outside X receiver and not much more versatility; but someone who can be very dominant in that role if not asked to deviate. Having a basketball background and three more years to grow as an athlete, these are skills he has the ability to improve. At the end of the day this is someone every scout should have penciled in their notes to look out for, and he has already began turning heads at the D1 level for his potential.