

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Analysis

Name: Reggie McNeal **School:** Texas A&M **Opponent:** Clemson **Surface:** Grass
Height: 6-2 **Year:** Senior **Score:** 24-25 **Climate:** Night
Weight: 206 **Date:** 9/3/2005 **Location:** Clemson **Temperature:** Hot

Overall Score:

65

Accuracy Score:

14

High completion percentage (>60%) [4pts]:

No

Deep accuracy [2pts]:

No

Intermediate accuracy [5pts]:

Yes

Short accuracy [5pts]:

Yes

Accuracy rolling right [2pts]:

Yes

Accuracy rolling left [2pts]:

N/A

Arm Strength Score:

1

Velocity on deep routes [2pts]:

No

Distance on deep routes (>40 yards) [1pt]:

Yes

Velocity on intermediate routes [5pts]:

No

Delivery Score:

11

Delivers ball effectively from a variety of platforms [2pts]:

Yes

Throws a catchable ball (touch, tight spirals, etc.) [5pts]:

Yes

Quick Release [4pts]:

Yes

Compact delivery [4pts]:

No

Decisions Score:

2

Avoids double coverage [5pts]:

No

Looks off defenders [3pts]:

No

Effective use of pump fakes [2pts]:

No

Distributes ball to multiple receivers [2pts]:

Yes

Makes effective adjustments at the line [2pts]:

No

BHandling Score:

11

Effective use of play fakes [2pts]

Yes

Handles center exchange consistently [4pts]:

Yes

Consistently effective with hand offs [1pt]:

Yes

Demonstrates ball security while running [1pt]:

Yes

Maintains control of ball when hit [4pts]

Yes

Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [4pts]:

No

Pocket Presence Score:

12

Buys time effectively within pocket [7pts]:

Yes

Willing to take hit to deliver ball [2pts]:

Yes

Senses pass rush [3pts]:

Yes

Willing to throw ball away to avoid sacks [2pts]:

No

Scrambling Ability Score:

5

Effectively gains yardage when breaking the pocket [2pts]:

Yes

Effectively gains yardage when pocket collapses [1pts]:

Yes

Capable of breaking big gains as a runner [2pts]:

Yes

Durability Score:

9

Missed fewer than 10% of games [1 pt]:

Yes

Productive performer when injured [1 pt]:

No

No chronic injuries [1pt]:

Yes

No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [5 pts]:

Yes

Game Stats

PAtt: 8
Comp: 16
Pyds: 110
PTds: 1
Ints: 1
Dropped: 2
Sacked: 0
Deflections: 0
Fumbles: 0
RAtt: 9
RYds: 100
RTds: 0

The Gut Check's QB Scouting Recap

Name: Reggie McNeal

Date: 9/3/2005

Opponent: Clemson

Overall Strengths:

McNeal is a very good athlete and a developing quarterback. He's a dangerous runner that can break a long gain on either designed runs or leaving the pocket. The Aggies' starter is a durable, high-effort player that will try to make plays for his teammates without the ball in his hands. He can buy time in the pocket and spot an open receiver for a big play. He doesn't take off and run at the first opportunity--he'll look for a way to gain the yardage through the air and displays patience in the pocket. I think McNeal has an opportunity to develop into an NFL quarterback, but he may have to earn the right just to sit on the bench for a few seasons. If he does get the opportunity to be considered a developmental quarterback, then he will need to learn some of the finer points of reading defenses and disguising his intentions when dropping back.

Overall Weaknesses:

McNeal looks like he still has a lot of things to learn in order to be an elite level passer even in the college game. He doesn't show a lot of zip on intermediate passes. He tends to place more air under the ball than necessary and his accuracy on intermediate-long routes is questionable. He doesn't appear to read coverages on a consistent basis. McNeal will lock onto a receiver and unless he's under pressure, he'll stay with that receiver through the route rather than find another open player. The offense seems designed to maximize the potential of Texas A&M's athletes that can make big plays with the ball in open space, while limiting the responsibilities of McNeal as a passer.

Accuracy:

Rolled to the left and overthrew a wide open receiver. The ball went right to the safety playing deep. McNeal was able to set his feet and throw, but simply wasn't accurate. Floated the ball too much and his touch was lacking on the throw. In the 4th QTR, McNeal threw a nice TD pass that displayed touch to a receiver running a route down the middle of the field. He did this as an LB was coming clean on a blitz.

Arm Strength:

McNeal has arm strength to get the ball deep, but tends to put a lot of air under his throws. He didn't demonstrate any zip on intermediate or long passes in this game.

Delivery:

McNeal holds the ball low before he delivers it. In addition he doesn't tend to follow through on his throws. He appears skittish about getting hit. This occurs when he's facing a pass rush with time and space to make a throw, but he knows the hit is likely to come. In fact, it almost looked like he was stepping backwards on his throws.

Decisions:

McNeal appears to be in an offense that spreads the field with 4-5 receivers. This simplifies his reads and allows him to make quick decisions out of the shotgun. This maximizes the ability to get the ball into the hands of athletic receivers that can gain yards after the catch. I didn't think McNeal made very good decisions with his option pitches in the opening drive of the 1st QTR. Three of the four option plays had pitches that were placed in difficult spots for the RB to handle. One resulted in a fumble deep inside Clemson territory for a 9-yard loss. Did a nice job under a heavy rush to spot his RB in the flat with no one around for several yards.

Ball Handling:

Does a decent job with run fakes, although he could be more effective at selling them and afford himself more time to throw the ball. In contrast, his opponent Charlie Whitehurst did an excellent job with play fakes throughout the game. Does a good job protecting the ball as a runner or when hit in the pocket.

Pocket Presence:

On 2nd down and 10, McNeal faked a draw to the RB in a formation with three receivers on the strong side of the formation. He had a lot of time, but was looking for the big play. When the DE got close, McNeal threw a deep ball to the receiver running a route that trailed the other two in the middle of the field. He overthrew the ball and almost had it intercepted by the other two DBs in coverage on the receivers ahead of the intended receiver. In this case it might have been wiser to get rid of the ball or take the sack.

Scrambling Ability:

McNeal has a nice burst and can get around the corner with ease. The coaching staff runs QB sweeps and keepers that look somewhat like the plays the Falcons use for Michael Vick. McNeal has decent footwork, and can change directions in traffic. This isn't a dynamic level of movement, but he's quick enough to make good moves and evade tackles. As a runner, McNeal does a decent job of spotting the soft spots in traffic and falling forward to gain extra yardage. He has a quick first step. Had a 39-yard run in the 4th quarter where he burst past the LBs and safeties in pursuit. McNeal was brought down by Ty Hill--a CB that has great speed. Otherwise, he may have gone the distance.

Durability:

Started 25 straight games prior to the season opener and continues to stay healthy despite playing a physical style of football for a quarterback.

Character:

Appears as if he expects to make the big play for this team. McNeal demonstrated that he is willing to do it even as a blocker for other teammates.